

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

AMENDMENT NO. 417: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Institutes of Health to study the impact of integral yoga on hot flashes in menopausal women.

Grant Title: EFFECTIVENESS OF INTEGRAL YOGA ON OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE MENOPAUSAL HOT FLASHES

PI: AVIS, NANCY E

Institution: WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES

Grant Number: 3R21AT004234-01A2S1

ARRA Grant

Description of the Research:

- For many women, hot flashes and/or night sweats can be troubling symptoms associated with menopause. Currently, the only effective treatment for hot flashes is hormone therapy, which many women are reluctant to take because of health risks and adverse side effects.
- This project seeks to determine if yoga can be an effective method to reduce the frequency and/or severity of hot flashes, leading to an improvement in sleep, mood, and overall quality of life. Because yoga practice involves the combination of physical postures, breathing, and deep relaxation and may be beneficial for relief of menopausal hot flashes, yoga could prove to be an effective way to reduce hot flashes.
- The researchers will measure physiological measures to help explain the mechanisms of yoga's effectiveness and to help identify appropriate control groups for yoga research.
- The results will inform the development of effective treatment therapies for menopause.

Scientific Justification:

- It is estimated that 64% to 87% of women report experiencing hot flashes. For many women, these symptoms are frequent and severe enough to become debilitating and interfere with daily activities.
- Many women concerned about taking hormone therapy have sought alternative treatments for hot flashes. Behavioral interventions involving relaxation and slow deep, abdominal breathing have been found to be useful for reducing hot flashes.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Recreation and Park Association recommend yoga as a good form of exercise for older adults because of its potential to enhance cardiovascular fitness, increase muscle strength and bone health, and improve flexibility for functional range of motion.

Review:

This grant went through the NIH two-tier review process which includes:

- Scientific and technical review by scientists who are experts in the field.
- Consideration by an Advisory Council that includes public representatives. The Council makes recommendations based on alignment of the application with the research priorities of the NIH Institute/Center.

This grant was included in the McCain/Coburn “Summertime Blues” report.

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

AMENDMENT NO. 418: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Institutes of Health to examine the potential impact of a soda tax on population health.

Grant Title: ECONOMIC CONTEXTUAL INFLUENCES ON POPULATION DIET AND OBESITY

PI: Powell, Lisa

Grant Number: 5R01HL096664-02

Institution: UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

The proposed research will investigate the relationship between food, beverage and restaurant taxes and food consumption patterns, diet quality, body mass index (BMI) and obesity prevalence among children, adolescents, and adults drawing on state-level tax data merged with nationally representative cross-sectional and longitudinal population data. Given the public health risk posed by poor diet and obesity prevalence, this research can provide important information for policymakers and public health advocates about the potential effectiveness of implementing or increasing existing tax rates on soda, candy, baked goods, chips and restaurants.

Abstract Text:

Poor diet and obesity have been linked to increased risks for a number of chronic diseases including cancer and cardiovascular diseases. The proposed research will investigate the relationship between food (candy, baked goods, and chips), beverage (soda) and restaurant state sales taxes and food consumption patterns, diet quality, body mass index (BMI) and obesity prevalence among children, adolescents, and adults. The proposed project will build substantially on the previous literature which has linked food prices but not taxes to individual-level population data. These food and beverage sales taxes are on items that are usually high in either sugar and/or fat and given that most of these taxes already exist in a number of states (with substantial variation across states) they are likely to be starting points for potential policy changes.

Thus, this research would provide policy makers with evidence on the extent to which implementing or increasing any of these state-level taxes is likely to affect food consumption behavior, diet quality and related BMI and obesity. All analyses will control for the local area availability of food stores and restaurants. We also propose specific analyses of low-income sub-samples and, in particular, we will examine low-income food stamp recipients and non-recipients separately because when purchased by food stamp recipients, such items are exempt from the tax.

The specific aims of this project are threefold:

- 1) Examine the relationship between soda, candy, baked goods, chips and restaurant sales taxes and dietary patterns (intake of taxed food/beverage items and consumption of FAFH) and diet quality (total caloric intake, % fat and/or % sugar in diet, and overall healthy eating index);
- 2) Examine the relationship between soda, candy, baked goods, chips and restaurant sales taxes and BMI and obesity prevalence; and,
- 3) Examine the proposed relationships separately for low-income populations and assess the differences in tax sensitivity between low-income food stamp and non-food stamp recipients.

To accomplish these aims, the proposed research will conduct secondary data analyses, using a unique combination of four types of data: 1) state-level food, beverage and restaurant sales tax rates; 2) local area outlet density measures of food stores and restaurants; 3) local area socioeconomic status drawn from the

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

Census; and, 4) nationally representative population data on dietary intake and measured BMI for children, adolescents and adults from four data sets including three longitudinal surveys.

To our knowledge, the proposed project represents the most comprehensive exploration to date of the contextual relationship between specific food, beverage and restaurant taxes and individuals' dietary patterns, diet quality and BMI. Given the serious public health risk posed by poor diet and obesity prevalence, this research can provide important information for policymakers and public health advocates about the potential effectiveness of implementing or increasing existing tax rates on soda, candy, baked goods, chips and restaurants.

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

AMENDMENT NO. 419: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Institutes of Health to research the use of marijuana in conjunction with opioid medications, such as morphine.

Grant Title: NEURAL MECHANISMS FOR ENHANCED CANNABINOID/OPIOID ANTINOCICEPTION

PI: MORGAN, MICHAEL

Institution: WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Grant Number: 5R03DA026591-02

ARRA Grant

Description of the Research:

- Cannabinoids are compounds that can be synthesized or extracted from the marijuana plant, which have the potential for medicinal development, without the adverse effects of smoked marijuana.
- Opioids such as morphine are the most effective treatment for severe pain, but repeated treatment often leads to tolerance — which means the drug's effectiveness diminishes, and higher doses may be required to treat painful symptoms.
- Cannabinoids are less effective than opioids in relieving pain, but they have been shown to enhance the pain relieving properties of morphine, even in animals that have become tolerant to the morphine's effect.
- In this project, the researchers are studying the neural mechanisms that underlie the interaction between opioids and cannabinoids in order to enhance the treatment of pain.

Scientific Justification:

- Pain conditions are a major health problem in the US and their economic burden approaches \$100 billion per year in lost productivity and medical expenses. It is the most common reason for medical appointments.
- Chronic pain affects more than 50 million Americans per year. Pain often results in disability and, even when not disabling, it has a profound effect on the quality of life. Its deleterious effects have been demonstrated in overall morbidity, decreased immune function, impaired sleep, cognition, eating, mobility, affective state, and overall functional status. In hospitalized patients, pain may be associated with increased length of stay, longer recovery time, and poorer outcomes, which in turn have health care quality and cost implications.
- The results of this research will inform the development of more effective pain therapies.

<http://www.dinorossi.com/its-500-somewhere-but-its-420-at-washington-state-university/>

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

AMENDMENT NO. 420: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Health and Human Services to study condom use skills in adult males.

Grant Title: BARRIERS TO CORRECT CONDOM USE

PI: JANSSEN, ERICK

Institution: INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

Grant Number: 1R21HD060447-01

Grant Type: grant

ARRA-Specific RFA: no

Scientific Justification:

- Sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV, pose significant health risks.
- According to the CDC, approximately 56,300 new HIV infections occur annually in the United States.
- About half of the new HIV infections in the U.S. are among people under age 25, with the majority infected through sexual behavior and about one in three new diagnoses of HIV/AIDS are attributed to heterosexual transmission (CDC, 2008). Men who have sex with women play a major role in HIV transmission to women who can also pass it on to offspring. In 2006, 80% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses among females in the USA were attributed to heterosexual transmission (CDC, 2008: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/index.htm>).
- Improving condom use could prevent hundreds, or even thousands of new HIV cases.
- Previous studies have shown that problems with condom use are common. This study will systematically assess problems encountered by men with condom use in order to develop interventions that more specifically address and alleviate these problems.

Methods:

- The project includes two studies:
 - First, 500 heterosexual men will be surveyed on the associations between condom use errors/problems and patterns of sexual arousal.
 - 120 of the participants in the survey will be recruited for the second study, which will consist of one to three laboratory sessions, and a condom application skills training. This will enable a more systematic investigation of the associations between condom use errors/problems and erectile response, their interaction with condom use skills, and the potentially beneficial effects of a condom skills training on both erectile response and condom use errors/problems.

Strategic Justification (strategic plan or other public document where topic area has been described as a priority)

- This grant went through the NIH two-tier review process which includes:
 - Scientific and technical review
 - Consideration by an Advisory Council that includes public representatives. The Council makes recommendations based on alignment of the application with the research priorities of the NIH Institute/Center.
- In addition:

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

- The NICHD Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch Report to Council in 2007 (http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/upload/DBSB_council_report_sept_2007.pdf) highlighted research results on efforts to address barriers to effective contraception (page 27) and emphasized future research on the causes and consequences of population health, including HIV and how social and neurobiological factors affect behavior (pages 42-43).
- The NIH Office of AIDS Research Fiscal Year 2009 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research (<http://www.oar.nih.gov/strategicplan/fy2009/pdf/Chapter2.pdf>) emphasized support for “domestic and international intervention research on the HIV prevention role of programs designed to enhance healthy sexual development and protective behaviors (including avoidance of too-early or nonconsensual sex, abstinence from unsafe sexual behavior, and access to and use of barrier methods) throughout one’s lifetime” (page 68).

Review:

- This grant went through the NIH two-tier review process which includes:
 - Scientific and technical review by scientists who are experts in the field.
 - Consideration by an Advisory Council that includes public representatives. The Council makes recommendations based on alignment of the application with the research priorities of the NIH Institute/Center.

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

AMENDMENT NO. 421: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Health and Human Services to study the concurrent and separate use of malt liquor and marijuana among young adults.

Grant Title: Malt Liquor and Marijuana: Factors in Their Concurrent Versus Separate Use

PI: COLLINS, R. LORRAINE

Institution: STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO

Grant Number: 1-R01-AA-016580-01A2

Type: (Supplement, etc.) grant

ARRA (Y/N): Yes

Description of the Research:

- This project is aimed at understanding young adults' use of malt liquor, other alcoholic beverages, and marijuana, all of which confer high risks for addiction. The researchers will systematically examine situation-specific alcohol and substance use in the daily lives of young adults (ages 18 to 25). The long term goal is to use the understanding gained to develop prevention and intervention strategies to reduce the risks of substance abuse faced by vulnerable populations of young adults.

Scientific Justification:

- In the United States, 18 million Americans (8.5% of the population age 18 and older) suffer from alcohol use disorders. Only 7.1% of these individuals received any treatment for their alcohol use disorders in the past year. Problems related to the excessive consumption of alcohol cost U.S. society an estimated \$185 billion annually.
- Cannabis use disorders affect approximately 1.7% of the United States population. About 15 million adults use marijuana on a regular basis.
- Malt Liquor is a high-alcohol-content beverage that is packaged and marketed to promote excessive drinking. Its low price and ready availability appeals to vulnerable populations such as young adults and persons who live in low income urban communities. Marijuana also is readily available in these communities and research indicates that the concurrent use of these substances is common.

Strategic Justification (strategic plan or other public document where topic area has been described as a priority)

- This grant went through the NIH two-tier review process which includes:
 - Scientific and technical review
 - Consideration by an Advisory Council that includes public representatives. The Council makes recommendations based on alignment of the application with the research priorities of the NIH Institute/Center.
- This research addresses the NIAAA vision which is to “support and promote, through research and education, the best science on alcohol and health for the benefit of all by:

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

- Increasing the understanding of normal and abnormal biological functions and behavior relating to alcohol use
- **Improving the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of alcohol use disorders**
- Enhancing quality health care”

(The NIAAA Strategic Plan for Research, 2009-2014 - <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/StrategicPlan/StrategicPlan.doc>, p21)

- As defined in the NIAAA Strategic Plan, alcohol use disorders include alcohol abuse which is “a recurring pattern of high-risk drinking that results in adverse outcomes, including:
 - Personal problems: memory and cognition; job, family, friends, and other significant relationships; health and organ damage
 - Problems to others: injury and death; violence and crime (property damage, assault, homicide)
 - **Problems for society: underage drinking; health care costs; economic productivity**
 - Use in hazardous situations”
- In addition, The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking (2007) outlines six goals. The Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking (ICCPUD) has aligned its goals with these as stated in its 2009 Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking. The six goals are:
 - GOAL 1: Foster changes in American society that facilitate healthy adolescent development and that help prevent and reduce underage drinking.
 - GOAL 2: Engage parents, schools, communities, all levels of government, all social systems that interface with youth, and youth themselves, in a coordinated national effort to prevent and reduce drinking and its consequences.
 - GOAL 3: Promote an understanding of underage alcohol consumption in the context of human development and maturation that **takes into account individual adolescent characteristics as well as environmental, ethnic, cultural, and gender differences.**
 - GOAL 4: Conduct additional research on adolescent alcohol use and its relationship to development.
 - GOAL 5: **Work to improve public health surveillance on underage drinking and on population-based risk factors for this behavior.**
 - GOAL 6: Work to ensure that policies at all levels are consistent with the national goal of preventing and reducing underage alcohol consumption.

Issa Amendments to H.R. 1

AMENDMENT NO. 422: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Science Foundation to study whether video games improve mental health for the elderly. [Page: H926]

Improving Older Adult Cognition: The Unexamined Role of Games and Social Computing Environments (NSF, 0905127) \$1.2 million

ARRA 2009

Abstract. This award is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009(Public Law 111-5).

The goals of this research project are to understand how variables within social computing environments improve older adult cognition, what properties of an environment are critical, and empirically test these properties in interventions with older adults. The applied output will be design guidelines for a class of cognitive games for older adults and a new social computing environment.

Two interventions will be run using video games to improve older adult cognitive and everyday abilities. The first intervention will use a commercial game (Boomblox-Wii) that contains the hypothesized variables necessary for cognitive improvement: novelty, attentional demand, and social interaction. The groups in this intervention will allow measurement of the individual and moderating effects of these variables. Pre-test and post-test ability measures will determine which variables or combinations of variables most improve the cognition and everyday functioning of older adults. The second phase is to use performance and preference data from Intervention 1 to maximally implement the variables shown to most improve cognition and functioning in a game specifically for older adults. The process of design will result in a set of guidelines for cognitive interventions to be used by other developers and researchers, ideally leading to a new class of "brain games" with reliable effectiveness.

These results will advance the knowledge and understanding of how cognitive training reduces age-related decline. The theory that social interaction can facilitate cognitive improvement by increasing effortful attention on a task is suggested by both behavioral and neurological evidence, but this project represents the first time these variables will be empirically tested, and the first intervention in a computing environment. Knowledge gained from this project touches the fields of cognitive aging, human-computer interaction, and social computing - all of which need data on effective cognitive training interventions. Results will aid designers who currently have little knowledge of the interface and game-play needs of older players. This research advances the understanding of age-related change and social interaction by discovering the crucial components of successful cognitive training for older adults.

Studying these components in the context of social computing and virtual worlds allows for world-wide impact and use by physically isolated individuals. A social computing environment may be used by older adults in rural communities, those separated geographically from their cohort, and those unable to leave their homes (all under-served populations). This project involves significant student involvement, providing varied mentorship opportunities to the students as well as exposure to differing methodologies. Specialized coursework will result from this project in developmental psychology, skill acquisition, and video game design.