



Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences (FABBS) 2009 Annual Report

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Executive Director

The 2009 calendar year has been incredibly busy for FABBS. In the fall of 2008, the Executive Committee engaged in a strategic planning process in an effort to enhance our advocacy and education activities and position the organization for growth. Although our overall agenda on behalf of our member organizations remains unchanged, the Executive Committee refined our mission to better communicate our message:

The Federation promotes human potential and well-being by advancing the sciences of mind, brain, and behavior. As a coalition of scientific societies, we communicate with policy makers and the public about the importance and contributions of basic and applied research in these sciences.

As a result of the strategic planning process, the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences changed its name to the Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences (FABBS). We continue to hear from federal agency staff and colleagues in Washington, DC regarding the ease of remembering our new name. The branding campaign also led to a name change and other efforts to more clearly link the Federation and our Foundation. The Foundation for the Advancement of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is now known as the FABBS Foundation. We completed the process of redesigning our logos and letterhead and hope to have a redesigned website in the coming weeks.

All of this, however, is a backdrop to the purpose for the Federation: to conduct advocacy and education activities to advance our sciences. Our many activities this year are detailed below. Where relevant, I also identify areas of concern that will be on our advocacy agenda for 2010.

Advocacy and Education Highlights

Identify and Enhance Funding Opportunities for Our Sciences

Perhaps the most important issue for our member organizations is funding for our sciences. This work begins by ensuring that the federal agencies that provide funding opportunities for our sciences receive adequate funding increases. This year, FABBS worked individually and in coalition with other scientific societies to promote funding for NIH and NSF in the FY 2009 and FY 2010 appropriations bills. FABBS also developed testimony for the House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee to highlight the contributions of our sciences and the need for increased funding at NIH. Jay McClelland, FABBS President-Elect was invited to provide the oral testimony.

Unique in 2009 was the interest by the President and Congress in stimulating the economy by funding science that would align with the President's priorities. NIH and NSF saw significant increases in funding for research through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Early this year, FABBS worked in coalition to advocate for science funding, interacting with the Speaker's Office and appropriations staff to ensure inclusion in the stimulus package. The response from the scientific community was tremendous, signaling the real need to do more to maintain adequate funding levels going forward.

FABBS is currently participating in coalitions to consider our "ask" for FY 2011 for both NIH and NSF appropriations. Given the number of people who want the attention of appropriators, the scientific community has, for years, come together to agree upon a number to take to appropriators. This year, we are considering a request that is realistic given the economic climate, but one that will avoid a cliff for science funding in out-years when stimulus funding runs out.

Besides communicating with Congress, scientific societies must also communicate the importance of our sciences to federal agencies. This past year, FABBS met with numerous people in the NIH leadership, including NIH Acting Director Raynard Kington and OBSSR Acting Director Chris Bachrach, in order to determine their perceptions of the status of behavioral and social sciences research at NIH as well as communicate the concerns of our member organizations. In addition, we met with Jeremy Berg, NIGMS Director, to encourage additional support for research in the area of social modeling and, importantly, support for basic behavioral and social sciences research at NIH. Together with other behavioral and social science societies in Washington, DC, we advocated for additional support for our sciences, especially areas of basic research that were important to the NIH mission, but were no longer being funded. These messages were heard, and recently, NIH announced the launch of a five-year initiative on basic behavioral and social sciences research: OPPNET for Opportunity Network. As part of this initiative, FABBS has encouraged interactions between the NIH Steering Committee and the extramural community for out-year funding so that scientists can help shape what is needed and promising areas of science are not overlooked.

FABBS also met with the NSF's SBE Director, David Lightfoot, about NSF priorities, opportunities, and current funding levels in behavioral science research. Dr. Lightfoot spearheaded the creation of a report through the National Science and Technology Council's Subcommittee on Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences that identified some of the nation's biggest challenges and how our sciences could contribute to addressing them. FABBS wrote a letter (co-signed by the Consortium of Social Science Organizations) encouraging the release of the report, and this summer organized a Congressional Briefing to highlight the report and the need for sustained funding for our sciences. On our agenda for the remainder of 2009 and in 2010 will be to push for increases in SBE funding that align with overall NSF increases, since SBE funding is not keeping pace (e.g., in FY 2010, an increase of 6.9% for SBE vs. 11% overall at NSF).

An exciting new initiative to launch a “Decade of the Mind” is gaining traction behind the scenes and has tremendous potential for our sciences. FABBS was able to add three people to the Steering Committee for this initiative (Jay McClelland, Susan Fiske, and John Cacioppo) and shape the proposal to include our sciences, moving it from one that was predominantly focused on the neurosciences. The proposal has been received well at the White House and will lay the foundation for a major initiative in the coming year(s).

To promote funding for science, FABBS participates in a number of coalitions, including the Coalition for National Science Funding (focused on NSF), Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding (focused on NIH), the Coalition for Health Funding (focused on DHHS agencies such as NIH and CDC), and the Coalition for the Advancement of Research Through Behavioral and Social Science Research (focused on NIH, but specific to our sciences). These coalitions play a central role in advocacy efforts to increase funding for science.

In order to track how we are doing, FABBS is collecting information regarding what public data sources are available that show funding levels for our sciences. In addition, we want to understand how our sciences are categorized by various federal agencies, and how basic research in our sciences is defined. The Executive Committee and Council will begin discussions on the topic at our meetings in December.

Increase Awareness of Contributions and Promising Areas of Our Sciences

FABBS raises awareness about our sciences through multiple channels. In addition to the Congressional Briefing we organized this year, we wrote letters to the Director of the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy (John Holdren), the NIH Transition Team (which we sent to Francis Collins, current NIH Director who was part of that team), and the current NIH Director regarding the need to support the sciences of mind, brain, and behavior – both basic and applied – to address the nation’s challenges. In addition, the FABBS Executive Director and leaders from our scientific community (Elke Weber and Jay McClelland) met with staff of the House Science and Technology Committee to advocate for support for research in our sciences at NSF.

In order to highlight the broad range of contributions from scientists in our member organizations, FABBS worked with member societies to provide names of researchers for a review of NICHD’s research portfolio in intellectual and developmental disabilities and a Department of Defense radio program addressing research areas in cognitive science and human factors. FABBS also helped develop letters for Congress and federal agencies that point to our member organizations as resources for science-based information on key issues (e.g., pay-for-performance, hiring practices, health information technology).

To further our reach, FABBS represents our member organization interests at a wide range of meetings (e.g., OSTP’s Science of Science Policy, Advisory Councils). These provide an opportunity to track the status of issues, build relationships, and seek new opportunities. FABBS also co-sponsors Congressional briefings and exhibitions to raise our visibility (e.g., briefing on building a diverse scientific workforce, exhibition on

Capitol Hill to showcase NIH-supported behavioral and social sciences research). Over the past year and a half, FABBS has actively participated in the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Through this coalition, scientific societies are encouraged to consider how their science can be used in the service of human rights.

An important component of raising awareness about our sciences to a larger public audience is through the FABBS Foundation Science Cafes. This year, with the generous support of SAGE Publications, the FABBS Foundation organized a café entitled *Relieving Stress: Research Helps Children and Adults Cope*. Café speakers Shelley Taylor (UCLA) and Ellen Galinsky (Families and Work Institute) addressed work and family stressors, how stress affects productivity and “gets under the skin” to affect health, and positive ways to cope with these stressors. The event was held at the Newseum in Washington DC. Importantly, this event was our first café to be webcast, providing an opportunity for member organizations, affiliates, and the public outside the DC area to actively participate.

Through the FABBS Foundation, we also recognized in 2009 the achievements of eleven eminent senior scientists through our “In Honor Of” program: Herbert Clark, John Darley, Michael Gazzaniga, Norma Graham, Robert Guion, Kenneth Hammond, Daniel Kahneman, Walter Kintsch, M. Jackson Marr, Walter Mischel, and Donald Norman. These scientists have made significant contributions to the development of knowledge in their fields, and are recognized on the FABBS Foundation website and in our newsletter.

A special project of the FABBS Foundation is coming to completion this year, and in early 2010, Worth will publish *Psychology and the Real World: Essays Illustrating Fundamental Contributions to Society*. The project was led by Morton Ann Gernsbacher, James Pomerantz, Leaetta Hough, and Richard Pew, and the revenues earned will benefit the FABBS Foundation. The book contains original essays written by leading scientists and describes how psychological science has contributed to our lives. It is designed to accompany introductory psychology texts and includes a forward written by Malcolm Gladwell.

Tracking and Responding to Important Science Policy Issues

This year we saw the reemergence of attacks on specific behavioral and social science grants. At NIH, grants involving HIV/AIDS prevention in at-risk populations, the relationship between alcohol use and gun-related violence, and the impact of attention on the performance of difficult tasks were highlighted as examples of questionable spending in difficult economic times, among others. Specific efforts were made to defund some grants. In response, a broad range of scientific societies prepared statements and letters emphasizing support for the peer-review process. FABBS too prepared a statement and worked in coalition with other organizations (including the American Psychological Association whose staff co-chair the Coalition to Protect Research). In a move similar to one we saw a few years ago, an effort was also made to pull funding from political science research at NSF. It appears as if we will be successful in defending the science and peer-review process this year, but challenges will likely remain, especially in a

difficult economy. We will continue to monitor developments in this area and respond as needed. We also plan to develop a process that will allow the scientific community to easily respond to legislative issues when needed.

FABBS also tracks developments at key offices such as the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Office for Human Research Protections, and shares information with member organizations through our newsletter, e-mails, or RSS feed. We monitor the economic and political climate for science funding – at a broad level, but also for our sciences – and policies or regulations that affect our scientists. We share information about new NAS or government reports, draft regulations, or new policies on public access, data sharing, and changes to the grant submission process. This year, FABBS also worked with several societies to prepare a letter for the Office for Human Research Protections in response to a Federal Register notice on possible training and education requirements. Likewise, FABBS provided feedback to U.S. Representative DeGette’s staff on a draft human subjects protection bill.

Building a solid science-base for education and learning continues to be a priority for the administration, with opportunities for our member organizations. FABBS has participated in two AERA task force meetings that will lead to the development of a set of recommendations for reauthorizing the Institute of Education Sciences. We are exploring other projects as well for 2010.

Expand Reach of Scientists in Our Fields

As opportunities arise, FABBS tries to expand the reach of scientists in our member organizations. Doing so, raises the profile of our sciences and ensures that our voice is heard in key places. In 2009, FABBS generated the names of a number of highly qualified scientists to serve on the National Science Board and the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections. We also circulated announcements for key federal searches for NIH’s OBSSR Director and NSF’s SBE Director. We will continue to identify opportunities for our scientists in federal government and on federal advisory boards, and encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities where possible.

In August of this year, FABBS was fortunate to get the NIH Deputy Director (who had served as Acting NIH Director for the prior year) and the OBSSR Director to speak to representatives of our member organizations via conference call from the Federation’s offices. The result was a candid and productive conversation about the status of behavioral and social sciences research at NIH, the need for our sciences to promote interdisciplinary research and training, and the importance of encouraging strong applicants for the OBSSR Director’s position.

Communicating with Our Member Organizations and the Public

Our communications with member organizations are central to the work we do. Our goal is to provide you with relevant updates on the climate for science and our advocacy and education activities. In monthly newsletters and periodic RSS feeds, we get this

information to you in ways that are user-friendly. We also interact with member organization representatives – presidents, representatives to our Council, executive directors, committee chairs – as new opportunities specific to your organization arise. This year, FABBS created two committees involving our member organizations, one which provides input on our advocacy agenda and a second which encourages scientists to seek leadership positions in federal science agencies and on advisory boards. We continue to welcome your input to these committees.

The FABBS Foundation raises the visibility of our sciences with public audiences, conveying to a general audience what our sciences have to contribute to society. Our webcast of our 2009 science café aimed to reach an audience outside venues in Washington, DC. In 2010, we will continue to communicate this message to the public through science cafes, webcasts of our events, and new media. Our redesigned website will provide a vehicle for reaching these audiences.

Behind the Scenes

FABBS and the FABBS Foundation are governed by boards of volunteers that devote numerous hours to ensuring the organizations are accomplishing their missions. The FABBS President, Leaetta Hough, and FABBS Foundation President, Susan Fiske, have served the organizations in this capacity for the past two years, and we are incredibly grateful to them for their leadership. In January 2010, both will rotate to positions as Past-Presidents. FABBS welcomes Jay McClelland and Morton Ann Gernsbacher as Presidents of FABBS and the FABBS Foundation respectively. We also welcome Robert Sternberg and Art Graesser as Presidents-Elect of FABBS and the FABBS Foundation. Thanks to all the individuals listed below for their service.

FABBS Executive Committee		
Leaetta M. Hough, PhD President	Robert L. Stout, PhD Secretary	Susan T. Fiske, PhD Ex-Officio FABBS Foundation President
James L. McClelland, PhD President-Elect	Susan E. Brandon, PhD Member-at-Large	Paula R. Skedsvold, JD PhD Ex-Officio Executive Director
Thomas S. Wallsten, PhD Past-President	Gerald P. Krueger, PhD Member-at-Large	
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Paula R. Skedsvold, JD
PhD

Arthur C. Graesser, PhD
Member-at-Large

Ex-Officio
Executive Director

Also, thanks to the following people who served our committees and task forces. We sincerely appreciate their service.

FABBS Advocacy Committee

Susan Brandon, PhD
Leaetta Hough, PhD
Gerald Krueger, PhD
Paul Lehrer, PhD
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Harry Reis, PhD
Philip Rubin, PhD
Paula Skedsvold, JD PhD
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Morton Ann Gernsbacher, PhD
Leaetta Hough, PhD
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FABBS Internal Nomination Committee

Paula Pietromonaco, PhD
Robert Stout, PhD
Thomas Wallsten, PhD (chair)

FABBS Task Force on Measures of Success

Jeryl Mumpower, PhD
James Pomerantz, PhD

As many of you may know, we accomplish our work with only three staff. As Executive Director, I would also like to acknowledge the incredible work of Meghan McGowan and Steven Schwark who work with me to see that the business, advocacy, and education activities happen, on time, and seamlessly.

FABBS continues to represent twenty-two scientific societies in the sciences of mind, brain, and behavior. Thanks to all of our member organizations for continuing to support this important work. We have an exciting agenda for 2010, and we look forward to working with you to accomplish it.