



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

2016 Golden Goose Awards Choose Landmark *Add Health* Study

The researchers behind the landmark *National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health Study*, otherwise known as *Add Health*, have been chosen to receive the first of the [2016 Golden Goose Awards](#). The study, conceived by Drs. Peter Bearman, Barbara Entwisle, Kathleen Mullan Harris, Ronald Rindfuss, and Richard Udry in the late 1980s and early 1990s while at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a federally-funded study designed to "illuminate the impact of social and environmental factors on adolescent health." The Award honors "scientists whose federally-funded work may have seemed odd or obscure when it was first conducted but has resulted in significant benefits to society."

Add Health findings have helped to identify major determinants of health and health behaviors during the transition from adolescence to early adulthood. The study followed its original nationally-representative cohort for more than 20 years. *Add Health* "combines longitudinal survey data on respondents' social, economic, psychological and physical well-being with contextual data on the family, neighborhood, community, school, friendships, peer groups, and romantic relationships, providing unique opportunities to study how social environments and behaviors in adolescence are linked to health and achievement outcomes in young adulthood." It has provided insights into the ways that families, schools, neighborhoods, and peers can influence positive health outcomes. This insight also led to better understanding of negative outcomes and behaviors, such as violent behavior, drinking, illegal drug use, smoking, and sexual behavior. A 1998 [COSSA Congressional seminar](#), *What Do We Know About Adolescent Health: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health*, allowed the researchers to share some of the study's initial findings with Congress. The study's name was recently changed to the [National Longitudinal Study of Adult Health](#).

The researchers, along with two other teams of still-unnamed Golden Goose Award recipients, will be honored at the fifth Golden Goose Award Ceremony in September. COSSA is a sponsor of the awards.

COSSA IN ACTION

COSSA Submits FY 2017 CJS Testimony

COSSA has submitted its annual Outside Witness Testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS). COSSA's testimony for fiscal year (FY) 2017 addresses the need for strong funding of the National Science Foundation, Census Bureau, National Institute of Justice, and Bureau of Justice Statistics. Click [here](#) to read testimony submitted to the House, and [here](#) for the Senate.

Members of Congress Submit Funding Requests for Social and Behavioral Science Agencies

Over the past several weeks, Members of Congress have been signing their names to "Dear Colleague" letters, formal requests to the House and Senate appropriations committees for specific funding levels for various federal agencies. COSSA has been tracking letters in support of strong funding for the agencies important to the social and behavioral sciences on our [funding updates page](#). COSSA appreciates the efforts of all of the Members who have signed on to the letters below:

- [House](#) & [Senate](#) letters on FY 2017 appropriations for HEA-Title IV/Fulbright-Hays International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs
- [House letter on FY 2017 appropriations for the Institute of Education Sciences](#)
- [House](#) & [Senate](#) letter on FY 2017 appropriations for the National Institutes of Health
- [House letter on FY 2017 appropriations for the National Science Foundation](#)
- [House letter on FY 2017 appropriations for the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- [House](#) & [Senate](#) letters on FY 2017 appropriations for the Census Bureau
- [House](#) & [Senate](#) letters on FY 2017 appropriations for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

In addition to the requests for specific appropriations levels, a [bipartisan letter](#) in the House reaffirms support for the National Science Foundation's "current practice of setting national scientific research priorities, investing in all disciplines of science, and using the merit review systems for determining which grant proposals to fund." A [letter in the Senate](#) urges appropriators to include funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct research on the causes and prevention of gun violence.

House Science Committee Discusses FY 2017 NSF Budget, Social Science Highlighted

On March 22, the House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology held an [oversight hearing](#) to discuss the fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget request for the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF Director France Córdova and Chair of the National Science Board, Dan Arvizu, testified before the Subcommittee. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) chaired the hearing.

In his opening statement, Ranking Member Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), a PhD political scientist, expressed the importance getting more people to understand the critical role NSF plays, especially across all disciplines of science. In addition, and noting that the discussion could turn to the issue of priority setting among NSF's research directorates, Lipinski quoted House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Culberson (R-TX) who stated during his Subcommittee's [hearing last week](#) that he does not wish to appropriate specific

funding levels for each of NSF's individual directorates, instead leaving the decision to the agency. That statement was directed at full Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX), who has been a vocal critic of federal support for social and behavioral science research and has called for major cuts to social and behavioral science research through his [America COMPETES Reauthorization Act](#) (H.R. 1806).

[Read on](#) for more details.

FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Interagency Committee Releases National Nutrition Research Roadmap

The federal [Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research](#) (ICHNR) has released a five-year nutrition research plan, the [National Nutrition Research Roadmap 2016-2021: Advancing Nutrition Research to Improve and Sustain Health](#). The Roadmap will help coordinate the nutrition research efforts funded by agencies across the federal government, as well as workforce development and training programs in support of nutrition research. The ICHNR is made up of representatives from agencies across the federal government, including the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, NASA, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), among others.

The Roadmap lays out three major nutrition research priorities for federal research efforts, sub-topics within each priority, and where the federal agencies' interests lie regarding each research question. The three overarching priorities for federal nutrition research are: (1) Understanding and defining eating patterns to improve and sustain health, (2) Helping people choose healthy eating patterns, and (3) Developing and engaging innovative methods and systems to accelerate discoveries in human nutrition.

More than 300 Social Science Students Selected as NSF Graduate Research Fellows

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently announced the 2,000 [winners of the annual Graduate Research Fellowship](#) (GRF) program competition. Among the 2016 winners are 311 social and behavioral science researchers from across the U.S. The GRF program provides three years of financial support over a five-year fellowship period for graduate study that leads to a master's or doctoral research degree in a STEM field, including social science. It is one of NSF's flagship programs aimed at fostering the next generation of the STEM workforce and ensuring diversity within the workforce.

The 2,000 awardees were chosen from about 17,000 total applications. The [winners](#) in the social and behavioral sciences come from the following disciplines and fields of study: psychology (136), archeology/anthropology (57), economics (31), sociology (30), political science (20), geography (14), linguistics (8), history/American studies (3), international relations (3), law and social science (2), communication (2), urban and regional planning (2), decision making/risk analysis (1), peace studies (1), and natural resources (1).

AHRQ Accepting Advisory Council Nominations

In November 2016, seven vacancies will open on the [National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality](#), the advisory body to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The council is seeking nominations for new members who have expertise in: "(1) The conduct of research, demonstration projects, and evaluations with respect to health care; (2) the fields of health care quality research or health care improvement; (3) the practice of medicine; (4) other health professions; (5) representing the private health care sector (including health plans, providers, and purchasers) or administrators of health care delivery systems; (6) the fields of health care economics, information systems, law, ethics, business, or public policy; and, (7) the representation of the interests of patients and consumers of health care." More information is available in the [Federal Register notice](#).

NCCIH Seeks Input on Draft 2016-2021 Strategic Plan

The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NICCIH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking input on its draft [NCCIH Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2016-2021](#). Following up on a [previous request for information](#) (RFI), along with the response provided by its National Advisory Council for Complementary and Integrative Health and the NCCIH staff, this [RFI](#) is intended to seek the input of the larger public, including researchers and scientific/professional organizations, among others. NCCIH specifically is seeking comments on the five strategic objectives and the six high priorities contained in the plan. Comments will be accepted through April 15, 2016.

NIMH Seeks Input on Tasks and Measures for the RDoC

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking input from stakeholders, the scientific community, and the general public related to its Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) framework. RDoC is defined as a "new way of classifying mental disorders based on dimensions of observable behavior and neurobiological measures." Specifically, the Institute is [seeking input](#) regarding "existing tests with known construct validity, and also general suggestions on the most important criteria to consider when selecting candidate tests." NIMH's National Advisory Mental Health Council will convene a workgroup "charged with the task of recommending a list of valid and reliable tests for potential use for each construct." To support the Council's effort, the RDoC unit "seeks input and recommendations of tests with: (1) good construct validity

as a measure of as a specific RDoC construct; (2) robust psychometrics; and (3) suitability for use across diverse participants." The Institute is also seeking input regarding the "criteria that should be considered when selecting candidate tests." Responses are due April 22, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

CPR & CNSF to hold Congressional Exhibition and Reception: *"Wasteful" Research? Looking Beyond the Abstract*

Why would a scientist put a shrimp on a treadmill? Can text messages really serve as a health intervention? You may have heard or read about some of these projects, but for the full story, come and speak to the scientists themselves.

The COSSA-led [Coalition to Promote Research](#) (CPR) and the [Coalition for National Science Funding](#) (CNSF) are cosponsoring *"Wasteful" Research? Looking Beyond the Abstract*, a reception and poster session for policymakers to provide a closer look at research grants that have been highlighted in recent congressional and media reports. In addition, see posters explaining how the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) choose which projects to fund, learn about the role of peer/merit review, and leave with a better appreciation for research that has beaten long odds to be funded by these competitive, world-class U.S. science agencies.

The event will take place on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 5-7pm in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building. Click [here](#) for more information, and [here](#) to RSVP. The event is co-hosted by the American Psychological Association, Consortium of Social Science Associations, and Elsevier. Sponsors include the American Educational Research Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of Public & Land-grant Universities, Coalition for the Life Sciences, Population Association of America, and Society for Research in Child Development. Supporters of the event include AAAS, American Anthropological Association, American Physiological Society, American Sociological Association, Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Midwest Political Science Association, and SAGE Publishing.

New Academies Study on Advancing Social and Behavioral Science within the Weather Enterprise Seeks Committee Members

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine has announced a new study, "[Advancing Social and Behavioral Science Research and Application within the Weather Enterprise](#)," and is seeking nominees to serve on the study committee. The goal of the study is to "to develop a framework for generating and applying social and behavioral

science (SBS) research within the context of meteorology, weather forecasting, and weather preparedness and response." The Academies is particularly interested in candidates with expertise in the following fields: weather forecasting, meteorological research, behavioral economics, communication research, decision making, risk perception, assessment and communication, human factors and product design, disaster and risk management and response, meteorology education and work force development, and weather institutions and policy. More information on submitting nominations is available [here](#). Nominations are due by April 13, 2016.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NIJ: Research and Evaluation on Victims of Crime ([NIJ-2016-9600](#))
 - NIJ: FY 2016 Comprehensive School Safety Initiative ([NIJ-2016-9093](#))
 - ED/IFLE: [Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation for Research Abroad](#)
 - FDA: Development, Implementation, and Management of a Funding System to Advance Conformance with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (VNRFRPS) (U18), ([RFA-FD-16-016](#))
 - FDA: Strengthen and Promote the Role of Local Health Departments in Retail Food Safety Regulation (U50), ([RFA-FD-16-019](#))
 - FDA: Strengthening Partnerships with State Legislatures to Promote the Safety of FDA Regulated Products and Advance Public Health (U18), ([RFA-FD-16-041](#))
 - AHRQ: AHRQ Announces Interest in Research that Uses Shared Decision Making as a Tool to Improve the Quality of Care for Low Income and Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients, ([NOT-HS-16-010](#))
 - NIH: [Click here for a list of recent NIH funding opportunities.](#)
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EVENTS CALENDAR

- [NIH and the Science of Science and Innovation Policy: A Joint NIH-NSF Workshop](#), Bethesda, MD, April 7-April 8, 2016
- [Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference](#), Chicago, IL, April 7-April 10, 2016
- [American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC, April 8-April 12, 2016
- [Progress Reversed: The Importance of Health, Mortality and Poverty for Public Policy](#), Washington, DC, April 11, 2016
- ["Wasteful" Research? Looking Beyond the Abstract](#), Washington, DC, April 13, 2016
- [Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Atlanta, GA, April 13-17, 2016
- 22nd Annual CNSF Exhibition & Reception, Washington, DC, April 26, 2016
- [2016 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Lecture: Policy, Politics and Partisanship](#), Washington, DC, May 12, 2016
- [American Association for Public Opinion Research Annual Conference](#), Austin, TX, May 12-15, 2016

- [Law and Society Association Annual Meeting](#), New Orleans, LA, June 2-5, 2016
- [Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Annual Meeting](#), Minneapolis, MN, June 24-26, 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@cossa.org.

Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association
 American Association for Public Opinion Research
 American Economic Association
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National Association of Social Workers
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
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Society for Social Work and Research
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Society of Behavioral Medicine
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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.

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