

# The Psychological Science Agenda



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## Buckner, Sinha Named 2007 Winners of the NAS Troland Research Award

by Nicolle Singer

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The recipients of the 2007 Troland Research Award were announced on January 17, 2007 by the National Academy of Sciences. **Randy L. Buckner**, Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Professor, FAS Department of Psychology and Center for Brain Science, Harvard University, and **Pawan Sinha**, Associate Professor of Computational Neuroscience, Department of Brain and Cognitive Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be honored with the award this year. The awards will be presented at the Academy's 144<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in April.



Randy L. Buckner



Pawan Sinha

The Troland Award was established by the bequest of Leonard T. Troland and is awarded annually by the National Academy of Sciences to two early career psychologists (age 40 or younger). Beginning in 1984, this prestigious award has recognized unusual achievement in psychological science. The \$50,000 awards are intended to facilitate continued innovation in a promising program of research.

### How are memories formed?

Buckner was chosen to receive the Troland Award in order to recognize his contributions to our understanding of the human brain mechanisms involved in memory. An APA Fellow since 2005, Buckner has used his background in

psychology and neuroscience to pioneer the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) for the study of human memory. He was also an early proponent of event-related fMRI, which makes it possible to measure brain activity rapidly enough to track cerebral blood flow as people access specific memories.

After initially studying basic memory processes, Buckner's work expanded to include changes in these systems during normal aging and Alzheimer's disease.

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## SCIENCE BRIEFS

# The Realities of Conducting Laboratory Animal Research

by Nancy Dess



Nancy K. Dess, PhD, is Professor of Psychology at Occidental College. She was Senior Scientist at APA in 1999-2001 and served as Chair on APA's Committee on Animal Research & Ethics in 2006. Her primary research concerns the relationship between eating and emotion in humans and other animals. In other professional activities, she advocates for a fuller understanding of nonhuman animals and human nature, for science education, and for utilization of empirical research in the formulation of effective and humane public policy.

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At the 2006 Science Leadership Conference, I was invited to identify threats and obstacles to work with laboratory animals. This work continues to contribute importantly to our understanding of behavior, yet faces enormous challenges to its vitality – indeed, to its existence. I welcomed the opportunity to share with an eclectic, distinguished group of colleagues six key challenges and some ideas for surmounting them.

## Frontal Assaults

*Antivivisectionism* – wholesale opposition to work with lab animals – constitutes the most direct and serious threat. Antivivisectionists condemn such work as immoral and fraudulent and seek to end it through means ranging from civil discourse to harassment at work and home and in print, laboratory destruction, and death threats. Antivivisectionist leaders have asserted that arson, vandalism, and theft are justified in pursuit of their goal; in 2005 Congressional testimony, Jerry Vlasak defended his view that assassinating lab animal researchers would be morally justifiable and effective. Were this only bluster. In recent years, antivivisectionists have destroyed psychologists' data,

equipment, and, sadly, lab animals at major universities. In 2006, a bomb intended for a researcher was accidentally left at an elderly neighbor's home (it malfunctioned); another received so many threats against his life, spouse and children that he returned a federal grant and left the field. Against this backdrop, the shouting down of psychologists at APA's 2004 convention in Hawaii seems tame – but anyone who respects academic freedom should be concerned about such tactics as well.

*Strategies:* With antivivisectionists who adhere to civil tactics, the lab animal community will have to agree to disagree; no rapprochement is possible with those who will receive this articulation of our travails with glee. As for criminal attacks on persons, lab animals and property, some help arrived last year. The federal Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act stiffens penalties for crimes against lab animal researchers, their associates, and their families. Institutions should have a rapid response plan for threats and attacks, including a telephone tree with contacts in local law enforcement and concise, unambiguously supportive statements for designated officials to make to the campus community and press. An



ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, so researchers and their institutions should evaluate security at their lab animal facilities. Some measures that dramatically increase security are surprisingly affordable.

## Show Me the Money

*Funding* is a serious challenge for many psychologists, but those working with lab animals have been particularly hard hit by policy shifts in federal agencies. The National Institute of Mental Health recently reinterpreted its mission to favor research more proximate to serious mental illness. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has narrowed its animal-behavior programs to focus on evolutionary theory and neural mechanisms. These shifts parallel

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trends in politics and science – respectively, “accountability” and reductionist movements – that are not congenial to experimental analysis of normative behavior in lab animals.

*Strategies:* Good ideas, grant savvy, and ferreting out lesser known funding sources help lab animal research get done. But to scale up, our community needs to redouble its efforts at advocacy and outreach to increase available funding. We owe a great debt to lobbyists at APA, APS, and the Federation who have worked tirelessly to maintain funding streams for psychology, but such efforts are a bit like a finger in a dyke. Legislators are responsive to constituencies, and recurring efforts to defund “liberal” or “frivolous” projects and to eliminate social and behavioral sciences from NSF reflect, in part, the electorate’s ambivalence about psychological research. We have to more effectively make the case for psychological science to policy makers and the general public. The challenge is not unique to lab animal research and thus provides a great opportunity for coalition-building. Letter writing campaigns, relationships with state officials, visits to Capitol Hill such as the terrific Advocacy Workshops organized by APA’s Public Policy Office, and APA’s *Exploring Behavior* G8-10 Outreach Program [lab animal modules available courtesy of the Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE)] are examples of activities that can make a difference.

*Regulations, Regulations, Regulations*

*Regulatory burden* is a loaded term. One connotation is that virtually all regulations are unnecessarily burdensome. This interpretation is unwise. Regulatory oversight can provide information and advice, legal indemnification, and critical perspectives on moral issues. But regulatory compliance *can* consume a lot of time and energy. Depending on species and institution, researchers are accountable to an Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC), the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), the Association for the

Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and game/wildlife agencies. Navigating the bureaucracy can be frustrating, especially when the rules seem arbitrary, inefficient, or, worse, not in the lab animals’ best interests.



*Strategies:* The research community should work to shift attitudes toward regulation. Whining or reflexive resistance to any constraint invite suspicion – and more regulation. A constructive posture embraces regulation as an integral if sometimes onerous part of our job, one that can help us do it better and be a saving grace if criticized or accused. That said, researchers shouldn’t act like potted plants. They should stay informed. Great resources are as close as a keystroke (federal agency FAQs, APA’s CARE webpage) or a call to OLAW’s helpful staff. They also should participate in decision making, supporting sound regulation and challenging “regulatory creep.” For example, when antivivisectionists and others pushed to extend USDA’s enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to lab rats, mice and birds, sound arguments from APA and others opposing the proposed regulation contributed to its defeat. Similarly, psychologists such as Nancy Ator and Steve Dworkin work with AAALAC to shape good, evidence-based policy.

Finally, lab animal researchers should establish a collegial, co-educational relationship with their IACUC. Protocol review can improve the work technically or ethically. Conversely, researchers can be a valuable resource for the IACUC. If an IACUC request is

misguided – for instance, cites the AWA in review of a rat project or requires a change that will jeopardize animals’ welfare – a respectful correction from the researcher should be well received, more so if the researcher been responsive and thoughtful in the past.

*Monoculturism*

*Lack of diversity*, as a general rule, is unhealthy for living systems – like science. Psychological science suffers from severe underrepresentation of younger people, women, and people from ethnic/racial minority groups. Subfields in which lab animals figure prominently are even more homogeneous. For example, in the most relevant APA divisions, half of the members are over age 60, 75-78% are male, and 84-87% are white. Data from other organizations are not so different. The lab animal community has let too much talent pass by, and the situation will get worse unless something dramatic happens now.

*Strategies:* Most efforts focus on diversifying students in the “pipeline” through recruitment and funding. These efforts are necessary but not sufficient. In the near term, the lab animal community has to provide far more professional development opportunities for junior people, including but not limited to those from underrepresented groups. The information and mentoring provided must address not just how to get grants and publish or teach effectively, but also how to build a diverse scholarly community that is welcoming and just. Thanks to Division 6 President Karen Hollis, in collaboration with Divisions 3, 25, 28, and 45, the Committee on Division-APA Relations, and the Science Directorate, 2007 convention programming will include an enhanced version of the CARE Imprinting Award program: a diverse group of junior scholars will present their research, network with peers and senior mentors, and explore the bases of and correctives to the demographic homogeneity in the field. Such activities, if grown and

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sustained, will change the culture of lab animal work.

In the longer term, diversification efforts will have to impact the K-16 curriculum. Until psychology is understood as a science at early ages, and until the part of the science involving lab animals is experienced as accessible and interesting to a broader cross-section of students, diversification in the profession will be limited. A topical approach to Introduction to Psychology, one that unsettles dichotomies such as nature/nurture and social/biological, might be a start.

#### *Doing the Right Thing*

*Ethics* are central to the research enterprise, informing scientists' highest aspirations and guiding them through the rocks and shoals of egregious transgression. As a kind of ethics code, regulations should foster ethical behavior. I believe the currently stringent regulations do lead most researchers to do the right thing. But an emphasis on following rules appears to be undermining the intentionality of ethical decision making. In some quarters, "ethics education" seems virtually synonymous with training in regulatory compliance. Time pressures, hyperspecialization, and perhaps a degree of defensiveness spawned by truly scary antivivisectionists have conspired against philosophy and nuance. This legalistic orientation is not unique to lab animal work but is a particular threat to it, because the work's harshest critics ground their attacks in moral argument and because lab animals' welfare is at stake.

*Strategies:* The lab animal community must expect of all its members a self-conscious, informed, well-reasoned ethical posture toward their work, making clear that anything less is a disservice to themselves, the research enterprise, and lab animals. Of course, these expectations must be coupled with opportunities to develop a rich ethical sensibility, including primers and more advanced coursework, regular discussions within and across labs, real

nor mock participation in IACUC deliberations, and exposure to peer and senior role models who take their ethical responsibilities seriously. In these ways, the bar will be raised.

*"I Am Not An Animal!"*

*Anthropodenial* (De Waal) and *animal-origin disgust* (Rozin) are terms coined to refer to many people's aversion to their animalness, a sentiment poignantly reflected in John "Elephant Man" Merrick's famous cry. Humans' perceived separateness from other animals is fostered in various ways: creationist cosmology, mind/body and nature/nurture dualisms, and human/animal language. Even many psychologists who embrace evolution and take as biological fact that *Homo sapiens* is an animal species use language that implies otherwise (e.g. "Humans and animals are similar in this respect.") Powerful ideologies and motives are attached to the idea of human distinctiveness – and as such, they comprise a formidable challenge to the view that research with other species, especially "artificial" animals bred for the laboratory, is relevant to the human condition or otherwise worthy of support.

*Strategies:* Anthropodenial and its religious, existential, and political manifestations together make a tough nut to crack. Psychological scientists must be united in advocating the nuanced position that humans are neither just like nor completely

different from any other species. They must defend evolution as biological fact and as powerful theory and reject Intelligent Design, a thinly veiled version of Special Creationism, as science. In doing so, however, they must address deep issues of meaning that, for some, make being an animal so terrifying. In addition, gene/environment interactionism and up-to-date models that integrate ultimate and proximate influences on behavior must replace tired battles over whether human evolution bears on contemporary behavior, whether socialization trumps biology, and so on. That in-fighting is akin to bickering on the deck of the Titanic before it hits, anti-intellectual, science-bashing, antivivisectionist icebergs. Figuring out how to defend and advance the scientific enterprise in the face of these threats is more important.

Most of the threats, obstacles, and strategies outlined here will resonate in some way with psychological scientists whose work does not involve lab animals. In the bigger picture, we stand on common ground. Let's work together to create a vibrant community of scientists, including laboratory animal researchers, and to ensure that their work is safe, personally rewarding and valuable to others.

Visit the website (<http://www.apa.org/science/rcr/care.html>) of the Committee on Animal Research and Ethics to learn more about APA's efforts in this area. ■

## Call for Applications for the 2007 Lizette Peterson Homer Memorial Injury Research Grant

Faculty and graduate students who could use funding to support their psychosocial research on injuries (by accidents, violence, abuse or suicide) to children and young adults are invited to apply for these funds. Previously known as the Rebecca Routh Coon Injury Research Fund, the American Psychological Foundation (APF) and APA Division 54 (Society of Pediatric Psychology) invite applications for this annual \$1,500 grant. Qualified applicants must be members or student affiliates of APA's Division 54. **Nomination packets are due by April 1, 2007.**

For more information, or to submit an application, contact Dr. Sharon Berry at [sharon.berry@childrensmn.org](mailto:sharon.berry@childrensmn.org) or visit <http://www.apa.org/apf/homer.html>

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

STEVEN BRECKLER, Executive Director for Science

## Healthy Science at NIH

The [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) have an enormous responsibility: to make investments today that will allow better healthcare tomorrow. As any investment advisor will tell you, the key to success is a balanced and diverse portfolio.

When it comes to investments in health-related research, a balanced scientific portfolio is especially important. One reason is that health-related problems are multifaceted and governed by multiple causes, often interacting in complex ways. Advancing our understanding and treatment of cancer, drug abuse, age-related disorders, or mental disorders requires a deep understanding of every facet, every cause, and every interaction.

Another reason for supporting a balanced scientific portfolio is that we often simply do not know where the next great discovery will be. It is scientific folly to simply look where the light happens to be shining. Science is most productive, and leads to the greatest innovation, when it is allowed to explore all avenues.

Those of us who work in the social and behavioral sciences are especially sensitive to these points. We worry that many of the NIH programs have moved to exclude social and behavioral science from their portfolios. An improperly balanced scientific portfolio is destined to fail, especially when it comes to health of human beings.

This state of imbalance may be true for some of the institutes of NIH. Yet, most of them understand the importance of social and behavioral science, and they continue to include (if not expand) these parts of the portfolio. This is a formula for success.



Consider these three healthy examples:

- The [National Cancer Institute](#) (NCI) supports a vigorous [Behavioral Research Program](#), including work on behavior change, communications, decision making, health disparities, and theoretical and methodological innovation in all these areas. The goal of this program is to “increase the breadth, depth, and quality of cancer prevention and control behavioral science.”
- The [National Institute on Aging](#) (NIA) is very active in its support of both [Behavioral and Social Research](#) and [Neuroscience and Neuropsychology](#). These programs encompass basic research in social psychology, cognition, cognitive neuroscience, memory, human factors, personality, behavioral medicine, development, sleep, sensory processes, motor functioning, and other areas deeply rooted in psychology.
- The [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) (NIDA) is renowned for its support of [Basic Neuroscience and Behavioral Research](#). The [Behavioral and](#)

[Cognitive Science Research Branch](#) within this Division recognizes that “behavioral and cognitive variables are important as antecedent processes in the vulnerability to start, continue or relapse to drug abuse, as factors in the transition between these stages of abuse, and as consequences or adverse outcomes of abuse.” This is a clear recognition of both the importance and complexity of behavioral facets underlying drug abuse.

Many of the other NIH institutes are pursuing similarly well-balanced portfolios. They are certain to deliver on the NIH mission of improving the health of the nation. Other institutes are not so well-balanced, and they clearly risk falling short on the grand mission.

Over the next year, the [Psychological Science Agenda](#) (PSA) and the [Science Policy Insider News](#) (SPIN) will feature coverage of these and other federal funding agencies that honor a healthy, broad, and balanced scientific approach to addressing the nation's needs. The goal is to foster a better appreciation within our own research communities of available opportunities and resources, and to promote the productive approaches of the agencies. ■



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# APA Science Committees: Seeking to Meet Your Needs

by Suzanne Wandersman

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The 2007 APA science board and committee members are on the lookout for new opportunities for psychological science. These individuals, and those serving on the APA Board of Directors and Council of Representatives, are the critical players in our deliberations about and actions for science. It is their generous contribution of time and effort that make APA science policy and program development possible.

At the beginning of each year, newly elected members join the science board and committees that oversee Directorate and science activities within APA. Below is a list of the members and short statements about the mission of each group.

## **Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA)**

Ronald T. Brown, Chair, Temple University (2005-07)  
 Toni C. Antonucci, University of Michigan (2007-09)  
 Patricia M. Greenfield, UCLA (2007-09)  
 Barbara Landau, Johns Hopkins University (2006-08)  
 Frederick T. L. Leong, Michigan State University (2007-09)  
 Liora P. Schmelkin, Hofstra University (2005-07)  
 Norman E. Spear, Binghamton University-SUNY (2005-07)  
 Lois E. Tetrack, George Mason University (2006-08)  
 Alice M. Young, Texas Tech University (2006-08)

The Board of Scientific Affairs has general concern for all aspects of psychology as a science, including the continued encouragement, development, and promotion of psychology as a science; scientific aspects of the program at the Annual Convention; and psychology's relations with other scientific bodies. It has particular responsibility for liaison with

agencies giving financial support to scientific projects, for awards and honors in recognition of scientific achievement, and for seeking new ways in which the Association can assist scientific activities.

## **Committee on Scientific Awards (COSA)**

Timothy D. Wilson, Chair, University of Virginia (2005-07)  
 John F. Disterhoft, Northwestern University (2005-07)  
 Susan Gelman, University of Michigan (2007-09)  
 Steven Hollon, Vanderbilt University (2007-09)  
 Kevin R. Murphy, Pennsylvania State University (2006-08)  
 Anne Treisman, Princeton University (2006-08)

The Committee on Scientific Awards selects individuals to receive the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award, the Distinguished Scientific Award for the Applications of Psychology, and the Distinguished Scientific Award for an Early Career Contribution to Psychology.

## **Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE)**

Steven I. Dworkin, Chair, University of North Carolina at Wilmington (2005-07)  
 Jennifer Higa, Texas Christian University (2007-09)  
 Theresa Jones, University of Texas at Austin (2007)  
 Robert Lickliter, Florida International University (2006-08)  
 James K. Rowlett, Harvard Medical School (2006-08)  
 Pamela Scott-Johnson, Morgan State University (2007-09)

The Committee on Animal Research and Ethics is responsible for safeguarding responsible research with animals, other than humans,

disseminating accurate information about such research, reviewing the ethics of such research and recommending and disseminating guidelines for ethical conduct when involving animals other than humans in research, teaching, and practical applications.

## **Committee on Psychological Tests and Assessment (CPTA)**

Antonio Puente, Chair, University of North Carolina (2005-07)  
 Marcia M. Andberg, Marcia Andberg Associates, LLC (2007-09)  
 Madonna G. Constantine, Columbia University, Teachers' College (2006-08)  
 Michael J. Kolen, University of Iowa (2007-09)  
 David F. Lohman, University of Iowa (2005-07)  
 Eric N. Miller, UCLA (2006-08)  
 Samuel O. Ortiz, St. John's University (2005-07)  
 Chockalingam Viswesvaran, Florida International University (2006-08)  
 Frank C. Worell, UC Berkeley (2007-09)

The Committee on Psychological Tests and Assessment (CPTA) is responsible for addressing problems regarding sound psychological testing and assessment practices. Members of CPTA serve as technical advisors to other APA boards and committees on all issues affecting testing and assessment as it involves policy, practice, and science; monitoring actions of government and other organizations concerning regulation and control of assessment and testing practices; maintaining knowledge of and concern regarding current policy issues on the use of tests and assessment in clinical, counseling, educational, and employment settings; and promoting the

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appropriate use of tests and sound assessment practices.

#### **Ad Hoc Committee to Advance Research (CAR)**

Arthur Daniel Fisk, Chair, Georgia Tech  
 Karen Calhoun, University of Georgia  
 Neil Charness, Florida State University  
 Thomas Eissenberg, Virginia Commonwealth University  
 Martha Mann, University of Texas at Arlington  
 Diane Scott-Jones, Boston College

The mission of the Ad Hoc Committee to Advance Research will be to: (a) monitor the status of legislation, regulations, and professional policies on topics germane to the responsible conduct of research including the protection of human participants in behavioral research, data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership, mentor/trainee relationships, publication practices and responsible authorship, peer review, collaborative science, research misconduct and conflicts of interest and to ascertain their impact on research in the behavioral sciences; (b) engage in activities to promote the responsible conduct of research including workshops, curriculum development, and dissemination; develop resources, including guidelines for responsible conduct of research in the behavioral sciences; and, (c) establish and maintain cooperative relations with organizations sharing similar interests. (See article on page x for more information about this new committee.)

#### **Ad Hoc Science Student Council (APASSC)**

Janet Tomiyama, Chair, University of California, Los Angeles  
 Marcella Boynton, University of Connecticut  
 Kelly Dunn, University of Vermont  
 Paul Poteat, University of Illinois  
 Felix Thoemmes, Arizona State University  
 (Four additional members will be selected prior to the March 2007 meeting.)

The APA Science Student Council represents the interests and concerns of graduate students in psychological science. The Council is broadly representative of the discipline. It provides advice to BSA and the Directorate on programs and activities that would be of benefit to graduate students. It arranges APA Convention programming of interest to science-oriented students, and works closely with APAGS on a variety of projects. It selects recipients for the APASSC Early Researcher Awards.

BSA, CPTA, CARE, and APASSC will meet March 23-25, 2007. In the fall, CPTA, CARE, and APASSC will meet September 28-30, 2007 and BSA will meet November 2-4, 2007. COSA's fall meeting will be scheduled in the near future. The Ad Hoc Committee to Advance Research will meet February 2-3, 2007. ■

## **Applications Available for Undergraduate Summer Science Programs**

The Science Directorate is now accepting applications for its two premier summer undergraduate research programs — the thirteenth Summer Science Institute (SSI) and the fourth Advanced Statistical Training in Psychology (ASTP).

The Summer Science Institute will be held at the **University of California, San Diego**, June 22 - July 1, 2007, with applications accepted until **February 16, 2007**. At SSI, 32 exceptional undergraduate students will be immersed in the science of psychology. During the intensive session, students will explore the intellectual, personal, and social nature of research in psychology through stimulating group seminars and laboratory experiences. SSI will stress the importance of the scientific method in psychology. Students will have the opportunity to learn from distinguished faculty at one of the nation's top graduate programs in psychology. Among the areas that may be explored are: biological psychopathology, clinical science and psychopathology research, cognitive and biological psychology, counseling psychology, differential psychology/behavior genetics, industrial/organizational psychology, personality research, psychometric/quantitative methods, school psychology, and social psychology. We'll also cover some important practical topics, including deciding on graduate study and careers in scientific psychology. Please visit [the Summer Science Institute website](#) for complete details about the program and the online application.

Applications for ASTP, to be held at the **American Psychological Association** July 14 - 22, 2007, will be accepted until **March 2, 2007**. This program is designed to give rising seniors, who plan to pursue advanced degrees in psychological science, the opportunity to learn about statistics and research methods in a dynamic setting that emphasizes hands-on computer skills. ASTP targets students from traditionally underrepresented groups in psychology. The definition of underrepresented groups for this program is broad and includes members of ethnic minority groups, first generation college students, and students who have had to overcome other kinds of social, physical or economic barriers on the road to academic excellence. Please visit [the Advanced Statistical Training in Psychology website](#) for the online application and more program information.

Please contact the Science Directorate (202-336-6000; [science@apa.org](mailto:science@apa.org)) if you have questions.

# 2007 Academic Career Workshops

by Stephanie Cox

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The Science Directorate's Academic Career Workshops have become an integral part of many scientific society meetings. We continue to receive rave review from attendees. The purpose of these workshops is to introduce graduate and postdoctoral students to the nuts and bolts of pursuing an academic career. Topics range from a description of variations in the academic culture across institutions to the pragmatics of the recruiting and hiring process.

See below for the workshops that are scheduled for the spring. If you are interested in additional information

about the workshops, such as co-hosting or attending one, please contact Stephanie Cox by phone at 202-336-5918 or email at [scox@apa.org](mailto:scox@apa.org).

Also, please check out our webpage for more information on an academic career at <http://www.apa.org/science/careers.html>.

There is no charge to attend these workshops!

## Spring 2007 Academic Career Workshop Schedule

**Midwestern Psychological Association:  
May 3-5, 2007**  
Chicago, IL

Workshop Date: Thursday, May 3, 2007

Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

<http://www.midwesternpsych.org>

## **Society for Research on Child Development: March 29, 2007**

Boston, MA

Workshop Date: Thursday, March 29, 2007

Time: 8:30 am – 11:30 am

[www.srcd.org/preconferences.html](http://www.srcd.org/preconferences.html)

## **Career Day at University of Maryland at Baltimore County**

Baltimore, MD

Workshop Date: To Be Determined

Time: To Be Determined ■

## Call for Nominations: Master Lecturers and Distinguished Scientist Lecturers

The American Psychological Association's (APA) Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) is soliciting nominations for speakers for the 2008 Master Lecture Program and the 2008 Distinguished Scientist Lecture Program. These annual programs spotlight experts in psychological science and are sponsored by the APA's Science Directorate.

Selected speakers receive an honorarium of \$1,000 and reimbursement for travel expenses, up to \$1,000. All nominees should be excellent public speakers. BSA will review all nominations at its 2007 spring meeting and begin to contact potential speakers for these programs. Nominations may be for either the Distinguished Lecture Program or the Master Lecture Program (or both).

The **Master Lecture Program**, developed by BSA, supports up to five (5) psychological scientists to speak at the APA Annual Convention. A list of previously selected speakers can be found on-line at <http://www.apa.org/science/masterlecturers.html>. BSA has organized the lectures into ten core areas that reflect the field. Each year, five of these areas are addressed by Master Lecturers. Speakers for the 2008 Convention, to be held in Boston, MA, August 14-17, 2008, will be chosen to have expertise in each of the following areas:

- developmental psychology
- learning, behavior and action
- methodology
- psychopathology
- social and cultural psychology

The **Distinguished Scientist Lecture Program**, developed by BSA, supports up to three (3) psychological scientists to speak at Regional Psychological Association meetings to be held in 2008. Speakers must be actively engaged in research, with expertise in any area. A list of previously selected speakers and their topics can be found on-line at <http://www.apa.org/science/distsci-lecturer.html>.

Please send in the name of your nominee(s) by e-mail or fax to Suzanne Wandersman, APA Science Directorate, 750 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC. 20002-4242 (e-mail: [swandersman@apa.org](mailto:swandersman@apa.org); fax 202-336-5953).

Nominations must be received by **February 20, 2007**.

# APA on the Inside and Outside of DHS Reorganization

by Geoff Mumford

Last month we alluded to a reorganization of the Science and Technology Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated by the new Under Secretary, Rear Admiral Jay Cohen. Cohen arrived on the scene having received high marks for his leadership of the Office of Naval Research where behavioral science was highly valued under his stewardship. While the DHS research budget was cut by Congress in the last round of funding, it would appear that Cohen brought his appreciation of behavioral science with him by elevating it to Divisional status within the Directorate.

That newly minted Divisional structure was first described to us at a Board of Scientific Affairs retreat by APA member Michelle Keeney, who serves as Science Adviser in the Human Factors Division, one of the [six reorganized S&T Divisions](http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/editorial_0531.shtm) ([http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/editorial\\_0531.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/editorial_0531.shtm)). Keeney noted that her Division includes a traditional human factors component (i.e., enhancing the machine-human interface) but has a much broader mandate that includes an application of social and behavioral sciences to improve threat detection, monitoring of radicalization movements, and disaster preparedness and response. Keeney is evidently a standout and held in extremely high regard by her colleagues as she was the lone behavioral scientist (and only DHS employee) recently honored by then-Director of National Intelligence (DNI), John Negroponte with one of [10 DNI Fellowships](http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20061215_release.pdf) ([http://www.dni.gov/press\\_releases/20061215\\_release.pdf](http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20061215_release.pdf)). In addition to developing the Human Factors portfolio with in-house expertise, Keeney's Division draws on external scientists in support of its efforts as well. And while we've seen ample evidence of that from the Human Factors Division, we were

concerned about how the S&T Directorate was going to handle that issue overall because a critical advisory committee had been allowed to dissolve.

The charter for the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee (HSSTAC) expired in November of 2005 and Congress was slow to reauthorize it. Thankfully, buried in the SAFE Port Act of 2006, the charter was revived and extended through December 31, 2008 but this time narrowly directed at port security issues. As we reported last month, we viewed this as an opportunity and coordinated with other scientific and professional associations to urge Under Secretary Cohen to reconstitute the HSSTAC as soon as possible in our [letter](http://www.apa.org/ppo/1206HSSTAC-Cohen.pdf) of December 11, 2006 (<http://www.apa.org/ppo/1206HSSTAC-Cohen.pdf>). On January 11, we received a [positive response](http://www.apa.org/ppo/Cohen-HSSTAC.pdf) (<http://www.apa.org/ppo/Cohen-HSSTAC.pdf>) indicating that he valued the sort of outside expertise HSSTAC could provide and planned on reconvening the Committee again early this year.

Funding issues aside, the infrastructure to support behavioral and social science at DHS looks adequate in the near term, but what of our future? DHS University Programs supplies additional good news, and the Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows program continues to support the next generation of scientists in fields of study deemed important to the DHS mission including behavioral and social sciences. Public presentation of the [award data](http://www.orau.gov/dhsed/) were collapsed across all social sciences for 2006 (<http://www.orau.gov/dhsed/>) and so we asked for a [finer-grained analysis](http://www.apa.org/ppo/APARequestOnField.pdf) (<http://www.apa.org/ppo/APARequestOnField.pdf>). While it would appear that psychology as a discipline didn't fare as well as it has in

previous years, the broad category of social sciences eclipsed all other disciplines in terms of undergraduate awards (scholars) and was second only to engineers for graduate students (fellows). ■

## Call for Nominations: Neal Miller Distinguished Lecture

The American Psychological Association's Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) is soliciting nominations for speakers for the 2008 Neal Miller Distinguished Lecture that is scheduled during the APA Convention in Boston, MA, August 14-17, 2008. This annual presentation spotlights experts in neuroscience and animal research. The selected speaker receives reimbursement for his/her travel expenses, up to \$1,000. BSA will select the speaker at its 2007 spring meeting.

BSA is pleased to be able to dedicate time during the APA convention to neuroscience and animal research. The board honored the eminent neuroscientist Neal Miller by naming the lecture after him. Past speakers include: Neal Miller, Nancy Wexler, Larry Squire, Joseph LeDoux, Martha McClintock, Robert Ader, Linda Bartoshuk, Steven Maier, Elizabeth Gould, Edward Taub, J. Bruce Overmier, and Lynn Nadel, and Bruce McEwen.

**Nominations must be received by February 20, 2007.**

Please send a vita for your nominee by e-mail to [swandersman@apa.org](mailto:swandersman@apa.org) or fax to:

**Suzanne Wandersman**  
APA Science Directorate  
750 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC. 20002-4242  
fax 202-336-5953

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The study of Alzheimer's disease was not originally part of his research, but he was able to make it part of his lab's focus after several family members were affected by the devastating disease. Buckner has been involved in projects that have improved memory in older adults as shown by fMRI evidence, and is currently considering how to conduct the next step of this research: improving memory in real world conditions.

#### How are objects recognized?

Sinha was chosen to receive the Troland Award in acknowledgment of his research on visual cognition, which studies vision from a cognitive science

perspective. He currently focuses on learning and recognition in visual cognition, using both human experiments and computer based models. Sinha's research on the visual recognition of objects, patterns, and faces has been applied to some of the most basic questions in neuroscience such as how people see.

His research on sight and cognition has led to a mutually beneficial combination of outreach and research, in which his lab studies the visual skills of children in India who receive treatment for congenital blindness. Because little is known about how people learn to see and to recognize, this project has the goal of creating

effective rehabilitation methods for children who become sighted. This methodology complements the usual method of studying object learning in infants. The data about visual skill acquisition in these children helps elucidate how object concepts are learned in the human brain.

The Troland Research Award program is facilitated by the National Academy of Sciences. ■

*More information, including a list of past recipients, can be obtained at:*  
[http://www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AWARDS\\_troland](http://www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AWARDS_troland)

## Call for Nominations for the 2007 APA Science Student Council (APASSC)

The Science Directorate requests your help in making nominations to the APA Science Student Council (APASSC). Formed in 1993, the APASSC is a diverse group of science-oriented psychology graduate students who serve as an advisory group to the APA Science Directorate. The Council represents the interests of science-oriented students by providing valuable advice to the Directorate on how it can best serve the science student population. The Council has been actively involved in a number of projects, including awarding prizes for graduate-level research, organizing student programs for the APA Convention and making recommendations on the Directorate's student programs.

The Directorate is seeking nominations of second or third year graduate students, or first year graduate students with a master's degree in psychology, to serve a two-year term for the 2007 and 2008 calendar years, during which time they must be actively engaged in their programs. Council members are required to attend two weekend meetings per year during the term in Washington, DC, at APA's expense.

Four (4) positions are currently available on the Council, one position in each of the following areas of research:

• **Biopsychology**

Sample areas of interest: Neurobiological Mechanisms Underlying Behavior

• **Cognitive Science**

Sample areas of interest: Sensation/perception, Action, Memory, Learning

• **Developmental Psychology**

Sample areas of interest: Infancy, Gerontology, Emerging Adulthood, Lifespan Development

• **Industrial/Organizational Research**

Sample areas of interest: Industrial, Organizational, Occupational Health

**All nominations must be received by Friday, February 2, 2007, and must include the following materials:**

1. A letter of recommendation (not to exceed 500 words) from the student's advisor, co-signed by the Department Chair, endorsing the nomination.
2. An essay written by the student about why s/he wants to be on the Council and how s/he could contribute as a Council member (not to exceed 500 words).
3. A description written by the student about his/her research in psychology that demonstrates commitment to psychological science (not to exceed 500 words).
4. An abbreviated curriculum vitae (not to exceed two pages).

Nomination materials may be sent electronically. Please direct questions and nominations to the APA Science Directorate, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242; tel.: 202-336-6000; email: [scistudent@apa.org](mailto:scistudent@apa.org).

New members will be selected by **February 16, 2007**.

For more information on the APASSC and the Council's current projects, please visit the website, [www.apa.org/science/apasscweb.html](http://www.apa.org/science/apasscweb.html).

# Office of Applied Psychological Science (OAPS) Seeks Member Comments

by Stephanie R. Johnson

The development of the office of Applied Psychological Science is well underway. However, input is needed from the applied psychology community to ensure the success of this initiative. Although not exhaustive, a list of sub-disciplines within applied psychology has been identified on which we will initially concentrate our efforts. Included in this list are the following: Industrial/Organizational psychology, forensic and legal psychology, human factors, military psychology, consulting psychology, community psychology, exercise and sports psychology, occupational health psychology, and school psychology.

Over the next few months we will be asking APA members to provide critical information germane to these sub-disciplines within applied psychological science. We will be requesting information on graduate training programs, research centers, non-academic careers for scientific psychologists, upcoming conferences, support websites, and research topics of interest. This information will be used to build the OAPS website and to guide the development of initiatives within the office. The goal is to provide APA members and students with the most current information about applied psychological science and facilitate the growth of this dynamic area.

This month, we are requesting information on applied psychological science graduate programs. If you are aware of any existing or new applied psychology graduate programs please forward this information to [srjohnson@apa.org](mailto:srjohnson@apa.org). Please supply as much information as possible about the program, including name of institution, location, name of program director,

website url, and special focus of the program.

Thank you for assisting the Science Directorate in developing an applied psychological science office that can better serve the needs of APA members!

## **Future Information Requests:**

**February: Nonacademic Careers for Scientific psychologists**  
**March: Research Topics of Interests**  
**April: Upcoming Conferences**  
**May: Support Websites** ■

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## **Upcoming Application Deadlines: Advanced Training Institutes (ATIs)**

This is just a reminder that the application deadlines for the 2007 ATIs are quickly approaching. Take advantage of your opportunity to gain valuable knowledge in cutting-edge technologies at one of these hands-on APA-sponsored events. ATIs tackle the big issues confronting researchers who use (or want to use) these innovative methodologies. Through lecture, labs, and discussions, ATI instructors discuss many of the diverse ways that emerging technologies are being applied across psychology. A special effort is also made to cover some specific ways that individual attendees can incorporate these methods into their research. Applications will be accepted until seats are filled for some programs, while others have strict application procedures and deadlines beginning in February. Financial support is available for some programs. Details can be found on [the web](#) or by contacting [ati@apa.org](mailto:ati@apa.org).

### **Structural Equation Modeling in Longitudinal Research**

May 28 - June 1, 2007

**Application Deadline - Feb. 28, 2007**

### **Childcare: It's More than You Think! A practical and hands-on approach to using large-scale databases**

June 4-8, 2007

**Application Deadline - Feb. 28, 2007**

### **Nonlinear Methods for Psychological Science**

June 11-15, 2007

**Application Deadline - Mar. 26, 2007**

### **Performing Web-Based Research**

July 9-13, 2007

**Application Deadline - Apr. 2, 2007**

### **Geographic Information Systems for Psychological Research**

August 16, 2007

**Applications Accepted Until Seats Filled**

**To apply or for more information please visit the ATI website at <http://www.apa.org/science/ati.html>**

# Small Program has a Big Year!

by Stephanie Cox

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The Science Directorate's Scientific Conferences Grant Program, established in 1987, recently awarded grants to nine institutions! The large number of proposals received made the selection process difficult.

Grants awarded from the June 1 and December 1 Call for Proposals are listed below:

**Chaos and Children's Development: Levels of Analysis and Mechanisms**

Gary Evans, Cornell University;  
Theodore D. Wachs, Purdue University

**Festschrift in Honor of George Sperling: Frontiers in Human Information Processing - Vision, Attention, Memory, and Application**

Barbara Anne Doshier and Charles Chubb, University of California- Irvine

**Festschrift in Honor of Michael Lewis: Contributions to the Study of Emotional and Social Development**

Barbara Louis and Margaret W. Sullivan, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

**Ohio University Conference on Interrogations and Confessions**

G. Daniel Lassiter, Ohio University;  
Christian A. Meissner, University of Texas at El Paso

**Tufts University Initiative on Emerging Trends in Psychology: The Cognitive Science of Semantics**

Robert Cook and Gina R. Kuperberg, Tufts University

**The Neural Systems of Social Behavior**

Jennifer Beer, University of Texas, Austin

**Festschrift for K. Warner Schaie**

Steve Zarit, Pennsylvania State University

**2007 Courage Summit**

Cynthia Pury, Clemson University

**Autism Spectrum Disorder: Recent Advances in Infantile Origins, Early Childhood Detection, & Intervention**

Lewis Lipsitt, Brown University

The purpose of the Conferences Grant Program is to promote the exchange of important new contributions and approaches in scientific psychology. The tightening of institutional funding has made this program even more important to psychological scientists as they seek outside sources to support scientific conferences.

A review committee of APA members makes conference grant award decisions. Members of this committee are: Oscar Barbarin, Anita Davis, Michael Domjan, Kathleen McDermott, Kevin Murphy, and James W. Pennebaker.

For more information, please see the Scientific Conferences Grant program webpage at [www.apa.org/science/confer2.html](http://www.apa.org/science/confer2.html). The next deadline is **June 1, 2007**. ■

## 2007 Oswald-Külpe-Award for the Experimental Study of Higher Mental Processes

Honoring the great tradition of the Würzburg School of Psychology and its founder Oswald Külpe, the University of Würzburg invites nominations for its Oswald-Külpe-Award, which is conferred biennially in a special ceremony.

The purpose of the award is to recognize exceptional scientific contributions to the experimental study of higher mental processes. The previous winner was Prof. Asher Koriat of the University of Haifa, Israel.

For the second time, the Oswald-Külpe-Award will be presented in Würzburg on November 2, 2007 by the president of the university and the chair of the psychology department. It includes a cash prize of 4,000 euro and the winner's expenses for travelling and accommodation.

Eligible are scientists of all nationalities and without any age restrictions. The only criterion is the candidates' proven excellence in experimental research on higher mental processes. This may pertain to different areas of psychology.

Applications and nominations must be received by **June 1, 2007**. They should include

- a letter addressing the candidate's merits with respect to the criterion of the award;
- a current curriculum vitae and bibliography;
- the names of two distinguished colleagues who are willing to write letters of recommendation.

Materials should be sent to the chair of the psychology department:

Prof. Fritz Strack  
LS Psychologie II  
Röntgenring 10  
97070 Würzburg  
Germany

For further information write to: [strack@psychologie.uni-wuerzburg.de](mailto:strack@psychologie.uni-wuerzburg.de)

# Culture of Service Awards: Nominate Someone and/or Your Department!

by Suzanne Wandersman

The Science Directorate is looking for nominations for its two Culture of Service awards. One award honors individuals and the other award honors academic departments.

## Award for Distinguished Service to Psychological Science

The APA Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) is soliciting nominations for the Award for Distinguished Service to Psychological Science. This Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to psychological science through their commitment to a culture of service. Award recipients will receive an honorarium of \$1,000. The deadline for nominations is **April 20, 2007**.

Nominees will have demonstrated their service to the discipline by aiding in association governance; serving on boards, committees and various psychological associations; editing journals; reviewing grant proposals; mentoring students and colleagues; advocating for psychological science's best interests with state and federal lawmakers; and promoting the value of psychological science in the public eye. Nominees may be involved in one service area, many of the areas, or all of the service areas noted above. An individual's service to the discipline and not a person's scholarly achievements are the focus of this award.

**Additional information and instructions on submitting applications can be found on the APA Science Directorate website (<http://www.apa.org/science.html>).**

## Departmental Award for Culture of Service in the Psychological Sciences

The APA Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) is soliciting nominations for the Departmental Award for Culture of

Service in the Psychological Sciences. This Award recognizes departments that demonstrate a commitment to service in the psychological sciences.

Departments selected for this award will show a pattern of support for service from faculty at all levels, including a demonstration that service to the discipline is rewarded in faculty tenure and promotion. Successful Departments will also demonstrate that service to the profession is an integral part of training and mentoring. Each Department selected will receive an award of \$5,000 to be used for departmental activities. The deadline for nominations is **April 20, 2007**.

Service to the discipline includes such activities as departmental release time for serving on boards and committees of psychological associations; editing

journals; serving on a review panel; or chairing an IRB. Other culture of service activities that a department would encourage include mentoring students and colleagues; advocating for psychological science's best interests with state and federal lawmakers; and promoting the value of psychological science in the public eye. The focus of this award is a department's faculty service to the discipline and not their scholarly achievements. Both Undergraduate and Graduate Departments of Psychology are eligible. Self-nominations are encouraged.

**Additional information and instructions on submitting applications can be found on the APA Science Directorate website (<http://www.apa.org/science.html>).** ■

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## Apply for an APA Convention Student Travel Award!

The Science Directorate announces its 20th annual APA Student Travel Award competition. Each year, the Directorate provides \$300 grants to up to 100 psychology graduate students to facilitate travel to the APA Annual Convention to present their research. Selection decisions are based on the quality of the submitted information. Geographic location is also considered in granting the awards. Up to three students from each department of psychology may submit applications. If more than three students from a department wish to apply for these funds, the department must perform an initial screening and forward only three applications.

The deadline for applications is **April 2, 2007** for travel to the 115<sup>th</sup> annual APA Convention, taking place August 17-20 in San Francisco, California. All applicants must have their paper or poster accepted by an APA division prior to applying for the grant.

For more information about this grant opportunity, please visit the website at <http://www.apa.org/science/travinfo.html> or email [science@apa.org](mailto:science@apa.org)

## Call for Applications: Mentoring Fellowship Award for Advanced Graduate and Postdoctoral Students

Apply for a \$1000 Travel Award to Attend the APA Annual Convention in San Francisco, 2007

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Aspiring psychological scientists working with nonhuman animals are invited to apply for a terrific professional development opportunity. Divisions 3 (Experimental Psychology), 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience & Comparative Psychology), 25 (Behavior Analysis), 28 (Psychopharmacology & Substance Abuse) and 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues) and the Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE), are teaming up to provide collaborative mentoring for promising new scholars in the fields of behavioral neuroscience, comparative psychology, experimental analyses of behavior, and psychopharmacology and substance abuse. This initiative expands and enhances the **CARE Imprinting Award** program, successfully launched at the 2006 APA Convention in New Orleans. The Mentoring Fellowship Award will provide up to 10 awardees with \$1000 in travel funds to attend the APA Annual Convention in San Francisco, where they will participate in activities designed: to enable junior investigators to develop meaningful contacts with senior scientists and program directors in their fields; to help awardees' navigate a variety of professional settings that they will encounter early in their research career; and to identify with APA as a professional home. This project also aims to make our research community more inclusive; toward this end, we especially invite participation of scientists from underrepresented minority groups.

To apply, submit a statement of your research interests, a CV, a letter of recommendation, and a copy of a recent paper (published or in press) by **January 30, 2007**, to Sangeeta Panicker, Director, Research Ethics Office, Science Directorate: [spanicker@apa.org](mailto:spanicker@apa.org). Awardees will be notified in April, 2007.

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