

Sen. Bernie Sanders and Democratic colleagues on the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee recently introduced the [National Biomedical Research Act](#). This Act would provide \$5 billion per year for research programs such as the [BRAIN](#), [Precision Medicine Initiatives](#), and grants for emerging scientists. Here is more from the world of science advocacy:

SCIENCE ADVOCACY NEWS

- The National Science Foundation announced its [intention](#) to hand out grants later this year to dozens of institutions to test novel ways of broadening participation in science and engineering.

IN THE NEWS

- 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!](#)
- In a study funded by the NIH, scientists summarized research on early childhood risk and protective factors for substance abuse. This [study](#) found that a child's first eight years are critical for substance abuse prevention.
- Another study [found](#) that eye cells might use math to detect motion.
- Abnormalities in a [highly duplicated genome region](#) may give clues to symptoms of autism and schizophrenia.
- A widely prescribed antidepressant citalopram (sold under Celexa and other trade names) [has been found](#) to reduce agitation in Alzheimer's disease, but it was found not suitable in all patients.
- The [Center for BrainHealth](#) welcomes [Dr. Ian Robertson](#), world renowned neuropsychologist, as the [T. Boone Pickens Distinguished Scientist](#) at the Center for BrainHealth. Robertson will concentrate on investigating non-pharmacological interventions to improve cognitive performance and brain health using psychophysiological measures and neuroimaging.
- The Parkinson's disease Foundation has decided to invest in the [next generation](#) of nursing leaders.
- The FDA has [announced](#) that it will provide \$2 million in new grants for natural history studies in rare diseases.
- Check out lectures on [how meditation can transform business](#), the [brain machine interface](#), the [use of video games to enhance brain health](#) and how the [microbiome](#) can affect neurodevelopment and behavior.
- The National Hockey League wants its own medical team to examine Steve Ludzik and four other former players suing the League over its handling of concussed players. Read more [here](#).
- The Parkinson's Action Network [congratulates](#) the 2016 Advocate Fundraising Champions!
- Check out an [op-ed](#) written by [BIO](#) President and CEO, Jim Greenwood about the importance of incorporating patient perspective on drug development.
- The FDA recently launched pilot phase of a new initiative, the Clinical Outcome Assessment ([COA](#)) Compendium, to further support patient-focused drug development. Details for how to submit comments are available on the [Federal Register Notice](#). If you have any questions, please email coacompendium@fda.hhs.gov.
- In a study of worms at MIT, scientists have discovered a gene that plays a critical role in controlling the switch between alternative behavioral states which includes hunger and fullness, or sleep and wakefulness.
- The biggest [Neurology on the Hill](#) ever took place last week. One of the messages to Congress was to pass the [Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine Act](#) that will allow Medicare to pay for stroke telemedicine consultations in urban areas.

FOR AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION MEMBERS

- [Register](#) for ASCP's Spring Update Meeting to be held on March 19 and 20, 2016.
- [Register](#) to attend 2nd Annual Georgetown University Free Neuroscience Public Lecture to be held on March 16, 2016.

- [Register](#) for a webinar about schizophrenia to be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.
- Let's rethink the way we see borderline personality disorder! Join [Amanda](#) and run the Brooklyn Half Marathon while raising money for the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation on May 21, 2016.
- [Register](#) for the American Society for Experimental NeuroTherapeutics (ASENT) 18th Annual meeting to be held on March 17, 2016.
- Although psychosis is quite prevalent, it remains one of the least talked about and least understood mental health symptoms. Check out this [interview](#) by Chantel Garrett - the founder of the psychosis prevention education organization of [IMHRO](#).
- [Register](#) for the World Bipolar Day Kick-off event and press conference on Capitol Hill in DC on March 23, 2016.
- The American Brain Tumor Association, a member of ABC, was recently contacted by Rep. Quigley's office about the introduction of a "National Brain Tumor Awareness Month" Resolution, which they happily endorsed. The American Brain Coalition endorsed this resolution, and is asking our members to consider doing so, as well. Please contact doug.lee@mail.house.gov to endorse.
- Check out the '[Ask the Expert](#)' series from the International Bipolar Foundation.
- The FDA welcomes patient advocacy organizations to organize externally-led Patient-Focused Drug Development (PFDD) meetings. The FDA recommends submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI), guidelines for which are available [here](#). If your organization is interested, please submit your LOI to patientfocused@fda.hhs.gov. To read more about the externally-led PFDD meetings, please visit the FDA's [website](#).
- The Alliance for Patient Access is co-hosting a National Policy & Advocacy Summit on Biologics and Biosimilars on April 12, 2016. Click [here](#) for more details.
- The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry has announced a [call](#) for symposia for its annual meeting.