

NOTE: To view this newsletter in PDF format, visit:
<http://www.thefederationonline.org/docs/Newsletters/NEWS011108.pdf>

TO SUBSCRIBE OR UNSUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER, VISIT:
<http://www.thefederationonline.org/newsletters.html>

News and Reflections (01/11/2008)
**The Federation of Behavioral, Psychological,
& Cognitive Sciences**
750 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002
202-336-5920 (voice); 202-336-5812 (fax)
<http://www.thefederationonline.org/>

This email newsletter is sent to scientists in Federation societies plus interested governmental agency officials. Its goal is to inform researchers in the field about Federation activities, federal 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.

NIMH COUNCIL DISCUSSES STRATEGIC PLAN: COMMUNITY SHOWS INTEREST IN INCLUDING MORE BEHAVIOR

This morning, Director Thomas Insel, MD, of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), presided over the open policy session of the National Advisory Mental Health Council. Probably of greatest interest my readership was the discussion on the NIMH Strategic Plan. Insel began by reminding everyone that the draft plan had these four objectives:

1. Promote Discovery in Brain and Behavioral Sciences to Fuel Research in the Causes of Mental Disorders.
2. Chart Mental Illness Trajectories to Determine When, Where, and How to Intervene. (Insel indicated this was one of the more “transformative” of the objectives.)
3. Develop New and Better Interventions for Mental Diseases by Incorporating Diverse Needs and Circumstances of People with Mental Illness.
4. Strengthen Public Health Impact of NIMH-Supported Research.

The strategic plan was posted on the NIMH website in the fall, and Insel reported that they received over 500 bits of input from their RFI that went out to the community. Despite the difficulty of categorizing all of that input, they extracted these three themes:

Theme 1: Focus on alternatives to drug treatments. (Here there was discussion on that this should include behavioral and cognitive interventions.)

Theme 2: More focus on behavioral and social science research as well as environmental factors associated with mental illness.

Theme 3: Focus on recovery and self-management including studying new practices and services specifically targeted to these areas. (Treatment should encompass more

than alleviation of symptoms but should also help people lead better lives despite the illness.)

Director Insel said that they had always viewed Themes 1 and 2 as a part of the draft plan but it was important to hear this from the community; therefore, he noted that they would be sure to underscore these points in the final version. Of course, this is great news for our community of scientists, and it is interesting that apparently most of the commentary that the NIMH received dealt in some way with greater inclusion of the behavioral sciences.

The NIMH Council then discussed this input and offered further suggestions for inclusion in the draft. Council Member Elizabeth Childs, MD, PC (Private Practice) asked how the plan would be used once it is finalized. Insel responded that he envisioned this plan to be a “crystallization” of their discussions in council over the years and that it will serve as documentation for the community on the NIMH mission and vision. He indicated that some points will “be drilled down into action plans” and that the strategic plan also will be a document of reference as they go forward. He said that he hoped it would be a document of inspiration as well. Insel discussed how they might find ways to determine if the plan is working and, if needed, “course corrections” could be made along the way.

The plan will go through one more iteration, and should be finalized and published in the spring. Insel acknowledged the work of Della Han (Director of Science Policy, Planning, and Communications) and her group for their hard work on this project.

On another, but somewhat related, note, there was also a presentation this morning made by Director Francis Collins, MD, of the National Human Genome Research Institute during which he spoke about the Genes x Environment initiative. At the conclusion of his talk, NAMHC Council Member Helena Kraemer, PhD (Stanford University) commented to Collins that studying the *interaction* of genes and environment would yield far more information than focusing on either side of that equation. NAMHC Council Member Jonathan Cohen, PhD (Princeton University) added that “environment” is not just the physical environment but that the social/behavioral environment, while complex, is just as important as lead or other physical compounds. Collins agreed, stating that he is learning more about these kinds of environmental variables and how to study them.

DRIVER SAFETY BRIEFING ON CAPITOL HILL BIG SUCCESS: VIDEOS ARE NOW LOADED ON THE WEBSITE

The Federation hosted, through the generous sponsorship of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society and the American Psychological Association, an extremely successful briefing called “Preventing Crashes: Driver Safety through Human Factors Science.” The presenters were: Drs. Wendy Rogers (Georgia Institute of Technology), Paula Sind-Prunier (National Transportation Safety Board), Thomas Dingus (Virginia Tech), John Lee (University of Iowa), and Donald Fisher (University of Massachusetts, Amherst). This was a luncheon briefing and the room overflowed with interested attendees hailing from a variety of congressional offices and federal agencies.

We had a video made (the first time we have done this with a Federation briefing) and it is now polished and loaded on the website. Most speakers agreed to be taped, as you will see, but some footage had to be cut. To read more about this event, see the agenda, read abstracts and watch the videos, visit:

http://www.thefederationonline.org/events/2007_HFES_APA/index.php

LET'S HAVE A SCIENCE DEBATE WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES – SIGN ON IF YOU SUPPORT THAT IDEA

What an exciting season it is for us political wonks! Everyone has issues near and dear to their hearts but, of course, a big one is what the presidential candidates' views are on science and technology. Check out this website if you would like to hear a presidential debate on this topic, and sign on as a scientist and/or as a scientific organization.

<http://www.sciencedebate2008.com/www/index.php>

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE OFFICE AT NIH RELEASES REPORT

This just in from OBSSR: The Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at the National Institutes of Health is pleased to share its strategic prospectus, [*The Contributions of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research to Improving the Health of the Nation: A Prospectus for the Future*](#). The culmination of more than a year of deliberation, the prospectus identifies the most exciting and promising areas of behavioral and social sciences research and OBSSR's vision for how behavioral research can help solve the most pressing public health challenges faced by our society.

NIDA SEEKS INPUT ON STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT

The National Institutes of Health is very much into strategic planning these days! It is really good to weigh in wherever you can on such things – and now it is NIDA's turn.

NIDA RELEASE For the past three decades, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has led the way in supporting research to prevent and treat drug abuse and addiction and mitigate the impact of their consequences— particularly the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Given recent revolutionary advances in drug abuse research, NIDA has recently undergone a strategic planning process gathering recommendations from the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and from ongoing dialogue with our various stakeholder groups to establish achievable goals and objectives for the future. *NIDA's Draft Strategic Plan* outlines four major goal areas – Prevention, Treatment, HIV/AIDS, and Cross Cutting Priorities – each with Strategic Objectives that will guide NIDA's research agenda for the future.

The public is invited to review this draft plan -- accessible through the NIDA web site link <http://www.drugabuse.gov/StrategicPlan/Index.html> -- and provide comments via email to stratplan@nida.nih.gov or mail to:

National Institute on Drug Abuse

Attn: Draft Strategic Plan

6001 Executive Blvd.

Suite 5213, MSC 9561

Bethesda, MD 20892-9561

Comments must be emailed or postmarked by February 6, 2008.

REPORTS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

DOD Schools: Additional Reporting Could Improve Accountability for Academic Achievement of Students with Dyslexia. GAO-08-70, December 6.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-70>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0870high.pdf>

NATIONAL ACADEMIES

“Science, Evolution, and Creationism” (2008)

Authors: Committee on Revising Science and Creationism: A View from the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine of the National Academies

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11876

FEDERATION SOCIETIES’ ANNUAL MEETINGS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2008

FEBRUARY

SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Albuquerque, NM: February 7 – 9

www.spsp.org

MARCH

AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

New York, NY: March 24 – March 28

www.aera.net

APRIL

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

San Francisco, CA: April 10 – 12

www.siop.org

MAY

ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY AND BIOFEEDBACK

Daytona Beach, FL: May 15 – 18

www.aapb.org

ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS INTERNATIONAL

Chicago, IL: May 23 – 27

www.abainternational.org

JUNE

INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY

St. Thomas, VI: June 17 – 22

www.ibnshomepage.org

BEHAVIOR GENETICS ASSOCIATION

Louisville, KY: June 25 – 28

www.bga.org

SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL NEUROENDOCRINOLOGY

Groningen, Netherlands: July 7 – 10

www.sbn.org

JULY

COGNITIVE SCIENCE SOCIETY

Washington, DC: July 23 – 26

www.cognitivesciencesociety.org

SOCIETY FOR MATHEMATICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Washington, DC: July 26 – 29

www.cogs.indiana.edu/socmathpsych

AUGUST

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Boston, MA: August 14-17

www.apa.org

SEPTEMBER

HUMAN FACTORS AND ERGONOMICS SOCIETY

New York, NY: September 22 – 26

www.hfes.org

OCTOBER

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Austin, TX: October 1 – 5

www.sprweb.org

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

New York, NY: October 22 – 25

www.nanonline.org

SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Sacramento, CA: October 24 – 25

www.sesp.org

NOVEMBER

PSYCHONOMIC SOCIETY

Chicago, IL: November 13 – 16

www.psychonomic.org

SOCIETY FOR JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING

Chicago, IL: November 22 – 24

www.sjdm.org

SOCIETY FOR COMPUTERS IN PSYCHOLOGY

TBA

<http://home.scip.ws>

TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON...

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOBIOLOGY

TBA

www.isdp.org

MASSACHUSETTS NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TBA

www.massneuropsychology.org

SOCIETY OF MULTIVARIATE EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

TBA

www.smep.org

SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Pittsburgh, PA: TBA

www.psychopathology.org

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 Susan Fiske (Princeton University), the President-Elect is Morton Gernsbacher (University of Wisconsin, Madison), the Secretary is Elaine Hull (Florida State University), and the Treasurer is Robert Feldman (University of Massachusetts, Amherst).* Please visit: www.fabbs.org.

NOTE: The current featured scientist on the FABBS site is Dr. Duncan Luce. To learn more about him, visit: http://www.fabbs.org/luce_honor.html

Happy New Year – and keep those cards and letters coming – I appreciate hearing from you.

Barb

Barbara A. Wanchisen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

FOR A LIST OF OUR COMPLETE LEADERSHIP, CLICK:
<http://www.thefederationonline.org/leadership.htm>

Federation Executive Committee

Leaetta Hough, PhD, President * Thomas Wallsten, PhD, Past President * James McClelland, PhD, President-Elect * Jeryl Mumpower, PhD, Secretary * Robert Feldman, PhD, Treasurer * Gerald Krueger, PhD, Member at Large * Bruce Cuthbert, PhD, Member at Large * Jeffrey Blaustein, Ph.D., Member At Large * Michael Neale, PhD, Member at Large * Susan Fiske, PhD, Ex-officio Member as FABBS' President* Barbara Wanchisen, PhD, Ex-officio Member as Executive Director

Member Societies

[American Educational Research Association](#) • [American Psychological Association](#) • [Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback](#) • [Association for Behavior Analysis International](#) • [Behavioral Genetics Association](#) • [Cognitive Science Society](#) • [Human Factors and Ergonomics Society](#) • [International Behavioral Neuroscience Society](#) • [International Society for Developmental Psychobiology](#) • [Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society](#) • [National Academy of Neuropsychology](#) • [Psychonomic Society](#) • [Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology](#) • [Society for Computers in Psychology](#) • [Society of Experimental Social Psychology](#) • [Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology](#) • [Society for Judgment and Decision Making](#) • [Society for Mathematical Psychology](#) •

[Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology](#) • [Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#) • [Society for Psychophysiological Research](#) • [Society for Research in Psychopathology](#)

Corporate Affiliate

[SAGE Publications, Inc.](#)

University Affiliates

[Dartmouth College](#) • [Duke University](#) • [Emporia State University](#) • [Georgia Institute of Technology](#) • [Lehigh University](#) • [Michigan State University](#) • [Rice University](#) • [Stanford University](#) • [University of Cincinnati](#) • [University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign](#) • [University of Maryland, College Park](#) • [University of Miami](#) • [University of North Carolina, Greensboro](#) • [University of South Florida](#) • [Virginia Commonwealth University](#) • [Virginia Tech](#)

APA Division Affiliates

[Division 3: Experimental Psychology](#) • [Division 8: Society for Personality and Social Psychology](#) • [Division 14: Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology](#) • [Division 20: Adult Development and Aging](#) • [Division 50: Addictions](#)

Special acknowledgment is extended to Ms. Meghan McGowan, the Federation's Policy and Program Specialist and Mr. Steven Schwark, the Federation's Program Assistant.
