



WASHINGTON UPDATE

November 17, 2015 Volume 34, Issue 21

In This Issue

FEATURED NEWS

[Save the Date: COSSA Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day, March 15-16](#)

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

[Sam Farr, Ranking Member on House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Announces Retirement](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

[NIH Seeks Input for Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementia 2016 Plan](#)

[NIDA Announces New Challenge: "Addiction Research: There's an App for that"](#)

[NCATS Issues RFI for Input into Strategic Plan](#)

[OBSSR Hosts Seminar on Video Games and Neuroscience](#)

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

[COSSA Members among World's Top 100 Social Science Universities](#)

[AERA Holds Annual Brown Lecture on "Indigenous Pathways toward Justice"](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEATURED NEWS

Save the Date: COSSA Annual Meeting & Advocacy Day, March 15-16

COSSA will hold its 2016 Annual Meeting and Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day on March 15 and 16 in Washington, DC. The meeting brings together more than 100 members of the social and behavioral science community and provides a platform for COSSA members to engage with leaders of federal agencies, Congressional staff, and colleagues from across the science and higher education communities.

The meeting on March 15 will take place at the George Washington University Marvin Center and will feature updates from leaders at federal science agencies and panels highlighting issues impacting the social and behavioral science community. On March 16, COSSA members will take to Capitol Hill for Social and Behavioral Science Advocacy Day. They will have the opportunity to meet with their congressional delegations in the House and Senate and educate staff about the importance of federally funded social and behavioral science research.

Keep an eye on COSSA's [annual meeting page](#) for more details as they become available. Early bird registration will open in December.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Sam Farr, Ranking Member on House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Announces Retirement

Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA) [announced his retirement](#) from Congress at the end of his term after 22 years in the House. Farr is the Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. As Ranking Member, Farr has been a vocal advocate for agricultural science and statistics, memorably [speaking out on the House floor](#) against a proposed amendment to cut funding for the Economic Research Service (ERS) in 2014. It remains to be seen who will fill Farr's spot. Currently, only three other Democrats serve on the Subcommittee.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

NIH Seeks Input for Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementia 2016 Plan

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) within the National Institutes of Health recently released a time-sensitive request-for-information (RFI) ([NOT-NS-15-045](#)) seeking the input of the scientific and broader community regarding the "most important needs and promising opportunities for research" on Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementia (ADRD). The information received will be used to update the [National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease](#), which is congressionally mandated to be updated annually (see [Update, August 10, 2015](#)).

Additionally, the RFI announces a March 29-30, 2016 [ADRD 2016 Summit](#) sponsored by NINDS and NIA "to assess progress and review and update the recommendations" from the [Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias: Research Challenges and Opportunities 2013 Summit](#). Those recommendations and priorities were used to develop the ADRD research budget and were incorporated in the recently released Alzheimer's bypass budget for FY 2017 (see [Update, November 3, 2015](#)).

The revised recommendations will be made public for additional comment at the March 2016 Summit to be hosted on the NIH campus. That meeting will be free and open to the public. The final recommendations will guide NIH-funded ADRD research for the next decade. Comments are due December 18, 2015. For more information and/or to comment see the [notice](#).

NIDA Announces New Challenge: "Addiction Research: There's an App for that"

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced a new Challenge/Prize Competition, "[Addiction Research: There's an App for that](#)." The objective for the challenge is to "promote the development of innovative mobile applications (apps) for future addiction studies." According to the notice, three prizes may be awarded: \$50,000 (first place); \$30,000 (second place); and \$20,000 (third place).

The NIDA Challenge is enabled by the [DHHS IDEA Lab](#) program. Challenge partners include [U.S.](#)

[General Services Administration](#); [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#); [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#); [Sage Bionetworks](#); and [Scripps Translational Science Institute](#).

The submission deadline is April 29, 2016. Winners will be announced in August 2016.

NCATS Issues RFI for Input into Strategic Plan

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking the scientific community's input into the development of its five-year strategic plan. This is NCATS' first strategic plan since its creation in the *National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006* (P.L. 109-482). Accordingly, NCATS has issued a request for information (RFI), "Soliciting Input for the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Strategic Planning Process" ([NOT-TR-16-002](#)).

NCATS "focuses on what is common across diseases and the translational process" emphasizing "innovation and deliverables, relying on the power of data and new technologies to develop, demonstrate and disseminate improvement in translational science that bring about tangible improvements in human health."

Specifically, NCATS is seeking input on such issues as breaking down "professional, cultural, and scientific silos;" emphasizing inter-operability of data systems; "focusing on patient-driven research and patient/community engagement; forming innovative partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders; identifying skillsets and competencies needed for training the next generation of translational scientists," using "modern communication and dissemination tools to expand awareness of translational science to a wide variety of stakeholders."

Comments are due January 8, 2016. For more information and/or to provide input see the [notice](#).

OBSSR Hosts Seminar on Video Games and Neuroscience

Neuroscientist Adam Gazzaley, University of California, San Francisco, discussed his research and what he described as "the new frontiers" in video games and neuroscience. The November 5 presentation was part of the [NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Seminar Series](#), sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR).

[Read on](#) for more details.

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COSSA Members among World's Top 100 Social Science Universities

The London-based magazine *Times Higher Education* has released its [2015-2016 World University Rankings for the social sciences](#). The U.S. leads in terms of number of universities represented, with 43 in the top 100, 35 of which are [COSSA member universities](#). COSSA congratulates all the universities and colleges that made the list.

In an [article](#) accompanying the rankings, James Wilsdon, chair of the UK's Campaign for Social

Science, suggests that the relative dominance of American universities on the list should give pause to those in Congress looking to cut funding for the social and behavioral sciences. "If I was [looking at the ranking] as a US policymaker, I would take it as a powerful warning to think twice before I start to chip away at what's clearly a very strong US position."

AERA Holds Annual Brown Lecture on "Indigenous Pathways toward Justice"

Teresa L. McCarty, professor of education and anthropology and world-renowned scholar on indigenous language planning, policy, education, and revitalization, presented the 2015 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Brown Lecture in Education Research, "So That Any Child May Succeed-Indigenous Pathways toward Justice and the Promise of *Brown*," in October. McCarty is a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles and professor emerita at Arizona State University.

McCarty's lecture considered the legacy of the 1953 *Brown v. Board of Education* case and the "broader issues of education equality, in the context of research, policy, and practice in Indigenous education." She also examined the "hard-fought pathways toward educational justice forged by Indigenous educators, parents, leaders, and allies; the larger colonial project in which those efforts are embedded; and the ways in which Indigenous initiatives are braided with those of others." McCarty spoke about the continuing challenges associated with achieving Brown's promise, specifically, "the simultaneous homogenizing and stratifying effects of current education policy-and what can be learned from diverse models of contemporary Indigenous education practice." The lecture is available on [AERA's website](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), Denver, CO, November 18-22, 2015
- [American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, November 18-21, 2015
- [National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), Las Vegas, NV, November 19-22, 2015
- [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), San Francisco, CA, November 19-22, 2015
- [American Economic Association Annual Meeting](#), San Francisco, CA, January 3-5, 2016
- [Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting](#), New York, NY, January 6-9, 2016
- [American Historical Association Annual Meeting](#), Atlanta, GA, January 7-10, 2016
- [Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, January 7-10, 2016
- [Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#), San Juan, PR, January 7-9, 2016
- [Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference](#), Washington, DC, January 13-17, 2016
- [Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention](#), San Diego, CA, January 28-30, 2016

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [webpage](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@coffa.org.

Save the date!
COSSA's 2016 Annual Meeting will take place on March 15 & 16.

Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

Governing Members

American Anthropological Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Evaluation Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of Research Libraries
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Political and Social Science
American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Institute for Women's Policy Research
NORC at the University of Chicago

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Clark University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fielding Graduate University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Indiana University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
New York University
Northwestern University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
Stony Brook University, SUNY
Texas A&M University
The George Washington University
The Ohio State University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia
Population Reference Bureau
RTI International
Social Science Research Council
Vera Institute of Justice

COSSA

Executive Director: Wendy A. Naus

Deputy Director: Angela L. Sharpe

Assistant Director for Public Affairs: Julia Milton

Address all inquiries to COSSA at newsletter@cozza.org. Telephone: (202) 842-3525

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.

ISSN 0749-4394.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)