

This Week's News and Reflections (01/12/07)
The Federation of Behavioral, Psychological,
& Cognitive Sciences
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<http://www.thefederationonline.org/>

This email newsletter is sent to members of the Federation plus interested governmental agency officials. Its goal is to inform researchers in the field about Federation activities, funding issues, and other relevant topics.

If you would like to learn about the Federation's foundation, i.e., Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral & Brain Sciences, please visit www.fabbs.org.

Note: Due to some difficulties in how this newsletter text “translates” when it arrives in your mailboxes, we are going to move to using PDFs in the near future. I hope this will make everything clean and clear for all readers!

**MASSACHUSETTS NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY JOINS
FEDERATION: IT'S NUMBER 22!**

We are pleased to announce a new member society in our ranks: the Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society (MNS)! Their President is Dana L. Penney and their President-Elect is Joel Rosenbaum. This addition to the Federation roster takes our number of scientific societies to 22 (for a full list, check the bottom of this newsletter or our website). MNS is our first regional group and we hope to encourage other such groups to join us to fight the good fight here in DC! Please visit them on this link to learn more about them: <http://www.massneuropsychology.org/index.htm>

**NIMH HOLDS JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING: SPECIAL FOCUS
ON YOUNG INVESTIGATORS**

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) held its winter Advisory Council meeting today and Director Tom Insel pointed out that the NIMH has been dealing with “sub-inflationary budgets” the last four years and, in the last 10 years, the number of applications has almost doubled. He said the success rate for applicants is very low, at 20%, given this increase in applications without attendant extra monies. Therefore, NIMH is trying to manage costs while maintaining a diverse portfolio and sticking to priorities. Insel noted that there will be no inflationary increase given for non-competing grants and that they were expecting to support innovative research through the R56 mechanism.

Insel stated that in 2006, they had planned to fund all new investigators at the 20th percentile or better. Using this rule actually caused a drop in the number of grantees. That is, in 2005, NIMH funded 91 young investigators whereas last year they funded only 69. He suggested that they may have to use other means to increase the actual numbers of young investigators who are funded, e.g., cut other awards. He also indicated that the new K99/R00 “Accelerating Independence” grant mechanism would prove important to young investigators and that NIMH was committed to pay for 10 scientists under this mechanism in 2007 and 10 in 2008. Today’s session ended with presentations made by five new investigators funded by the NIMH, followed by a discussion with the Advisory Council and those scientists. The Council sought feedback on their experience in obtaining funds and

how they will transition from being “junior” to handling more senior-level grants. One of the grantees noted that she wished there would be a way to fund and build in the time necessary to think and plan out a program of research more carefully.

In another vein, the Director of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR), Antonio Scarpa, made a presentation on “Challenges and Opportunities Facing NIH Peer-Review.” He said “peer review is the heart and soul of NIH” and noted that it has helped protect NIH from “outside influences.” He showed a series of media quotes based on what some in the community think of peer review these days, including “Judging of grants has become a charade” and “It’s as reliable as American Idol.” Scarpa also spoke about all of the complaints he receives each day such as scientists saying that they were not treated fairly by a study section or that the process takes too long.

CSR is working to reduce the time of the review cycle so that scientists can re-apply for money more quickly. In fact, they have conducted pilot studies to test it out. Also, they are now using an artificial intelligence program to assign applications to study sections efficiently: not just using key words, but by scanning the entire grant. He indicated that this alone should save 3-4 weeks time. They are also working to evaluate the review panels carefully for expertise and are finding ways to obtain more reviewers given the enormous numbers of grants that arrive at the NIH. One Council member asked how “active” an Advisory Council should be in the review process. Scarpa replied that there are two parts to review: the scientific merit and determining programmatic needs; he suggested that maybe Council should lean more towards the latter, although he didn’t want to mandate anything.

Scarpa’s closing comment was effective. He noted that while people around the world may accuse the USA for bringing Coca Cola and shopping malls to their countries, he hopes we all remember that NIH’s work impacts the health of people around the globe and that is a very good thing.

ZAJONC HONORED BY COLLEAGUES & STUDENTS

Robert B. Zajonc, noted social psychologist, is honored by his colleagues and students on the special pages of the Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS). Eugene Borgida (University of Minnesota) led the effort to honor him, contacting colleagues and former students to help make this happen. Zajonc is well-known for many contributions, including the “mere exposure effect” and his studies in social facilitation using cockroaches as subjects. In 2003, Wiley published the “Selected works of R. B. Zajonc” which may be of interest. Zajonc is currently professor emeritus at Stanford University. To read more about his tribute in FABBS, visit:

http://www.fabbs.org/Zajonc_Honor.html

SHELLEY TAYLOR RECEIVES SPECIAL AWARD

Earlier in the fall, noted social psychologist Shelley Taylor (UCLA) was awarded the Clifton Strengths Prize, named after the former chair of the Gallup Organization. It is given to honor a person’s “enduring influence” in the field. The award is \$250,000 and is given every two years. Congratulations are in order!

To read about this prize, visit:

<http://www.gallupippi.com/Content/?CI=21445>

To read about the overall structure, visit:

<http://www.gallupippi.com/content/?ci=21442>

FEDERAL REPORTS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Ethics Education in Science and Engineering (ESEE)

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07541

Program Announcements & Information Subtype : Biology Subtype : Education Subtype :

Engineering Subtype : Geosciences Subtype : Crosscutting Programs Subtype :

Math/Physical Sciences Subtype : Social/Behavioral Sciences Subtype :

Computer/Information Sciences

Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT) [nsf07540]

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07540

Program Announcements & Information

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NIMH Request for Information: The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is seeking input from the clinical research community, mental health professionals, patient advocates and individuals living with mental illnesses, private and public mental health service systems and providers, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry, and other interested groups about important public mental health research questions that could be addressed using the infrastructure provided by three NIMH clinical research networks - the Bipolar Trials Network (BTN), the Depression Trials Network (DTN), and the Schizophrenia Trials Network (STN). <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-06-128.html>

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Prescription Drugs: An Overview of Approaches to Negotiate Drug Prices Used by Other Countries and U.S. Private Payers and Federal Programs, by John E. Dicken, director, health care, before the Senate Committee on Finance. GAO-07-358T, January 11.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-358T>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07358thigh.pdf>

Medical Devices: Status of FDA's Program for Inspections by Accredited Organizations. GAO-07-157, January 5.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-157>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07157high.pdf>

Childhood Obesity: Factors Affecting Physical Activity. GAO-07-260R, December 6.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-260R>

FEDERATION SOCIETY NEWS CORNER...

Upcoming Federation society annual meetings:

JANUARY

Society for Personality & Social Psychology

January 25-27, Memphis, TN

<http://www.spsp.org>

FEBRUARY

Association for Applied Psychophysiology & Biofeedback,

February 15-18, Monterrey, CA

<http://www.aapb.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>

APRIL

American Educational Research Association

April 9-13, Chicago, IL

<http://www.aera.net>

PLEASE SUPPORT THE BEHAVIORAL & BRAIN SCIENCES

No doubt the most significant activity the Federation has engaged in during the past year is the creation of the **Foundation for the Advancement of the Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS)**. The Federation developed FABBS as a vehicle for supporting and expanding this work. In short, FABBS was created to take over much of the task of educating the public and their congressional representatives about the behavioral and brain sciences and the contributions these disciplines make to society. FABBS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose work is supported by tax-deductible contributions and grants. We urge you to respond generously as the future health of our scientific enterprise is at stake. *The President of FABBS is James Pomerantz (Rice University), the Vice President is Susan Fiske (Princeton University), the Secretary is Jeffrey Blaustein (University of Massachusetts), and the Treasurer is Judith Albino.* Please visit: www.fabbs.org.

NOTE: The current featured scientist on the FABBS site is Robert Zajonc. To read about this special recognition visit: http://www.fabbs.org/Zajonc_Honor.html

Keep those cards and letters coming in and meanwhile, have a good weekend!

Barb

Barbara A. Wanchisen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

INTERESTED IN READING OUR PAST NEWSLETTERS?

All of our e-newsletters are archived on the American Psychological Association's "List Archives." To access the archives, visit listserve.apa.org. Click on "List Archives and List Management", which will take you to a list of options. For archived newsletters, click on the third option, "Online Mailing List Archives", which will take you to another long list of options. Scroll down this alphabetical list and click on "FederationNewsletter." You will now be viewing all of our past newsletters, archived by month. Click on each month to access the newsletters sent out during that time period.

FOR A LIST OF OUR COMPLETE LEADERSHIP, CLICK ON:

<http://www.thefederationonline.org/leadership.htm>

BRIEF REMINDER ON HOW TO HAVE YOUR MEMBERS SUBSCRIBE THE LIST SERV TO GET THIS NEWSLETTER....

1. Send an email to listserv@lists.apa.org <<mailto:listserv@lists.apa.org>>
2. Do not put any text in the subject line
3. In first line of the text area, by example, if your name is Joe Smith, type:
SUB federationnewsletter Joe Smith

If you have trouble getting onto the list, just send me an email and I will take care of it but this method above will be more efficient (well it should be!).

BRIEF REMINDER ON HOW TO UNSUBSCRIBE (SIGN OFF) FROM THE LIST SERV NEWSLETTER.....

1. Send an email to listserv@lists.apa.org <<mailto:listserv@lists.apa.org>>
2. Do not put any text in the subject line
3. In first line of the text area, by example, if your name is Joe Smith, type:
SIGNOFF federationnewsletter

In signing off, be sure you are emailing from the email account that is to be unsubscribed.
If you have any trouble, just send me an email and we will do it for you.

Federation Executive Committee

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Member Societies

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APA Division Affiliates

[Division 1: The Society for General Psychology](#) • [Division 3: Experimental Psychology](#) • [Division 5: Evaluation, Measurement and Statistics](#) • [Division 6: Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology](#) • [Division 8: Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#) • [Division 14: Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology](#) • [Division 20: Adult Development and Aging](#) • [Division 21: Division of Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology](#) • [Division 25: Behavior Analysis](#) • [Division 50: Addictions](#)

Special acknowledgment is extended to Ms. Meghan McGowan, the Federation's Program Assistant, and Ms. Sheri Lynne Hoffman, our Senior Accountant.

Also thanks are extended to the APA for hosting this list serve.