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This Week's News and Reflections (11/20/07)
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.

JEROME KAGAN HONORED FOR HIS INFLUENCE ON THE BEHAVIORAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES

A distinguished group of scientists came together to acknowledge Dr. Jerome Kagan's seminal work in developmental psychology. Kagan, Professor Emeritus at Harvard University, is the featured scientist in the "In Honor Of..." Program made possible by the Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS). Kagan is honored, and will be remembered, for his many contributions to the field including his work on the development of temperament in children. This honor was made possible by Drs. Susan Fiske (Princeton University), Fred Morrison (University of Michigan), and Nora Newcombe (Temple University) who alerted Kagan's colleagues and students about this effort to honor him. To learn more about Jerome Kagan, and to learn more about this special FABBS program, visit: http://www.fabbs.org/kagan_honor.html.

NSF SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL DIRECTORATE HOLDS ADVISORY MEETING: IS NSF TOO CONSERVATIVE?

The fall advisory meeting of the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF) was held on November 8 & 9 on site in Arlington, VA. David Lightfoot, PhD, the Assistant Director of SBE led the meeting and announced that his new Deputy Director is Judith Sunley, PhD, who took the reigns from Wanda Ward, PhD. (Ward moved into the Deputy Director slot in the Education and Human Resources Directorate.)

NSF CONSERVATIVE? Lightfoot reported that the National Science Board (NSB) was concerned about whether the NSF was still actively supporting "transformative" research, and so it urged the NSF to set up a special program to ensure that this type of work was favored. The NSB proposed that about \$10 million should be devoted to ramping up transformative focus, and apparently a dialogue ensued about the value of such an initiative. Since the NSF does fund Nobel, Medal of Science, and other outstanding prize winners, the need for a "transformational research program" seemed questionable. As it stands now, the NSF will work to make everyone more aware of the goal to fund cutting-edge research (not "normal science") and, among other measures, has revised language in application materials to reflect this goal more strongly. The \$10 million "set-aside" was, therefore, set aside – i.e., removed from the table for further consideration.

COMPLEXITY: Since the Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) initiative will conclude in a year, the money will revert to Core Programs, thus enabling other initiatives to develop. One such area for further development is “complexity” and a special Dear Colleague letter was prepared for the community to review. Moving into calendar year 2008, SBE will promote a special interest in areas involving complexity, such as understanding creative breakthroughs, the study of resilience in the face of great adversity, and emergent properties of simple systems interacting. Note that projects with a “complexity” focus will be considered for funding under existing lines of support within the SBE structure and that this is not a special stand-alone funding stream. **To read the entire letter for a fuller description, visit:** <http://nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08014/nsf08014.jsp>. Note that this is in an SBE-oriented letter, and that there will be an agency-wide solicitation on Complexity as well. The program officer associated with this initiative is Jacqueline Meszaros, PhD.

HSD: This will be the final solicitation for HSD and applications are being accepted. For full information, visit: http://nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=11678&org=SBE.

NEUROSCIENCE: According to Douglas Whelan, PhD, an SBE program officer in Cognitive Neuroscience, the NSF tried to determine how much money was devoted to neuroscience across all directorates in FY 2006 and the figure of \$60 million was the estimate. There was then a series of workshops to investigate further, and the first was done under the rubric of the Grand Challenges (visit this link to get the reports of the working groups: http://nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5316&org=BCS&from=home). Interest was developed around topics such as adaptive plasticity, conflict and cooperation, time, mathematical innovations and cyber-infrastructure. Some additional promising areas that were identified include face recognition, perception and action, and while these are already covered in SBE, it was thought that could be that there will be new breakthroughs vis a vis neuroscience methodologies. Also, it was thought there should be more consideration of proposals involving non-human species as subjects. Further, some “big questions” that SBE is especially suited to address emerged and they include: How does the brain create thought and behavior? What converging techniques (e.g. fMRI) and theory can make new advances possible? Additionally, there was some discussion at this council meeting about “challenges” that the program area of neuroscience faces at the NSF, notably the need to be distinct from the NIH in funding emphases.

To learn more about the SBE Directorate and its many funding opportunities, visit: <http://nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=SBE>

NIH DIRECTOR'S PIONEER AND NEW INNOVATOR AWARD PROGRAMS LAUNCH 2008 APPLICATION CYCLES

NIH news release: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is calling for applications for 2008 NIH Director's Pioneer and New Innovator Awards. Both programs support exceptionally creative scientists who take highly innovative -- and often unconventional -- approaches to major challenges in biomedical or behavioral research.

Pioneer Awards are open to scientists at any career stage, while New Innovator Awards are reserved for new investigators who have not received an NIH regular research (R01) or similar grant. The programs, part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, complement other NIH efforts to fund innovative research and support scientists in the early stages of their independent research careers.

"We want investigators to give us their boldest, most imaginative research proposals," said NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D. "The Pioneer and New Innovator Awards are designed to nurture out-of-the-box ideas that may have more than the usual degree of risk but that, if successful, will have unusually high scientific impact."

Pioneer Awards provide \$2.5 million in direct costs over five years and New Innovator Awards provide \$1.5 million in direct costs over the same period. NIH expects to make five to 10 Pioneer Awards and up to 24 New Innovator Awards in September 2008.

"To continue our strong record of diversity in these programs, we especially encourage women and members of groups that are underrepresented in NIH research areas to apply," added Jeremy M. Berg, Ph.D., director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, which runs the programs for NIH.

Pioneer Award applications will be accepted from Dec. 16, 2007, to Jan. 16, 2008. Visit: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-08-013.html>.

The New Innovator Award application period is from March 3 to 31, 2008. See <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-08-014.html>.

NIH SEEKS INFO ON BASIC BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH: HURRY IF YOU WANT TO STILL WEIGH IN...

The clock is ticking but it's not too late to respond to the request for information on basic behavioral science directions at the NIH. Visit: www.bSSRresponse.com

NIDA TO OFFER SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Please see the below link to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) news release, announcing the kick off application period for summer research training opportunities at its Intramural Program (IRP) facility in Baltimore, MD. The internship program is part of NIDA's commitment to introducing the science of addiction to some of the best and brightest young scientists in America.

<http://www.nida.nih.gov/newsroom/07/NR11-15.html>

NIH SUMMER INSTITUTE ON RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIALS INVOLVING BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

July 13 - 25, 2008

Airlie Conference Center, Virginia

Organized by NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

<http://obssr.od.nih.gov>

Application Due Date: January 31, 2008

General Information and Applications Available at

http://obssr.od.nih.gov/Content/Training_and_Career_Development/Annual_RCT_Course/RCT_2008/2008_RCT.htm

OBJECTIVE: to provide a thorough grounding in the conduct of randomized clinical trials to researchers and health professionals interested in developing competence in the planning, design, and execution of clinical trials involving behavioral or social interventions.

FACULTY: Faculty will consist of leading authorities in their fields, with extensive prior experience in the conduct of major clinical trials, with specializations in psychology, behavioral medicine, psychosomatic medicine, gerontology, oncology, cardiovascular diseases, statistics, clinical trials, and other areas. Over twenty Faculty members will be onsite over the course of the Institute.

STUDENTS: Priority will be given to individuals who already have their PhD or MD (equivalent degrees accepted) and two years of subsequent research experience. Applicants should not yet have achieved a tenured position at their institution. Beyond these eligibility criteria we are seeking researchers who have demonstrated research experience and who

will benefit from this summer institute on randomized controlled clinical trials.

Further, the applications of those who have extensive research experience will only be considered after more junior investigators have been evaluated. Preference will be given to individuals who are not employees of NIH. While we will consider and may even accept applicants who do not meet these criteria, those who do will have higher priority.

COSTS: The Office of Behavioral Sciences Research, NIH, will pay for travel to and from the Summer Institute site, room and board, and course materials. There are no additional fees. Family members may accompany participants at their own expense. However, please note that the Airlie Conference Center is not set up as a vacation property. If accepted as a Fellow, please contact Ms. Monica Duda at 301-57700244 ext. 56 or EMAIL mduda@blseamon.com to discuss this option before committing to the Institute.

LOCATION: The course will be held at Airlie Conference Center in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Northern Virginia, and is approximately 60 minutes driving time from Washington, DC and surrounding airports: <http://www.airlie.com>

Please address questions or comments to: Ronald P. Abeles, Ph.D., by calling 301.496.7859 or EMAIL abeles@nih.gov.

FEDERAL REPORTS & GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NIMH

Science News (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/index.shtml>)

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf08505

Program Announcements & Information Geosciences Subtype : Polar Programs
Crosscutting Programs

New Planet Discovered Around Nearby Star

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pr07166

News Releases Math/Physical Sciences

NSF Science and Technology Center Wins United Nations Prize

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pr07167

News Releases National Science Board

General Social Survey (GSS) Competition

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf08506

Program Announcements & Information Subtype: Social/Behavioral Sciences

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

Aviation Security: Vulnerabilities Exposed Through Covert Testing of TSA's Passenger Screening Process, by Gregory D. Kutz, managing director, and John W. Cooney, assistant director, forensic audits and special investigations, before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. GAO-08-48T, November 15.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-48T>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0848thigh.pdf>

Combating Nuclear Terrorism: Federal Efforts to Respond to Nuclear and Radiological Threats and to Protect Key Emergency Response Facilities Could Be Strengthened, by

Gene Aloise, director, natural resources and environment, before the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. GAO-08-285T, November 15. <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-285T>
Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d08285thigh.pdf>

Hurricane Katrina: Ineffective FEMA Oversight of Housing Maintenance Contracts in Mississippi Resulted in Millions of Dollars of Waste and Potential Fraud. GAO-08-106, November 16. <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-106>
Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d08106high.pdf>

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 Dr. Jerome Kagan. To learn more about him, visit: http://www.fabbs.org/kagan_honor.html.

Enjoy Turkey Day!

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>

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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:
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!).

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In signing off, be sure you are emailing from the email account that is to be unsubscribed.
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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.
