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<http://www.thefederationonline.org/docs/Newsletters/NEWS083107.pdf>

This Week's News and Reflections (08/31/07)
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 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.

NIH PEER-REVIEW ADVISORY MEETING: EXCITING EXPLORATION OF IDEAS TO ENHANCE SYSTEM

Earlier this week, the Peer Review Advisory Committee (PRAC), chaired by Drs. Scarpa and Berg, held its second of three meetings scheduled for this year. Dr. Toni Scarpa (Director of the Center for Scientific Review) stated that last year NIH received approximately 80,000 applications compared to about 46,000 just five years ago and listed the initiatives that are being implemented in an attempt to accommodate this increase. Of particular interest is the formation of **a new IRG called "ENST" or "Emerging Neuroscience and Training"** which was designed to fill in gaps and not weaken existing neuroscience IRGs.

Dr. Larry Tabak (Director, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research) discussed the two working groups associated with peer-review analysis, one internal and one external to NIH. He mentioned that the deadline for input from the scientific community on improving the peer-review process was extended to September 7 and the survey can be accessed on: <http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/> (Please do visit this site and respond if you are so inclined.)

Dr. Jeremy Berg (Director, National Institute of General Medical Sciences) spoke of the peer-review pilot: **The 2007 NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program**. He noted that it was launched in February of this year, offered \$1.5 million in direct costs for five years, and awards will be announced next month. Berg said that NIH received a whopping 2,200 applications and will fund only about two dozen of them. Some 200 reviewers had to handle about 35 applications each and, given this load, the reviewers were told to focus only on what they determined to be their top 4 applications. PRAC engaged in dialogue about this aspect of the project and considered if this way of conducting a review (i.e., instructing reviewers to limit their efforts on the top applications) would be useful and transferable to other mechanisms. They also discussed the stress attendant to a very low success rate (about 1%) and wondered if would the reviews would be harmful and/or discouraging to those scientists who were unsuccessful. Also, Berg noted that there was good representation from the behavioral sciences, and that about 25% of the pool was female and he believed that percentage was also reflected in the success rate for females. This Award Program may continue if the funds are there.

There was a presentation on the use of “**Asynchronous Electronic Discussion**” by Dr. Joseph Rudolph of the Center for Scientific Review. The method involves a web-based review of applications, thus enabling reviewers easy access to the process. This mechanism was touted as providing greater flexibility and expanding the base of reviewers while allowing for more time for thoughtful analysis. AED is not intended to replace existing review meetings but is being piloted as an additional platform. Importantly, the on-line discussion is not archived.

Dr. Anita Miller Sostek (Division Director, Center for Scientific Review) explained the innovative **Editorial Board/Two Stage Review** initiative. The plan is to try this new process on complex, multi-disciplinary and translational research applications. It would involve a two-stage peer-review process similar to scientific journal editorial board reviews. The first stage would cover methodological and technical aspects and would involve many reviewers. The second stage would utilize a small group of experienced reviewers who have broad scientific expertise. Final scoring would be done by the second stage reviewers with input and advice from first-stage. She discussed the potential advantages and disadvantages of this system, and a discussion ensued wherein some NIH employees noted that this approach had been tried over the years in various institutes without great success. It was clear that input was welcomed and that comments would be reviewed as they go forward.

Overall, this meeting provided a good overview of a number of creative ideas either now underway, or soon to-be-piloted, focused on improving how peer-review is accomplished at the NIH. The goal is not just to streamline the process but to try innovative ways to strengthen the system that currently exists, a system that is often referred to as the role model for other nations.

To learn more about PRAC, visit:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/prac/index.htm>

ANNE TREISMAN HONORED BY COLLEAGUES, STUDENTS, & ADMIRERS ON FABBS' WEBSITE

Anne Treisman, PhD (Princeton University) needs no introduction to the behavioral science community. Her many colleagues and friends are now honoring her via the Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) web site. Professor Treisman has changed the face of cognitive psychology through her innovative work and is particularly well-known for the Feature Integration Theory of Attention. Drs. Karla Evans (Princeton University), Jeremy Wolfe (Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University), and Susan Fiske (Princeton University) led the effort to make this honor possible. To learn more about Professor Treisman and her important contributions to the behavioral and brain science, please visit:

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

“ELECTIONS: HOW VOTERS REALLY THINK AND FEEL” NEXT FABBS' SCIENCE CAFÉ: BORGIDA AND TODOROV TO SPEAK TO THE PUBLIC AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

FABBS announces an exciting event, open to the public, called “Elections: How Voters Really Think and Feel” which will feature presentations by Professors Eugene Borgida (University of Minnesota) and Alexander Todorov (Princeton University), noted experts in the field. The café will be held at the National Press Club here in DC and admittance

requires an RSVP. There is such excitement about the next presidential election already, that a review of what we know about voter behavior makes this a timely topic. Sage Publications is the corporate sponsor of this event. Please visit this link to read more about the café and to reserve space: http://www.fabbs.org/Events/Oct_2007_Cafe/index.html

NSF SURVEYS P.I.S: FEEDBACK ON GRANT SUBMISSION, FUNDING LEVELS, PERCEPTION OF PROCESSES

The National Science Foundation established a working group last year called the Impact of Proposal and Award Management Mechanisms (IPAMM) because funding streams were changing and they wanted to monitor the effects on the scientific community. IPAMM conducted a survey of NSF's approximate 45,000 principal investigators (FY 2004-2006) to assess their satisfaction with NSF's process, funding levels, and the like. A sizeable response of approximately 24,000 scientists responded to this request.

IPAMM found that budget cuts were not the sole reason for changes in funding rates, noting a number of issues such as increased number of submissions and larger award sizes. Also, interestingly, women, minorities, new investigators were not more affected by lower funding rates than were other scientists. There are many interesting issues and findings if you are interested in scanning the reports. The links are provided here.

Survey Results:

http://www.nsf.gov/od/ipamm/ipamm_2007proposersurveyresults/nsf_2007proposersurvey_results_070629.pdf

Impact and analysis of survey results (and other data):

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf0745/nsf0745.pdf>

IPAMM information:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf0648/NSF-06-48.pdf>

FEDERAL REPORTS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NIDA reports: For your information, below is a link to a news release from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)/NIH announcing that it is changing the name of its scientific journal *Perspectives* to the *Journal of Addiction Science & Clinical Practice*, beginning with the November issue. NIDA will also increase the number of issues per year from one to twice a year to accommodate the portfolio of scientific literature being produced in the growing field of drug abuse and addiction research. Past issues, subscription information, and instructions for author submissions can be found online at <http://www.drugabuse.gov/perspectives>.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Back to School: Five Myths about Girls and Science

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pr07108

News Releases, Education

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07580

Program Announcements & Information Subtype : Biology

The General Social Survey (GSS) - The Next Decade and Beyond [nsf0748]
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf0748
Reports, Subtype : Social/Behavioral Sciences

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Railroad Bridges and Tunnels: Federal Role in Providing Safety Oversight and Freight Infrastructure Investment Could Be Better Targeted. GAO-07-770, August 6.
<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-770>
Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07770high.pdf>

FEDERATION SOCIETY NEWS CORNER...

Upcoming Federation society annual meetings:

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 President-Elect 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 Robert Rosenthal. To read about this honor, visit: http://www.fabbs.org/rosenthal_honor.html.

Have a great - and happy - Labor Day 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 listserv.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.
