

***This Week's News and Reflections (01/26/07)***  
***The Federation of Behavioral, Psychological,***  
***& Cognitive Sciences***  
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*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](http://www.fabbs.org).*

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**“HOW DO I LOVE THEE?” EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON THE  
VALUE OF THE BEHAVIORAL & BRAIN SCIENCES**

The Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) is pleased to announce that it is hosting a special science café involving two distinguished scientists in our field: C. Sue Carter, PhD (University of Illinois, Chicago) and Phillip Shaver, PhD (University of California, Davis). This café will be held at the National Zoo in Washington, DC on February 8<sup>th</sup> and is called: “How Do I Love Thee? The Biology and Psychology of Attachment.” The café will start at 7:00 pm in the Zoo’s Visitor Center, followed by a cocktail reception in the atrium. The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and space is going quickly.

FABBS acknowledges the sponsors for this event, three Federation societies: the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, the Society of Experimental Social Psychology, and the Society for Social and Personality Psychology. Without their generous support, this event would not be possible.

To learn more about this science café, and to RSVP, visit:

[http://www.fabbs.org/documents/FABBS\\_FEB\\_8\\_Zoo\\_Invite1.pdf](http://www.fabbs.org/documents/FABBS_FEB_8_Zoo_Invite1.pdf)

To learn more about FABBS, visit:

[www.fabbs.org](http://www.fabbs.org)

**NIGMS HOLDS WINTER COUNCIL MEETING: EXCITEMENT  
OVER “EXCEPTIONALLY INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AWARD”**

This morning, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences’ Advisory Council passed a Concept Clearance setting aside funds for a new grant opportunity called the “Exceptionally Innovative Research Award” (EIRA; pronounced “Ira”). This new mechanism replaces the “R21:high-risk, high-impact initiative” and it has a unique approach and unique “look.” Applications will be only eight pages long, template-driven, and require a limited bio-sketch of the applicant. Funding will be provided for up to four years, up to \$800,000 for those four years and not to exceed \$250,000 in a given year. Of course, NIGMS funds basic science, and while they may soon partner with some other NIH institutes on this initiative, they are the innovators and the focus of EIRA, if you have any questions.

The EIRA RFA will define “innovative” in relation to both hypotheses (novel, controversial, or a challenge to conventional wisdom) and approach (e.g. unconventional

way to solve difficult conceptual or technical problems). They seek “impact” that will affect the investigator in the field as well as the breadth of the scientific community.

NIGMS’ Laurie Tompkins, PhD, who presented the details of the EIRA today, indicated that the reason that this RFA was designed was (1) it is difficult to evaluate innovative, high-impact projects within the review of more typical applications, and (2) EIRA will serve as a signal to the scientific community that NIGMS is interested in this type of research. Reviewers will be instructed to not be “conservative” in their approach, and that they, as a group, need not reach consensus. Priority scores will be used in evaluating applications, but the reviewers will be asked to focus on innovative approaches to science.

In the discussion with NIGMS staff and advisory council members (which was lively and enthusiastic), a few concerns emerged, including whether: 1) this initiative favors senior investigators 2) an in-house review would negatively impact the peer-review process 3) reviewers would be too insular in their analyses of which areas to fund. It was acknowledged that many challenges were ahead and that NIGMS would have to evaluate the progress of the EIRA, but clearly all of these things had been discussed and considered beforehand, and promises were made to monitor next steps carefully.

NIGMS anticipates funding 13-17 awards per year. The awards will be non-renewable. As always, applicants are strongly advised to contact program staff before starting the application.

## **NSF DIRECTOR RESPONDS TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS**

Arden Bement, the Director of the National Science Foundation, released a statement indicating his concern over federal budget constraints (i.e., that the agency is operating under a Continuing Resolution). He mentions that while NSF is releasing requests for applications as normal, in the end, they may have to cut back on funding initiatives and activities. To read Bement’s entire statement, visit:  
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf0720/nsf0720.jsp>

## **HUMAN SUBJECTS’ PROTECTIONS UPDATES**

On January 18, 2007, the Office of Human Research Protection posted on its website OHRP’s formal “Guidance on Reviewing and Reporting Unanticipated Problems Involving Risks to Subjects or Others and Adverse Events” (dated January 15, 2007). The guidance can be found by going to the Policy Guidance [by topics] page on the OHRP website at <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/index.html>, and clicking on either “Adverse Events” or “Unanticipated Problems” from the list of guidance topics. OHRP has also posted newly revised versions of the following two guidance documents: (1) “Guidance on Continuing Review” (this guidance can be found by clicking on “Continuing Review” from the list of guidance topics at the top of the Policy Guidance [by topics] page on the OHRP website). This guidance has been revised to be consistent with the content of OHRP’s January 15, 2007 “Guidance on Reviewing and Reporting Unanticipated Problems Involving Risks to Subjects or Others and Adverse Events.” (2) “Guidance on Written IRB Procedures” (this guidance can be found by clicking on “IRBs” from the list of guidance topics at the top of the Policy Guidance [by topics] page on the OHRP website, and then clicking on the last bullet under the heading “IRB (Institutional Review Board).” This guidance has been updated to include the following changes: (1) the content regarding continuing review has been revised to be consistent with the content of OHRP’s January 15, 2007 “Guidance on Reviewing and Reporting Unanticipated Problems Involving Risks to Subjects or Others and Adverse Events;” (2) paragraph A.(4) under “ADDITIONAL OHRP GUIDANCE RELEVANT TO WRITTEN IRB PROCEDURES” has been revised to be consistent with OHRP’s position regarding when IRB’s must defer approval of research; and (3) formatting

changes. OHRP welcomes comments on these guidance documents. Please send any comments to OHRP by e-mail at [ohrp@hhs.gov](mailto:ohrp@hhs.gov), with citation of the specific document related to the comments in the subject line.

## **NEW NIH “OPASI” OFFICE HIRES DIRECTOR**

Alan Krensky, MD, will assume leadership of the new Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI) this summer. OPASI is tasked with handling trans-NIH initiatives, identifying new ideas and accelerating funding to address those ideas, and will host a “common fund” of money to carry out its work. We in the behavioral sciences are watching how this new arm of NIH develops in order to ensure that our sciences are included as NIH moves forward. To read the press release on the new Director, click: <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/jan2007/opasi-25.htm>

## **FEDERAL REPORTS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI)

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf07543](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07543)

Type: Program Announcements & Information, Subtype: Education

NSF 2007 Proposer Survey

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=od0701](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=od0701)

Type: General Information, Subtype: NSF-wide

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

#### **National Institute of Mental Health Funding**

Research On Ethical Issues In Human Subjects Research (R01) (PA-07-277)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-277.html>

Bioengineering Research Grants (BRG)(R01) (PA-07-279)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-279.html>

PHS 2007-02 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH, CDC, and FDA for Small Business Innovation Research Grant Applications (**Parent SBIR [R43/R44]**) (PA-07-280)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-280.html>

PHS 2007-02 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH for Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Applications (**Parent STTR [R41/R42]**) (PA-07-281)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-281.html>

Community Participation in Research (R01) (PAR-07-283)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-283.html>

Shared Neurobiology of Fragile X Syndrome and Autism (R01) (PA-07-284)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-284.html>

Translational Research in Eating Disorders (R01) (PA-07-285)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-285.html>

Health Disparities in HIV/AIDS: Focus on African Americans (R03) (PA-07-290)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-290.html>

Research on Social Work Practice and Concepts in Health (R01) (PA-07-292)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-292.html>

Information Technologies and the Internet in Health Services and Intervention Delivery (R01) (PA-07-295)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-295.html>

NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award (K99/R00) (PA-07-297)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-297.html>

Mental Health Consequences Of Violence And Trauma (R01) (PA-07-312)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-312.html>

**National Institute of Mental Health Reports**

Gene Variant Linked to Schizophrenia

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/childhood-schiz-onset-NGR-1.cfm>

U.S.-born Children of Immigrants May Have Higher Risk for Mental Disorders Than Parents

[http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/immigrant\\_mentalhealth.cfm](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/immigrant_mentalhealth.cfm)

Different Families, Different Characteristics -- Different Kinds of Bipolar Disorder?

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/bp-familiality.cfm>

History of Childhood Abuse or Neglect Increases Risk of Major Depression

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/abuse-depression.cfm>

**GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**

Rail Safety: The Federal Railroad Administration Is Taking Steps to Better Target Its Oversight, but Assessment of Results Is Needed to Determine Impact. GAO-07-149,

January 26. <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-149>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07149high.pdf>

**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>

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**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](http://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](http://www.fabbs.org/Zajonc_Honor.html)**

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*Keep those cards and letters coming!*

*Barb*

Barbara A. Wanchisen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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**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](http://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.

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**FOR A LIST OF OUR COMPLETE LEADERSHIP, CLICK ON:**

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

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**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) <<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) <<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.

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**Federation Executive Committee**

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*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.*

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