

Consortium of Social Science Associations

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NEW MILLENNIUM: SAME OLD SONG OR NEW OPPORTUNITIES? *HS*

The new millennium has arrived but the Four Tops', "It's The Same Old Song," may be the appropriate theme for the coming year. The Democratic President and Republican-led Congress enter their sixth and final year together. Will it be another year of confrontations and postponed appropriations, or a swan song that provides President Clinton achievements for history and the Republican Congress an agenda to defend itself against a fervored campaign by the Democrats to retake the House and Senate?

Final year Presidents supposedly seek legacies and foreign travels. They also seek gratification with the election of their chosen successor. The already feverish 2000 presidential contest, at least for the folks in Iowa and New Hampshire, has begun. With the front-loaded primaries and caucuses, the conventional wisdom is that the two parties' candidates will be identified by the end of March. A seven month general election campaign may strain all attempts at producing policy.

The Democrats need a net gain of six to take control of the Senate. Generally this is regarded as difficult, as individual races are scrutinized, but not impossible, given even larger swings in recent elections. Regaining control of the House is viewed as easier for the Democrats and House "Speaker-in-Waiting" Representative Richard Gephardt (D-MO) is trying his best to ensure the switch of the seats he needs. Having tasted congressional power for the past six years, after 40 years in the wilderness, the House Republicans will not let go easily. As usual, the amounts of money flowing into both parties and candidates at all levels is enormous.

All this being said, what is on the national policy agenda in 2000? President Clinton will deliver his State of the Union address on January 25 and the Fiscal Year 2001 budget is scheduled for release on February 7. Tax cuts, Social Security, Medicare, and the left-overs from last year, juvenile justice, gun control, and K-12 education, will still lead the debates. The rumor mills on the budget suggest the administration is planning a "Science Initiative." Included in this initiative will be proposed massive increases for the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Once again, information technology will be a favored area for research funds and a new area called nanotechnology will take its place on the national research agenda. For NIH, Congress will probably up the President's ante, especially with Representative John Porter (R-IL), long time champion of biomedical and behavioral research on his way to retirement. For NSF, the problem of receiving funds in an appropriations subcommittee where veterans, housing, space, and the environment compete for finite funds always makes supporting massive increases difficult.

Finally, for the social and behavioral sciences, two key positions will see new faces in 2000. The appointment of a new Assistant Director for the Social and Behavioral Sciences at NSF is "very close." The head of NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research, Norman Anderson, will leave in March. A search is currently underway. Both these positions are of enormous importance in maintaining the social and behavioral sciences' place in the national science agenda.

Welcome back and join us for another year of *Washington UPDATES* and the political and funding battles to come.

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COMINGS . . . AND GOINGS

Although NSF claims it is "very close" to appointing a new Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE), it has named **Wanda E. Ward** the Acting Assistant Director, until the new person arrives. Ward replaces Bennett Bertenthal, who has returned to academia as Professor of Psychology at the University of Chicago, after a three year stint as head of the SBE. Ward had recently been appointed Deputy Assistant Director for SBE. She came to the Directorate from her previous position as Assistant to the Deputy Director for Human Resource Development in NSF's Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR). She also held the position of Senior Staff Associate for Planning and Policy for the EHR. Ward arrived at NSF in 1992 from the University of Oklahoma where she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and Founding Director of the Center for Research on Multi-Ethnic Education. She has a Ph.D. in Psychology from Stanford and a B.A. from Princeton. Also at SBE, **Hilleary Everist** has announced her intention to leave as Director of the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences this Spring. The job announcement can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/chart/work.htm>.

Lisa Towne was recently named Assistant Director for the Social and Behavioral Sciences at the White House Office of Science and Technology

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral sciences. *UPDATE* is published 22 times per year. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$75; institutional subscriptions, \$150, overseas mail, \$150. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: 202/842-3525, FAX: 202/842-2788. <http://members.aol.com/socscience/COSSAindex.htm>

Policy (OSTP). She came to OSTP in January 1999 from the U.S. Department of Education to assist David Stevenson, who had been appointed Assistant Director. Following Stevenson's untimely death in March, Towne served as Acting Assistant Director. At the Department of Education, she worked as an evaluation and policy analyst in the Office of the Undersecretary covering K-12 education issues, including systemic reform and school choice. She was also as an evaluation consultant for federal agencies administering programs that serve children and families, including the Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice and Defense. She has an undergraduate degree in mathematics and a graduate degree in public policy and is an adjunct professor of quantitative methods at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute.

The Council of Graduate Schools has named **Debra Stewart**, Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Graduate School at North Carolina State University, as its new President, effective July 1, 2000. Stewart succeeds Jules LaPibus, who is retiring after 16 years as head of CGS. At N.C. State Stewart has developed new interdisciplinary degree programs, established professional development programs, and spearheaded a successful research ethics initiative. She has served on many committees concerned with graduate education and research including the Board of Trustees of the Educational Testing Service, the Graduate Record Examination Board, the National Research Council Committee of the Assessment of the Research Doctorate, and the Editorial Board of the *International Journal for Graduate Education*. Stewart has a B.A. from Marquette University, an M.A. in government from the University of Maryland, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is the co-author of *Organizational Behavior and Public Management*, now in its third edition.

The Urban Institute has appointed **Robert D. Reischauer** as its new President, effective February 1, 2000. Reischauer replaces William Gorham, who has led the social and economic policy research institute since its founding in 1968. Since 1995, Reischauer has been a senior fellow of economic studies at the Brookings Institution. Before that he spent six years as the director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), where he also held other management and research positions. He was the Urban Institute's senior vice president from 1981 to 1986. In 1982-83, he served

on the COSSA Board of Directors. He is a nationally recognized public policy expert on the budget, health, poverty, state and local fiscal problems, and welfare. He holds an A.B. in political science from Harvard, a Master's in International Affairs, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University.

On January 1, 2000, **Ruth Kirschstein** was appointed Acting Director of the National Institutes of Health. She replaces Harold Varmus. Before her appointment, Kirschstein served as the NIH deputy director between November 1993 and December 31, 1999. She previously served as NIH Acting Director between July and November 1993.

Laurie Robinson, Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), has announced that she will leave the job at the end of February. Robinson, the longest-serving Assistant Attorney General for OJP, was confirmed by the Senate in September 1994. During her tenure, OJP expanded greatly from an \$800 million, 300 staff agency to an agency that administers over \$4 billion in grants annually with a staff of around 900. The OJP, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, focuses on improving state and local criminal and juvenile justice systems. It is responsible for administering grant programs, providing training and technical assistance and conducting research and collecting statistics relating to criminal and juvenile justice. Most recently, Robinson has overseen OJP's reorganization effort, which some expect to be approved by Congress in the upcoming legislative session.

NSF SEEKS BIOCOMPLEXITY RESEARCH PROPOSALS HS

The National Science Foundation expects to spend up to \$50 million for research on Biocomplexity. This is defined as phenomena that result from dynamic interactions among the biological, physical, and social components of the Earth's diverse environmental systems. Biocomplexity arises from the interplay between life and its environment, i.e. from the behavioral, biological, social, chemical and physical interactions that affect, sustain, or are modified by living organisms, including humans.

NSF will make two types of award.

- 1) Competitive Research Projects, must be multidisciplinary, involve at least one quantitative expert on the research team, may involve more than one institution, and can be up to five years in duration. Annual budgets can range from up to \$600,000 or possibly \$1 million, if justified.
- 2) Incubation activities are small grants to support focused workshops, virtual meetings, and to develop management and research interactions that could have a large payoff. These activities can be up to two years duration with total budgets not to exceed \$100,000 and cannot be renewed.

Short, no more than 500 words, electronic messages of intent to submit a Research Project proposal must be sent on or before January 31, 2000 to biocom@nsf.gov. Research Project proposals are due on March 1, 2000. Incubation Proposals may be sent to individual NSF programs any time up to March 1, 2000. For further information for the social and behavioral sciences contact: Cheryl Eavey 703/306-1729 or ceavey@nsf.gov.

AHCPR GETS A NEW NAME AND MANDATE AS

President Clinton recently signed legislation, S.580, which amends the Public Health Service (PHS) Act and establishes within the PHS a new agency to replace the current Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR). The new entity is called the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Like the current mission of the AHCPR, the AHRQ will continue to focus on general outcomes research and assessments of how well the nation is doing regarding coverage and provision of health care. However, the bill gives the new agency the additional responsibility of increasing its research to monitor and improve the quality of care. S.580 authorizes AHRQ for fiscal years 2000-2005.

Among other things the measure: 1) directs the Agency to identify and disseminate methods or systems used to assess healthcare research results; 2) requires the Agency to employ research strategies and mechanisms that will link research directly with clinical practice in geographically diverse locations throughout the United States; 3) calls on the AHRQ to collect certain data on the cost and quality of health care; and 4) directs the Agency to support research on initiatives to advance the use of

information systems for the study of health care quality.

In 1989 Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Orin Hatch (R-UT) introduced the original legislation creating the AHCPR. During recent floor consideration of S.580, Kennedy noted that in "its first decade, the Agency [AHCPR] has proven its worth time and again by providing valuable information to Congress, health professionals, patients, businesses, and many others." He noted, however, that the reauthorization of the agency provides the opportunity for expansion of the research on health care for those with special needs. He observed that "more needs to be done to evaluate how well our system treats those who need the most, and often the most complex services."

Senator Bill Frist (R-TN), the sponsor of S.580, emphasized that AHRQ "fills a vital federal role by investing in health services research to ensure that we reap the full rewards of our investment in basic and biomedical research."

SEARCH FOR NEW OBSSR DIRECTOR EXTENDED AS

The deadline for applying for the job of the Director of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) has been extended to March 1, 2000. The job posting may be found at <http://www1.od.nih.gov/ohrm/hrinfo/ses/vacancy/announcement/OD997145.html>. OBSSR Director Norman Anderson had earlier announced that he would leave the agency in January 2000, but has decided to extend his term until March. (See UPDATE, October 11, 1999, Part 2)

When named, the new director will have a significant budget increase to work with: a \$9 million operating budget — more than three times the 1999 funding level of \$2.8 million. Congress also provided the Office with an additional \$10 million above its base appropriation to fund the new mind/body centers.

OBSSR Issues Two RFAs

OBSSR and several NIH Institutes are currently in the process of developing two Requests for Applications (RFA).

An **Adherence to Therapeutic Regimens** RFA will encourage social and behavioral science research on the "effectiveness of interventions to improve adherence to therapeutic regimens involving pharmacological treatments in various settings." COSSA held a congressional briefing in April 1999 on this topic — *Not What the Doctor Ordered: Challenges Individuals Face in Adhering to Medical Advice/Treatment*. OBSSR Director Norman Anderson moderated the seminar. Copies of the transcript are available. (See UPDATE, May 3, 1999) The planned release date for this RFA is scheduled for the end of January, with applications due in April. OBSSR/NIH anticipates making available \$4 million for approximately six awards in September 2000. For more information contact Ronald Abeles at 301/496-7959 or Abeles@nih.gov.

NIH is also in the process of implementing a trans-Institute initiative aimed at the development of behavioral interventions for the prevention of youth violence. The **Research on the Development of Interventions for Youth Violence** RFA will encourage "innovative research for youth violence prevention, treatment, service delivery, and maintenance of positive behavior change." The planned release date is in late January, with applications due in April 2000. For more information contact Susan Solomon at 301/496-0970 or ssolomon@nih.gov.

SURGEON GENERAL RELEASES MENTAL HEALTH REPORT AS

United States Surgeon General David Satcher recently released the first-ever *Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health*. The report, according to Satcher "makes evident that the neuroscience of mental health — a term that encompasses studies extending from molecular events to psychological, behavioral, and societal phenomena — has emerged as one of the most exciting arenas of scientific activity and human inquiry. We recognize that the brain is the integrator of thought, emotion, behavior, and health. Indeed one of the foremost contributions

of contemporary mental health research is the extent to which it has mended the destructive split between 'mental' and 'physical' health."

Key themes include "the importance of a solid research base for every mental health and mental illness intervention." In the foreward, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Administrator Nelba Chavez, National Institute of Mental Health Director Steven Hyman, and Center for Mental Health Services Director Bernard Arons state the report "recognizes the inextricably intertwined relationship between our mental health and our physical health and well-being."

The Surgeon General's Report states that to "realize further advances in treatment and, ultimately, prevention, the Nation must continue to invest in research at all levels." Noting that the timing of the release comes at a time of "unprecedented scientific opportunity," it observes that "high quality research is a potent weapon against stigma, one that forces skeptics to let go of misconceptions and stereotypes concerning mental illness and the burdens experienced by persons who have these disorders."

The Report further emphasizes that special effort is needed to address "pronounced gaps" in the mental health knowledge base. Each chapter identifies specific gaps. For example, the "urgent" need for research evidence that supports strategies for mental health promotion and illness prevention.

A copy of the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health can be viewed at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/mentalhealth/index.html>.

NAMI Alleges NIMH's Portfolio Shortchanges the Mentally Ill

Just a couple of days before the release of the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, *USA Today* carried a front page story alleging that the NIH's National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) had shortchanged the mentally ill. The story was based on a report by the Stanley Foundation Research Program, an affiliate of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), which alleged that the NIMH "has failed in its primary mission to support research into schizophrenia, manic-depressive illness and other severe mental illnesses." According to the NAMI report, it analyzed NIMH's 1997 research portfolio

and found that "NIMH is funding a large number of behavioral research projects on diverse aspects of human behavior but almost no behavioral research that is relevant to severe mental illness."

COSSA, which strongly disagrees with NAMI's assertions, drafted a letter to key congressional leaders defending NIMH. COSSA and two of its member organizations, the American Psychological Association (APA) and the American Sociological Association (ASA), as well as NIMH Director Steven Hyman, wrote that the NAMI-sponsored report seriously misrepresents NIMH's mission. The report, which calls for hearings on this topic, omits the following part of the ADAMHA Reorganization Act (Public Law 102 - 321), which defines NIMH's mission, as: *the conduct and support of biomedical and behavioral research, health services research, research training, and health information dissemination with respect to the cause, diagnosis, treatment, control and prevention of mental illness . . . [and] shall be designed to further treatment and prevention of mental illness, the promotion of mental health and the study of psychological, social, and legal factors that influence behavior.*

COSSA noted that NIMH's mission is to support basic, clinical, and epidemiological research on the behavioral, biological, genetic, and social factors and psychological processes and mechanisms that underlie mental illness that have an impact on physical health and the maintenance of emotional well-being. Further, COSSA emphasized its strong belief that if NIMH's research portfolio was limited only to "severe mental illness," as suggested by NAMI's report, scientific progress to understand, prevent, and treat other mental disorders would be seriously and immeasurably compromised. These would include: the most common forms of depression, anxiety disorders, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, social phobia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, eating disorders, as well as other mental disorders.

Finally, COSSA noted that while it understands the sense of urgency in finding a cure for severe mental illness, we must be careful not to ignore the breadth and forms of mental illness, the need for knowledge that can promote mental health, and the serendipitous nature of research. To do so would result in the endorsing of a limited and myopic research strategy. COSSA urged congressional leaders to continue their support of a balanced

program of grant funding in mental health and mental illness, including basic and applied behavioral, social, and neuroscience research at the NIMH.

A copy of COSSA's correspondence can be seen on our website: <http://members.aol.com/socscience/COSSAindex.htm>

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE PART OF NIDDK PLANS

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) held a two day workshop on *Behavioral Science Research in Diabetes*, November 18-19, 1999 on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus. NIDDK hopes to use the meeting as a mechanism for setting future directions in diabetes research, according to Sanford Garfield, Senior Advisor for Biometry and Behavioral Research.

NIDDK Director Allan Spiegel, in only his second day in the position, attended the meeting and admitted to knowing very little about behavioral and social science, but stressed that his major goal is to propel advances that make a difference to patients. "Every illness has a behavioral component," said Spiegel, who has been at the NIH for more than 25 years and most recently served as NIDDK's scientific director and chief of the metabolic diseases branch.

Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR) Director Norman Anderson stressed that workshops like NIDDK's "landmark meeting" are helping the NIH do a better job at what it is supposed to do — improve the public's health. A focus on behavioral and social science research, he said, will help achieve that goal. Anderson expressed his satisfaction that the Institute has recognized critical behavioral and social science factors to understanding and treating diabetes. The OBSSR co-sponsored the workshop.

Workshop participants focused discussions on four areas that are primary in diabetes research: lifestyle modification, psychosocial therapies, health care delivery, and risk and primary prevention. Workgroups addressing each of these areas looked at why the topic was significant for diabetes research, key advances, barriers to progress, and recommended research priorities.

Lifestyle Modification

This workgroup looked at: 1) environmental factors related to lifestyle behaviors; 2) adoption and maintenance of health eating, exercise, and weight; 3) etiology of eating and exercise behavior and weight regulation; and 4) multiple behavior change. Recommended research priorities include:

- ◆ Correlational studies to document associations between environmental/policy variables and behavior; investigation of environmental influences as they interact with cultural and SES (socioeconomic status) differences in populations; and
- ◆ Intervention studies to examine the effect of specific environmental manipulations on outcome (eating/behavior/exercise behavior and biological endpoints).

Psychosocial Therapies

Emphasizing that large numbers of children are currently affected by diabetes, with many more expected to be affected in the next four years, the recommendations offered by the psychosocial therapies workgroup include:

- ◆ Longitudinal studies to determine causal relationships between psychosocial factors, regimen adherence, and metabolic control; and
- ◆ Studies that focus on the integration of behavioral and psychological services into routine pediatric diabetes care in clinical settings and that address issues such as clinical significance, social acceptability, and cost effectiveness.

For adults the workgroup noted that diabetes is a psychologically and behaviorally demanding disease so psychosocial factors are relevant to nearly all aspects of its management. Recommended research priorities include:

- ◆ More studies that focus on the identification of specific psychosocial factors that influence regimen adherence and glycemic control in adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes; and
- ◆ Studies to determine how to individualize psychosocial therapies to improve regimen adherence, glycemic control, and quality of life in various patient populations.

Health Care Delivery

Good patient self-management is critical for good long-term outcomes. Patients and family members are responsible for and carry out the great

majority of diabetes care on a daily basis. It is not enough to provide basic knowledge of what to do to manage diabetes; patients need skills and support in how to do this in the face of real world challenges. Given this knowledge, the workgroup's recommendation's:

- ◆ Changes of attitudes and behavior of primary care physicians toward diabetes, its seriousness, and the need for a patient-focused, team-managed, proactive chronic disease theme; and
- ◆ Collaborative management in chronic disease, population-based, including home-based lifestyle and psychosocial intervention programs; and
- ◆ Application of behavioral assessment and intervention methodologies to affect systems changes (health care teams, organizations, communities).

Risk and Primary Prevention

The risk and primary prevention workgroup examined four areas: 1) risk of diabetes and its complications: analysis/assessment and communication; 2) prevention through screening for at-risk identification; 3) prevention through community/environmental change; 4) behavior, psychology, and education in use of preventive medications. Recommended research priorities include:

- ◆ Research on public perception of diabetes: seriousness, susceptibility, etc.; and
- ◆ Research on the best methods to accurately inform patients and families about at-risk status; and
- ◆ Research on the psychological, behavioral and social impact of at-risk notification.

For a complete list of recommended research priorities offered at the workshop, contact Sanford Garfield at 301/594-8803 or Garfields@extra.niddk.nih.gov.

COSSA NEWS: FRANKOVIC JOINS BOARD; NCA BECOMES FULL MEMBER

Kathleen A. Frankovic, Director of Surveys and Producer for CBS News, has been elected to a two-year term as an At-Large Member of the COSSA Board of Directors. Frankovic is often heard on the news reporting and interpreting the CBS/New York Times poll. She is also the CBS News representative to the Board of Managers for the Voter News Service. In 1996 and 1998 she was a Senior Producer for CBS

News election coverage. She has been with CBS News since 1977.

Prior to joining CBS, she taught political science at the University of Vermont and directed the Social Science Research Center there. In 1997, she was a Professor-in-Residence at the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1985, she was a visiting professor of government at Cornell University.

She currently serves as the Professional Standards Chair of the World Association for Public Opinion Research. She has been President, Standards Chair, Conference Chair, and Councillor-at-Large for the American Association of Public Opinion Research. She is a member of the Market Research Council, a trustee of the National Council on Public Polls and of the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research. She has also served on the Council of the American Political Science Association. Frankovic received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University and her A.B. from Cornell University.

In addition, the **National Communication Association** has elevated its membership status from Affiliate to Full Member. An Affiliate since 1984, the 6,800 member NCA will soon move to Washington, DC from Annandale, VA. We welcome them to full membership status.

NIJ ANNOUNCES FUNDS THROUGH NEW FELLOWSHIP

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is currently seeking applications for its W.E.B. DuBois fellowship program. The program seeks to advance the field of knowledge regarding the confluence of crime, justice, and culture in various societal contexts. Fellows are expected to spend a short residence at NIJ and prepare reports suitable for publication by NIJ that summarize the results and policy implications of their research. To be eligible for the 2000 calendar year, proposals must be received by February 1. Information about the Fellowship program can be found on the NIJ Web site at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

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