



FROM KATHERINE B. MCGUIRE, APA CHIEF ADVOCACY OFFICER
For the Week of July 29, 2019

In this issue:

- ◆ **Providing Expertise to the White House on Veteran Suicide**
- ◆ **Standing Up for Basic Scientists at NIH**
- ◆ **Standing with Psychology Students Hurt by Proposed Budget Cuts in Alaska**
- ◆ **Delivering *APA Advocacy Washington Update* in person at APA 2019 in Chicago**

Providing Expertise to the White House on Veteran Suicide

APA has asked psychological scientists with expertise in veteran suicide prevention to provide research recommendations to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of Veterans Affairs for their update of the National Research Strategy, which seeks “to improve the coordination, monitoring, benchmarking and execution of public- and private-sector research related to the factors that contribute to veteran suicide.” Learn more about the National Research Strategy and how to submit research recommendations through this [Request for Information](#). Individuals can provide responses [here](#) by Aug. 5.

For more information, contact Heather O’Beirne Kelly, PhD, at hkelly@apa.org.

Standing Up for Basic Scientists at NIH

In response to advocacy by APA and its allies, NIH has [announced](#) that it will delay implementing its expanded clinical trials policy until September 2021. Since 2017, APA, the Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences (FABBS) and other groups have asked NIH to reconsider its [decision](#) to define and regulate basic studies with humans as if they were clinical trials studies, since many research psychologists who conduct basic research with humans have struggled to adapt to the new policy. APA and its allies requested congressional [report language](#) in the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill urging NIH to work with basic scientists and the societies to address problems with the policy. Last year, APA and its partners responded to a formal [Request for Information](#) by urging NIH to delay the policy, to reconsider, and to make it easier for basic scientists to register and report their studies. APA is eager to work with NIH to ensure that all research is defined, regulated and reported appropriately.

For more information, contact Pat Kobor at pkobor@apa.org.

Standing with Psychology Students Hurt by Proposed Budget Cuts in Alaska

Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy proposed a 41% cut in state funding to the University of Alaska system, as well as deep cuts to the state’s other public health and education programs. Psychology students from Alaska alerted APA to the devastating impact these cuts could have, including the potential to close the state’s only APA-accredited psychology program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. APA partnered with students, faculty and the Alaska Psychological Association to urge psychologists, students and faculty in Alaska to contact their state legislators before a vote on a must-pass modified state budget. Their advocacy efforts helped to stave off some proposed cuts. Still, students and faculty continue to face uncertainty while the university determines how to implement these reductions.

For more information, contact Karen Studwell, JD, at kstudwell@apa.org or Bryant Robinson at brobenson@apa.org.

Delivering *APA Advocacy Washington Update* in person at APA 2019 in Chicago

APA advocacy staff will meet with APA divisions and discuss advocacy priorities at several sessions during APA 2019. Highlights include:

- ♦ **Friday, Aug. 9, 3-3:50 p.m.: “Washington Policy Blitz: Advancing APA’s Strategic Priorities”**
Antonio E. Puente, PhD, and Jennifer Kelly, PhD, co-chairs of APA’s Advocacy Coordinating Committee, will update attendees on the committee’s work. In addition, APA Chief Advocacy Officer Katherine B. McGuire, MS, and other members of the advocacy team will report on the association’s recent advocacy wins.
- ♦ **Friday, Aug. 9, 2-3:50 p.m.: “From Polarization to Action: Reconciling Guild and Social Justice Issues in SPTAs”**
As part of the Convention State Leadership Forum, we’ll be leading a discussion on how state, provincial and territorial psychological associations can integrate social justice issues and guild-related advocacy. Participants include Jim Broyles, PhD, Ohio Psychological Association Director of Professional Affairs, Katherine B. McGuire, MS, APA Chief Advocacy Officer, Connie Galietti, JD, APA Legal & Professional Affairs Director, Clinton Anderson, PhD, APA Public Interest Directorate Interim Executive Director, and Aaron Bishop, MSSW, APA Advocacy Office.
- ♦ **Saturday, Aug. 10, 7:30-9 a.m.: Annual Education Advocacy Breakfast**
[RSVP](#) now for an event hosted by APA’s Board of Educational Affairs to learn about APA’s advocacy efforts for psychology. In addition to hearing an update from the Advocacy Coordinating Committee on APA advocacy integration, the event will recognize distinguished education advocates. The breakfast is being held at the Chicago Marriott Marquis, Grand Lakes Ballroom E.
- ♦ **Saturday, Aug. 10, 8-9:50 a.m.: “Summit on Psychological Science”**
Join us for an open discussion about the current state and future of psychological science, sponsored by APA Div. 3 (Society for Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science) and Div. 6 (Society for Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology). Panelists include APA Chief Scientific Officer Russ Shilling, PhD, APA Chief Advocacy Officer Katherine B. McGuire, MS, APA President Rosie Phillips Davis, PhD, ABPP, President-elect Sandy Shullman, PhD, APA Board of Scientific Affairs Chair Keith Widaman, PhD, Div. 3 President Frank Farley, PhD, Div. 6 President Mike Beran, PhD, Div. 3 President-elect Steve Goldinger, PhD, and Div. 6 President-elect Mark Krause, PhD. The event will be held in McCormick Place, Room W470b.
- ♦ **Sunday, Aug. 11, 7:30-11:30 a.m.: Morning of Service for Fisher House**
Join APA colleagues who will be serving breakfast at Fisher House, a nonprofit comfort home for military personnel, veterans and their families. Email Heather O’Beirne Kelly, PhD, at hkelly@apa.org to sign up for this event, which is located at the Hines VA Medical Center, [5000 South 5th Ave., Hines, Illinois](#), about 10 miles west of downtown Chicago.

The “APA Advocacy Washington Update” newsletter will take a hiatus next week for APA 2019 in Chicago. This email report will resume on Aug. 16.