

The [Coalition for Health Funding](#) asked for the allocation to to the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee be increased. More than 650 organizations including the American Brain Coalition signed on to the letter ([attached](#)). Here is more news from the science advocacy sphere.

SCIENCE ADVOCACY NEWS

- The National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#)) has released its [Strategic Plan for 2016-2020](#): Advancing Addiction Science, focusing on its mission to advance science on the causes and consequences of drug use and addiction and to apply that knowledge to improve individual and public health.
- The AAN is getting ready to go to Neurology on the Hill in just a week. Click [here](#) for the Capitol Hill report.

IN THE NEWS

- Learn about the new neuroscience discoveries made by recipients of the [IMHRO / Johnson & Johnson Rising Star Translational Research Award](#) - [Dr. Jean-Martin Beaulieu](#) who is discovering the roots of bipolar disorder, [Dr. Stephanie Dulawa](#) who is developing faster-onset antidepressants and [Dr. Philip Corlett](#) who is innovating the treatment and prediction of schizophrenia.
- The report from the [NeuroFutures Conference](#) which was held in summer of 2015 is out (see [attached](#)).
- A [recent study](#) unraveled signaling defects discovered in cells of people with autism.
- The National Institute of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Translational Research, Neurobehavioral Mechanisms of Mental Disorders Branch held a workshop entitled 'Loss of Skills and Onset Patterns in Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Understanding the Neurobiological Mechanisms'. You can access the webinar [here](#).
- The [NICHD](#), [NINDS](#), [NIDCR](#) and the [NIAID](#) issued a [Notice](#) to highlight interest in research on Zika virus (ZIKV) as it relates to the mother-infant dyad and sequelae of infection.
- World Bipolar Day takes place each year on March 30, the birthday of Vincent van Gogh who is believed to have had bipolar disorder. Submit your photo or video to get [participate!](#)
- A recent [study](#) shows that marijuana use and the age at which use is initiated, may adversely alter typical brain development.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a [public workshop](#) entitled 'Advancing the Development of Biomarkers in Traumatic Brain Injury' to examine potential biomarkers, discuss the challenges and solutions related to biomarker development methodologies, and establish strategies for data standardization, sharing and analysis of big data sets for traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- After reclaiming her life from bipolar disorder, Maureen Gillespie [gives back](#) to the community.

FOR AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION MEMBERS

- Attend the [First Annual SoCal Wine Dinner for Brain Health](#) on March 19, 2016 and support neuroscience research.
- [Join](#) a Q&A on How to Talk about Psychosis and ask question from February 24 to 26, 2016.
- [RSVP](#) for the SfN D.C. Metro Area Chapter New Year Networking Happy Hour to be held on February 26th, 2016.
- [Register](#) for ASCP's Spring Update Meeting to be held on March 19 and 20, 2016.
- FDA announced meetings of Pediatric Advisory Committee to discuss the use of opioid analgesics in the pediatric population. The [April Pediatric Advisory Committee meeting](#) will provide an opportunity for the Committee and the public to hear the proposed framework for the [September discussion](#). Both meetings will include an open public hearing and there will be an open public comment period to allow for patients, their families and health care providers to provide their input.

- [Register](#) to attend 2nd Annual Georgetown University Free Neuroscience Public Lecture to be held on March 16, 2016.
- Submit your essay for the topic: 'are people who live with bipolar disorder stigmatized in your community?' as part of the [2016 High School Essay Contest](#) sponsored by the [International Bipolar Foundation](#).
- [Join](#) an upcoming webinar entitled 'Diffusion Spectrum Imaging (DSI): A tool for unraveling disrupted structural connectivity in PTSD?' on February 24, 2016.
- Check out an [interview](#) where Dr. Robert M.A. Hirschfeld gives advice to parents caring for a child with bipolar disorder.
- Attend a [webinar](#) to be held on March 15, 2016 entitled "Adolescents With Bipolar Disorder: Tips on Coping for Families".
- Support a [campaign](#) to rethink Borderline Personality Disorder.
- The [NIH Rare Disease Day](#) on leap day will feature patients' voices and the impact of international collaboration. [Register](#) here.
- The Health Care Provider Conference Committee is organizing a [conference](#) entitled 'Rx for Dementia Care Providers on Saturday, March 5, 2016.