

Developing Your Niche in the Policy World

AP-LS & SPSSI Webinar

5.13.15

**“In science,
impatience
is a virtue.
You should
be impatient
for your
research to
change the
world.”**

**Heather
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GIVING AWAY PSYCHOLOGY SOMETIMES MEANS
“GIVING” IT TO PEOPLE WHO AREN’T PREPARED TO HEAR IT



APA Science Government Relations Office

We serve as liaisons between Congress and the federal agencies that fund or apply psychological research:

- National Institutes of Health
- National Science Foundation
- Department of Defense
- Department of Justice
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- NASA
- Intelligence Entities
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Food and Drug Administration
- Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute

4 Primary Goals of APA Science GRO



- Enhance psychological research funding
- Share psychological research with policymakers
- Increase the ability of APA scientists to advocate for their discipline
- Strengthen the scientific infrastructure

Variety of Issues: In a Day We Might Have to Cover...

- **Me:** veterans, military sexual trauma, cognitive neuroscience, guns, PTSD and TBI (and do we have to have the D in PTSD), leadership, suicide prevention, teen social media usage, peer review, great apes, hostage negotiations, psychopathy, assessment, screening, human factors, I/O psychology, why psychology is a science, why politicians shouldn't get to de-fund a federal grant, why scientists have to explain why they deserve federal funding
- **My Science colleagues:** alcohol abuse, opiate addiction, radicalization and violence, teacher preparedness, heart disease, deep space exploration, school shootings, HIV/AIDS, maternal depression, reading research, dementia, marriage research, No Child Left Behind, why all psychologists aren't therapists, why research about sex and drugs should get federal funding, why NIMH doesn't fund behavioral science anymore
- **Other APA GRO colleagues:** LGBT youth, affordable care act, training grants for psychology graduate students, gifted and talented youth, Medicare and Medicaid, DSM-V, high-stakes testing

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?
HOW DO I PREPARE?

So Many Options, So Little Time...



- Community-Engaged Scholarship and Teaching
- Community Service
- Fellowships and Internships
- Dipping In and Out of Policy – Amicus Briefs, Policy Writing
- Advocacy – Hill Visits, Testimony, Action Alerts, Stand for Science Campaign
- Policy Jobs
- Political Service

ADVOCACY VISITS THROUGH APA SCIENCE



Stand for Science District Meeting



Representative Robert Hurt (R-VA) met with Dr. Bethany Teachman at the University of Virginia's Program for Anxiety, Cognition, and Treatment (PACT) Lab

APA/COSSA Op-Ed on Research

ROLL CALL

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Memo to Congress: Stop Fighting Scientific Research | Commentary

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By Patricia Klem Kobor and Angela L. Sharpe
Dec. 1, 2014, 7:02 p.m.

The social and behavioral sciences seem to have been painted with a big bull's-eye, given the escalating number of attacks against National Institutes of Health-supported research grants during the 2014 election season. Sen. [Rand Paul](#), R-Ky., invoked several during his stump speech in support of Republican candidates. Sen. [Tom Coburn](#), R-Okla., cited a few more in his latest "Wastebook." Readers interested in federal support for science might well wonder: Has the NIH, renowned worldwide for high-quality science, lost its collective mind by funding grants of questionable utility, as some Republicans claim? Or have these congressmen merely misunderstood what the social and behavioral sciences have to offer NIH's health mission?

How do I prepare? (and do I have to be an extrovert, can I ever return to academia, what if I loathe my politicians...)

- Dissemination does not – seriously, DOES NOT, only mean publishing in a journal. Take your research back out into the world – that’s why you started it, right? To change the world?
- Look for opportunities to extend your reach: sign up for advocacy trainings and lobby days through professional associations; get involved in campus and local issues; track the larger context related to your work.
- Look for bridging opportunities: internships, fellowships, sitting in on other labs and classes.
- Ask for mentoring from people in the policy world. If they freak out, ask to shadow them for one day.
- Most of all: although I’m a wee bit jaded after constantly hearing about everyone’s “passion,” do just focus on doing something you love, knowing why it matters, and doing it really well. That shows.

Additional Resources

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www.twitter.com/APAScience

APA Science Policy News

<http://www.apa.org/about/gr/science/spin/index.aspx>

New APA Online Advocacy
Toolkit!

advocacy.apascience.org

