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***This Week's News and Reflections (05/11/07)***  
***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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## **NIMH ADVISORY MEETING TODAY: STRATEGIC PLAN, NEW CODING SYSTEM FOR GRANTS, VA TECH**

This morning, Dr. Thomas Insel, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the National Institutes of Health, kicked off the public session of the National Advisory Mental Health Council meeting. Several items discussed were of interest to our community.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING:** NIMH is beginning its strategic planning process, involving the NIMH staff and council, and they expect to produce a draft document this summer. Apparently in fall, the plan will be posted on the website and the community will be invited to comment. Insel anticipates a final version of the strategic plan to be approved at the January 2008 council meeting, and stated he would prefer it to be about 15 pages. We will monitor this and, once the plan is posted, alert you so that you may offer input. Of course, the Federation will submit input representing the interests of its membership.

**NEW CODING SYSTEM:** The NIH has been working on the Research, Condition, & Disease Categorization (RCDC) project for several years now. This is a cross-NIH coding system which will reliably enable Congress, advocates, and the public to query the system and obtain consistent data regarding NIH budget expenditures. Currently, NIH's 27 Institutes and Centers use their own "unique" coding systems, thus making it rather difficult, if not impossible, to get a standardized set of numbers on how much money is spent on a given area of research, or on a particular disease. Insel acknowledged that many NIMH staff have devoted significant amounts of time to make this new RCDC possible and that it should be ready in time to report on FY 2008 data. He noted that once this new system is in place, it will likely "change" the numbers in a sense – that is, the new numbers will likely not conform to the numbers reported in former years. Therefore, he expects the advocacy community to question any "apparent drops" in funding or other unpleasant artifacts because RCDC will be using different criteria for judgment. Of course, we at the Federation applaud this effort initiated by the NIH Director (Dr. Elias Zerhouni) because we have been unable to obtain clear information on, for example, on how much funding is allotted to certain areas of behavioral science. This means we have been unable to adequately track changes over time up to this point.

**VIRGINIA TECH:** Much discussion centered on the topic of the tragedy at Virginia Tech last month. NIMH was called to action when the shootings occurred, and Insel accompanied the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to go on a "listening tour" of several states. They met with governors,

law enforcement, and families affected by mass shootings. The messages they received on this tour were that there is a high incidence of mental illness in schools coupled with inadequate services for assessment and treatment and, on top of that, there is confusion about sharing information on students suspected of suffering an illness. The challenges from this tour emerged as how to protect the privacy of individuals while ensuring the safety of others, and how to ensure that treatment is given without increasing the stigma attached with doing so. This special tour group has been tasked with providing a report in very short order to the White House on their findings. Note that the NIMH holds to views based on empirical data that “(a) mental illness is not involved in most acts of violence, (b) violence by those with mental illness usually occurs in those who are not treated and is most often self-directed (e.g. suicide), and (c) recent acts of violence by those with mental illness, while rare, remind us of the need to provide better access to treatments for students both in K-12 and post-secondary education.”

**OTHER NEWS:** Dr. Molly Oliveri was selected to serve as Director of the Division of Pediatric Translational Research. (She had been serving as Acting Director while a national search was conducted.) Many of us have known Molly over the years in her various roles at the NIMH including her time as Chief of the Behavioral Science Research Branch. We congratulate her and wish her well in this new post!

## **CSR HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDY GROUPS: INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY**

In late April, The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) at the National Institutes of Health held an open house meeting seeking ways to help them keep apace with research in the behavioral and social sciences. (They are holding these meetings for all areas of research that they cover, but this was “our” day at the NIH.) The meeting lasted the better part of an entire day and was kicked off by Dr. Raynard Kington (current Deputy Director of the NIH, and former Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research at the NIH) who encouraged everyone to participate and offer insights throughout the day. CSR Director Toni Scarpa led the effort with some of his key staff, including Anita Miller Sostek, Division Director, Clinical and Population-Based Studies. In attendance were individuals from across many institutes of the NIH involved in this area of study, society and association leaders and advocates, and academic scientists. In advance, we were given these two discussion topics:

1. Is the science of your discipline, in its present state, appropriately evaluated within the current study section alignment? Suggestions?
2. What will be the most important questions and/or enabling technologies you see forthcoming within the science of your discipline in the next 10 years?

To give you some flavor of what went on, some areas were either deemed by the group to be missing all together in the current NIH review panels (e.g., Industrial/Organizational Psychology, treatment science, neuron-psychology, and theoretical and ethical research and development) and some were viewed as endangered (e.g., social psychology, sociology, anthropology). Participants asked to somehow maintain the “foundational research base” in the behavioral and social sciences at the NIH as we go forward, while also responding to initiatives like Road Map and interdisciplinary and translational work. Participants indicated concern about how to ensure that risky and innovative proposals get fair play at CSR given the somewhat stilted structure it now has. Also, there was a sense that the behavioral sciences will need more of a biological-based approach to be successful and that this is partly where the field is going in the next 10 years. Also there was discussion on the use of consumer and other devices, such as PDAs, cell phones, GPS systems, to be used in the study of human behavior and that there is a need to work on ethical issues regarding the use of those devices. Some mention was made of greater emphasis on developing and implementing data mining techniques and to work with fMRI technology to make it more

efficacious. In the coming weeks, CSR will post the full results of the meeting and offer an opportunity for continued input from the community. When that link is up, we will let you know.

## **GARRETT AND CAMPBELL AMENDMENTS DEFEATED THANKS TO QUICK ACTION!**

Last week, as the House debated the reauthorization bill for the National Science Foundation, two amendments were introduced to basically “un-fund” nine grants in the social and behavioral sciences. The congressmen in question were Scott Garrett (R-NJ) and John Campbell (R-CA). The targeted grants covered such topics as social and reproductive behavior in monkeys, superstition, experimental economics, medical decision making, cross-cultural emotions, and reproductive aging. Of course, NSF is noted for its stringent peer-review process and it is always unfortunate when certain Members of Congress cherry pick through the offerings, thereby undermining the goals of this well-established process. Thanks to the actions of many of you, the scientists, who called your representatives in protest and thanks to the many organizations who led the charge to stop the passage of the harmful amendments (especially we want to acknowledge Dr. Heather Kelly of the American Psychological Association). We also thank the Members of Congress who reliably support and stand by peer review, and eloquently speak against such action. The amendments were defeated.

## **FEDERAL REPORTS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:** The Academic Competitiveness Council final report is now available.

Executive summary:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/acc-mathscience/index.html>

The full report:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/acc-mathscience/report.pdf>

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

The Case for an Institute of Mathematical Biology

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=biorpt701](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=biorpt701)

Reports, Biology

Students Benefit from Undergraduate Research Opportunities URL :

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=pr07051](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pr07051)

News Releases, Education

Biology in the 21st Century [pr07045]

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=pr07045](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pr07045)

News Releases, Biology

Research Initiation Grants and Career Advancement Awards to Broaden Participation in Biology [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf07560](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07560)

Program Announcements & Information, Biology

### **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**

Business Systems Modernization: Strategy for Evolving DOD's Business Enterprise Architecture Offers a Conceptual Approach, but Execution Details Are Needed. GAO-07-451, April 16.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-451>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07451high.pdf>

Federal Oversight of Food Safety: High-Risk Designation Can Bring Attention to Limitations in the Government's Food Recall Programs, by Lisa R. Shames, director, natural resources and environment, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Energy and Commerce. GAO-07-785T, April 24.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-785T>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07785thigh.pdf>

Information Technology: VA and DOD Are Making Progress in Sharing Medical Information, but Are Far from Comprehensive Electronic Medical Records, by Valerie C. Melvin, director, human capital and management information systems issues, before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. GAO-07-852T, May 8.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-852T>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07852thigh.pdf>

Homeland Security: DHS Enterprise Architecture Continues to Evolve but Improvements Needed. GAO-07-564, May 9.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-564>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07564high.pdf>

## **FEDERATION SOCIETY NEWS CORNER...**

### ***Upcoming Federation society annual meetings:***

#### ***MAY/JUNE***

##### **Association for Behavior Analysis**

May 25-29, San Diego, CA

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

##### **Behavior Genetics Association**

June 3-6, Amsterdam, Netherlands

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

##### **International Behavioral Neuroscience Society**

June 12-16, Rio De Janiero, Brasil

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

##### **Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology**

June 21-24, Pacific Grove, CA

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

#### ***JULY/AUGUST***

##### **American Psychological Association**

August 17-20, San Francisco, CA

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

##### **Cognitive Science Society**

August 1-4, Nashville, TN

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

##### **Society for Mathematical Psychology**

July 25-28, Costa Mesa, CA  
[www.cogs.indiana.edu/socmathpsych](http://www.cogs.indiana.edu/socmathpsych)

***OCTOBER***

**Human Factors and Ergonomics Society**

October 1-5, Baltimore, MD

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

**International Society for Developmental Psychobiology**

Oct 31 – Nov 4, San Diego, CA

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

**Society for Experimental Social Psychology**

October 11-13, Chicago, IL

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

**Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology**

October TBA

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

**Society for Psychophysiological Research**

October 17-21, Savannah, GA

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

**Society for Research in Psychopathology**

October 4-7, Iowa City, IO

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

***NOVEMBER***

**National Academy of Neuropsychology**

November 14-18, Scottsdale, AZ

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

**Psychonomic Society**

November 15-18, Long Beach, CA

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

**Society for Computers in Psychology**

November 15, Long Beach, CA

<http://home.scip.ws>

**Society for Judgment and Decision Making**

November 17-19, Long Beach, CA

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

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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 Elaine Hull (Florida State University), and the Treasurer is Judith Albino (University of Colorado).* Please visit: [www.fabbs.org](http://www.fabbs.org).

**NOTE: The current featured scientist on the FABBS site is Michael Posner. To read about this honor, visit: [http://www.fabbs.org/Posner\\_Honor.html](http://www.fabbs.org/Posner_Honor.html).**

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*Have a great weekend and 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:**  
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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.....**

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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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Albino, PhD, Treasurer \* Susan Fiske, PhD, Member at Large \* Suzanne Bennett Johnson, PhD, Member at Large \* Jeffrey Blaustein, Ph.D., Member At Large \* Michael Neale, PhD, Member at Large

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### Member Societies

[American Educational Research Association](#) • [American Psychological Association](#) • [Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback](#) • [Association for Behavior Analysis](#) • [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](#)

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