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SEAN Releases New Expert Consultation on COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) (see COSSA’s previous coverage) has published a new rapid expert consultation, Building COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence. The guidance compiles research-backed strategies for effectively reaching vulnerable communities and skeptical populations to provide trustworthy information about the COVID-19 vaccine. The consultation is available as an interactive web tool, with highlights on Strategies for Public Engagement to Combat Mistrust and Build COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance. The report is also available as a full report on the National Academies website.

New from COSSA

COSSA Releases 2021 Rankings of Federal Support for Social Science Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities

On February 16, COSSA released its 2021 College and University Rankings for Federal Social and Behavioral R&D, which highlight the top university recipients of federal research dollars in the social and behavioral sciences. This year’s rankings feature a dashboard with an interactive map of recipients of social and behavioral science R&D funding so you can see how your university stacks up among more than 500 U.S. institutions. Based on the most recent available federal data, the COSSA rankings use an inclusive selection of fields representing the breadth of the social and behavioral sciences to calculate the total federal R&D funding received by universities in the social and behavioral sciences. More information on how the rankings are produced is available on the COSSA website.

The top 10 recipients for 2021 are:
1. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill* (NC) - $207,442,000 (#1 in 2020)
2. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor* (MI) - $191,060,000 (#2 in 2020)
3. University of Maryland* (MD) - $95,066,000 (#4 in 2020)
4. University of Southern California (CA) - $62,945,000 (#5 in 2020)
5. Arizona State University* (AZ) - $61,642,000 (#7 in 2020)
6. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities* (MN) - $60,886,000 (#3 in 2020)
7. Harvard University* (MA) - $53,884,000 (#12 in 2020)
8. Pennsylvania State University, University Park and Hershey Medical Center* (PA) - $52,060,000 (#8 in 2020)
9. Duke University* (NC) - $48,507,000 (#15 in 2020)
10. University of Wisconsin-Madison* (WI) - $47,374,000 (#13 in 2020)

* Denotes COSSA member

FROM THE ARCHIVES: 106th Congress Opens for Business:
Impeachment Dominates Early Agenda (January 11, 1999)

In celebration of COSSA's 40th anniversary, we are diving into the decades of Washington Update archives to share articles from years past that resonate with today's news.

On January 6th, the 106th Congress commenced. The following day the Senate opened the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton. The House, which ended the 105th Congress by impeaching the President in a bitter partisan debate and votes, chose a new Speaker who promised cooperation and a Democratic leader who talked of "burying the hatchet." Bill Clinton is the first United States President impeached since Andrew Johnson in 1868. Yet, he retains the support of the American people with poll numbers indicating around 70 percent approve of his stewardship of the presidency. Welcome to 1999 in Washington.

Despite the historic events surrounding the impeachment trial, routines continue. The President's Fiscal Year 2000 budget is currently scheduled for release on February 1 and another year of debating federal spending priorities will begin. Those debates will take place in the context of additional projected budget surpluses and a determination to "save Social Security." It will take place with so-called "spending caps" still in place that will continue to squeeze discretionary spending. Although Congress demonstrated last year that there is a will to break the caps, there is a way. As always, leaks have indicated some of the President's funding priorities: increased defense spending, more dollars for after school programs. A new major initiative in information technology is also expected, which should provide the National Science Foundation some new money[…]

The new Speaker has vowed that the House will pass all 13 appropriations bills by the summer, or "it will not leave town" for the traditional August recess. The Senate is too busy right now with impeachment to worry about enacting appropriations bills on time. Whether the bills pass Congress and are signed by the President before Fiscal Year 2000 begins on October 1, 1999, may depend on how many controversial non-spending policy riders are in the legislation.

Congressional News

Congress Confronts Packed Post-Impeachment To-Do List

For the first time since taking office, the Biden Administration and 117th Congress can work without being consumed by the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill can now forge ahead on a COVID-19 relief package currently being negotiated and with confirmation hearings for Biden appointees. The House is looking to vote on a $1.9 trillion COVID relief package next week, which is expected to pass largely along party lines. The goal is for the House and Senate to send a completed package to the President by March 14 when current unemployment insurance relief expires. On the nominations front, President Biden’s picks to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Management and Budget, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Education, as well as Attorney General, are all still awaiting confirmation by the Senate. There will be a flurry of activity over the next few weeks to play catch up now that impeachment is complete.
Lawmakers Reintroduce RISE Act

On February 5, a bipartisan group of lawmakers reintroduced the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act. As previously reported, the RISE Act seeks to provide funding relief to federal science agencies impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill would authorize $25 billion in emergency relief, including $10 billion for the National Institutes of Health and $3 billion for the National Science Foundation. Funding would be used to support non-COVID-related research that has been impacted or shuttered by the closure of labs resulting from the pandemic. This legislation is different from the $1.9 trillion COVID package discussed above; if it is to be enacted, it will need to be considered separately, likely as part of future talks on COVID relief.

Executive Branch News

NSF Releases New “Understanding the Rules of Life” Solicitation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting applications for a new program within the Understanding the Rules of Life (URoL) Big Idea. The new program, Understanding the Rules of Life: Emergent Networks, seeks to support convergent research to understand the “rules of emergence” for networks of living systems and their environments, described as the “interactions among organismal, environmental, social, and human-engineered systems that are complex and often unexpected given the behaviors of these systems when observed in isolation.” More information is available in the full solicitation. The deadline for proposals is May 20, 2021.

Science Community News

CNSTAT Seeks Nominations for Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation Study

The Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) within the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has issued a call for nominations for individuals to serve on a committee on Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The ad hoc committee will develop clear guidelines “outlining the guiding principles and best practices for collecting sexual orientation and gender identity information in research and non-research surveys, along with medical and other administrative records in order to improve the NIH’s ability to identify and address the specific needs of these populations.”

CNSTAT is seeking experts on sexual and gender minority health research; survey design and methodology; statistics; and alternative sources of data, such as administrative records, electronic health records, and other data to serve on the committee.

Nominations are requested by February 22, 2021.

Resources & Opportunities

New COVID-19 Resources


Nomination Opportunities

- NEW: NAM: Healthy Longevity Catalyst Award (Closes: March 8, 2021)
- NEW: NASEM/CNSTAT: Call for Nominations: Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation for the National Institutes of Health (Closes: February 22, 2021)

New & Expiring Funding Opportunities

- BJS: NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) (Closes: April 22, 2021)
- NIH/NIMH: Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Mental Health Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Closes: April 16, 2021)
- BJS: National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) (Closes: April 8, 2021)
- NEW: HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Consortium Administrative Core (Opens March 1, 2021; Closes: April 1, 2021)
- NEW: HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Data Coordinating Center (U24) (Opens March 1, 2021; Closes: April 1, 2021)
NEW: HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study (Collaborative U01- Clinical Trial Not Allowed) (U01 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed) (Opens March 1, 2021; Closes: April 1, 2021)

NIH: Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus and the Behavioral and Social Sciences (Closes: April 1, 2021)

NIH/NIDA: Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Closes: March 31, 2021)

NSF: Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research (FW-HTF) (Closes: March 23, 2021)

NEW: NIH: Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery (R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required) (R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed) (Closes: March 18, 2021)

NIH: Mid-Career Enhancement Awards to Integrate Basic Behavioral, Biomedical, and/or Social Scientific Processes (K18 No Independent Clinical Trials) (Closes: March 17, 2021)

NIH: Mid-Career Enhancement Awards to Integrate Basic Behavioral, Biomedical, and/or Social Scientific Processes (K18 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required) (Closes: March 17, 2021)

HHS/HRSA: P4 Challenge: Innovations in Pediatric Primary Care to Improve Child Health (Closes: March 15, 2021)

BJS: State Justice Statistics Program of Statistical Analysis Centers, 2021 (Closes: March 11, 2021)

DOJ/BJS: FY 2021 Continuation of the Federal Justice Statistics Program (Closes: March 2, 2021)

DOJ/BJS: FY 2021 Census of Law Enforcement Training Academies (Closes: March 1, 2021)

More funding opportunities.

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

NEW: DOJ/BJS: Public comments requested on the proposed reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved BJS data collection: 2021 Identity Theft Supplement (Closes: April 5, 2021)

NSF: Dear Colleague Letter: Interdisciplinary Frontiers of Understanding the Brain (Closes: March 31, 2021)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

NEW: NASEM: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Wellbeing in Higher Education: Supporting the Whole Student

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

ED: Summer Internship Opportunities (Closes: March 31, 2021)

NASEM/DBASSE: Associate Program Officer - Behavioral/Social Sciences and Communications

NASEM/DBASSE: Program Officer - Behavioral/Social Sciences and National Security

NASEM/SEAN: Associate Program Officer

NASEM/SEAN: Program Officer

NASEM/CNSTAT: Deputy Board Director

NASEM/CLAJ: Program Officer

Upcoming Events

VIRTUAL: NASEM: Adoption and Implementation of Campus COVID-19 Testing Strategies: A Webinar, February 22, 2021, 1:00pm


VIRTUAL: COSSA Headlines | March, March 11, 2021, 2:00pm

VIRTUAL: Society for Personality Assessment Annual Convention, March 17-20, 2021

VIRTUAL: NIH OBSSR Director's Webinar: Behavioral Health and Injury Prevention: The Emergency Department as a Window to Community and Population Health, March 23, 2021, 2:00pm

VIRTUAL: Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 7-10, 2021

VIRTUAL: American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 7-11, 2021

VIRTUAL: COSSA Headlines | April, April 8, 2021
VIRTUAL: Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, April 8-10, 2021
VIRTUAL: American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, April 9-12, 2021
VIRTUAL: Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, April 12-16, 2021
VIRTUAL: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, April 13-17, 2021
VIRTUAL: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 14-18, 2021
VIRTUAL: Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting, April 15-17, 2021
VIRTUAL: Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 18-21, 2021
VIRTUAL: American Council of Learned Societies Annual Meeting, April 22-24, 2021
VIRTUAL: COSSA Social Science Advocacy Day, April 27, 2021
VIRTUAL: Association of Research Libraries Meeting, April 27-29, 2021

A list of COSSA members’ annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA events page. COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@cossa.org.

COSSA Members

Governing Associations
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
African Studies Association
American Association of Geographers
American Council of Learned Societies
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of American Law Schools
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Personality Assessment
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southwestern Social Science Association

Colleges and Universities
Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
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Michigan State University
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University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
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Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Affiliates
SAGE Publishing
Wiley
About COSSA
The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

Our Team
Executive Director
Wendy A. Naus

Director of Public Affairs
Julia Milton

Staff Assistant
Ben Goodrich

ISSN 0749-4394

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Consortium of Social Science Associations | 1430 K Street, NW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20005