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<http://www.thefederationonline.org/docs/Newsletters/NEWS052507.pdf>

This Week's News and Reflections (05/25/07)
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.

VIDEOS OF TWO OF FABBS' SCIENCE CAFES ON "LOVE" AND "VEGETATIVE STATES" RELEASED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

Already in this calendar year, the Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) has held two science cafes in Washington, DC. These events were aimed at the general public. Now the actual videos of these events are posted on the FABBS web site. You are free to visit the site and watch them, and/or order a DVD. In February, C. Sue Carter, PhD and Phillip Shaver, PhD spoke on "How Do I Love Thee? The Biology and Psychology of Attachment" in an event geared towards Valentine's Day. In March, the event was titled: "Unraveling the Mysteries of the Brain and Mind in the Aftermath of Terri Shiavo and Related Cases," featuring Nicholas Schiff, MD and Daniel Wegner, PhD. Here is the link (and enjoy!): <http://www.fabbs.org/news.html#01>.

SCIENCE MAGAZINE FEATURES BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: As you know, educating the public about the importance of the behavioral and brain sciences is an important goal and, in part, FABBS hopes to reduce the misunderstandings people may have about what we do, and show some of the very best science there is. I hope you caught the May 18 edition of Science Magazine and, if not, particularly note the editorial by Alan Leshner, PhD, who skillfully addressed some issues involved in better understanding the behavioral sciences. If you are interested, visit:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/316/5827/953.pdf>

NIDA ADVISORY MEETING: DISPARATE SUCCESS RATES ON AIDS APPLICATIONS VERSUS OTHERS

Nora Volkow, MD, the Director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse, kicked off the public session of the 96th meeting of the National Advisory Council last Wednesday. She noted that, in the extramural program, about 30% of NIDA's budget supports AIDS research (or \$300,000) and that success rates are much higher for this line of work compared to other funded areas. Volkow noted that AIDS is the leading cause of death world-wide for the 18-45 year old age range, and that rate of AIDS contraction via injection by drug abusers is dropping in the United States compared to elsewhere, but there is an increase in the incidence of AIDS in the heterosexual community. She said that she

strongly believes in the importance of this research; however, she can not account for such a clear difference in success rates for that work compared to other portfolios at NIDA, but is investigating to find answers.

Volkow noted that the community had asked her whether there was any disparity in funding of grants that were solicited versus unsolicited by NIDA. She said that while they have tracked an increase in both kinds of grants, they found no evidence to suggest one type was favored over another. Apparently, NIDA has had to solicit applications in certain areas of drug abuse to obtain breadth – if they did not do this, the vast majority of applications would involve cocaine use. Compared to other institutes at the NIH, NIDA has the highest percentage of solicited applications.

The HBO documentary called “Addiction” aired in mid-March and has been a great success, according to Volkow, leading to features on popular TV shows such as Larry King and Oprah. HBO reported over 13 million viewers tuned in and “HBO On Demand” had nearly one million orders. This documentary arose as a collaboration between NIDA and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

To read more about NIDA’s initiatives and funding opportunities, visit:

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/>

NIGMS MEETS, CONSIDERS AREAS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND A “SOCIAL MODELING” INITIATIVE

Last week, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) held its spring advisory council meeting. Two items emerging from that meeting may be of interest to our community. Please review:

Developments and Opportunities in the Computational Biology of Emerging

Infectious Diseases: The NIGMS-funded MIDAS (Models of Infectious Disease Agent Study) collaborative grant program develops and applies computational and mathematical models to study the dynamics and control of deliberately introduced or natural infectious disease threats. MIDAS investigators have produced a number of high-profile studies of spread and control of pandemic influenza, which have had a significant impact on policy and pandemic planning. MIDAS steering committee chair Dr. Bryan Grenfell of Penn State University summarized the current state of infectious disease dynamics modeling and discussed the field’s future priorities. He noted the need for balancing basic research with the growing pressure for models to provide on-demand input into policy formulation. Contacts: Dr. Bryan Grenfell, grenfell@psu.edu, 814-865-6080; Dr. James Anderson, andersoj@nigms.nih.gov, 301-594-0943

Modeling Social Behavior in Humans and Model Organisms: Modeling is changing the face of biology, giving scientists tools for understanding the spatial and temporal dynamics of living systems, from signal transduction pathways to gene networks to cell biology. The significant contribution that modeling has made to rapid progress in these fields suggests modeling approaches may advance the study of social behavior, defined as that between or among individuals of the same species. Modeling approaches provide an additional tool for testing hypotheses and making predictions, drawing on a large body of knowledge on social organization and behavior based on observation and theory. Dr. Irene Eckstrand reported that NIGMS staff are considering convening an interdisciplinary working group of experts, including sociologists, behavioral scientists, computer scientists, mathematicians, and others, to develop a report on the feasibility, utility, and scope of an initiative on modeling social behavior. Contact: Dr. Irene Eckstrand, eckstrai@nigms.nih.gov, 301-594-0943

CSR OPEN HOUSE ON BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NOW ON NIH WEB SITE: PROVIDE INPUT BY JUNE 11th

I reported on a special meeting at the National Institutes of Health in the May 11 newsletter, (<http://www.thefederationonline.org/docs/Newsletters/NEWS051107.pdf>), which dealt with how grants are reviewed in the behavioral and social sciences via the Center for Scientific Review. I indicated that CSR would post a summary of this day-long event and ask for more input from the community – from those of you who could not be in attendance. The time has arrived and the proceedings have been posted. Please visit this link and provide any comments you feel would be useful as they attempt to improve the process:
<http://cms.csr.nih.gov/AboutCSR/ReportStorage/openhouareports.htm>

FEDERAL REPORTS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Change of Program Contact for: PA-07-082 - Risk Factors for Psychopathology Using Existing Data Sets (R01) (NOT-MH-07-110)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-07-110.html>

NIH Announces Changes to eRA Commons, Particularly the Electronic Streamlined Non-competing Award Process (eSNAP) Function (NOT-OD-07-064)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-064.html>

Announcement of the US-JAPAN Brain Research Cooperative Program - US Component (NOT-NS-07-009)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-NS-07-009.html>

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Rail Safety: The Federal Railroad Administration Is Better Targeting Safety Risks, but Needs to Assess Results to Determine the Impact of Its Efforts, by Katherine A. Siggerud, director, physical infrastructure issues, before the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. GAO-07-841T, May 22.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-841T>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07841thigh.pdf>

DOD Business Systems Modernization: Progress Continues to Be Made in Establishing Corporate Management Controls, but Further Steps Are Needed. GAO-07-733, May 14.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-733>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07733high.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

Behavior Genetics Association

June 3-6, Amsterdam, Netherlands

www.bga.org

International Behavioral Neuroscience Society

June 12-16, Rio De Janiero, Brasil

www.ibnshomepage.org

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

June 21-24, Pacific Grove, CA

www.sbn.org

JULY/AUGUST

American Psychological Association

August 17-20, San Francisco, CA

www.apa.org

Cognitive Science Society

August 1-4, Nashville, TN

www.cognitivesciencesociety.org

Society for Mathematical Psychology

July 25-28, Costa Mesa, CA

www.cogs.indiana.edu/socmathpsych

OCTOBER

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

October 1-5, Baltimore, MD

www.hfes.org

International Society for Developmental Psychobiology

Oct 31 – Nov 4, San Diego, CA

www.isdp.org

Society for Experimental Social Psychology

October 11-13, Chicago, IL

www.sesp.org

Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology

October 18-20, Chapel Hill, NC

www.smep.org

Society for Psychophysiological Research

October 17-21, Savannah, GA

www.sprweb.org

Society for Research in Psychopathology

October 4-7, Iowa City, IO

www.psychopathology.org

NOVEMBER

National Academy of Neuropsychology

November 14-18, Scottsdale, AZ

www.nanonline.org

Psychonomic Society
November 15-18, Long Beach, CA
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

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.

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.

Have a great – and long - weekend and keep those cards and letters coming! ☺

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

Federation's Program Assistant. Also thanks are extended to the APA for hosting this list serve.
