

It is hard to believe that before 1966, about half of all seniors were uninsured and individuals that were disabled or came from low-income backgrounds couldn't afford health insurance. Of course, that changed with Medicare and Medicaid; and now they're celebrating their [50<sup>th</sup> birthday](#)! Here are more science policy updates:

### SCIENCE ADVOCACY NEWS

- The White House Conference on Aging is [collaborating](#) with [Go4Life](#) to bring together more than a hundred partners to encourage older adults to stay active.
- Long-running congressional efforts to overhaul the mental health system are [expected](#) to get a boost before the August recess.
- Read and [submit](#) your comments about a new, exciting endeavor of the NIH to investigate the longitudinal impact of prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal environmental exposures on pediatric health outcomes.
- The National Patient Advocate Foundation recently [released](#) a white paper entitled 'Clinical Pathways: Barrier or Benefit to Patient Access and Personalized Medicine' examining the purpose of clinical pathways and their evolution.

### IN THE NEWS

- [Read](#) how the Pacific Northwest has become a neuroscience powerhouse.
- NIH-funded scientists have [developed](#) a novel, minimally invasive device for controlling brain cells with drugs and light.
- Another NIH-funded study [identified](#) a gene variant linked to compulsive drinking.
- NIH [joins](#) public-private partnerships to fund research on autism biomarkers.
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has [introduced](#) the Language Access Implementation Plan to ensure that their resources are available to all.
- [Check out](#) webinars about advances in Parkinson's therapeutics and delivery systems brought to you by the [World Parkinson Coalition](#).

### FOR AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION MEMBERS

- The Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) a public meeting and an opportunity for public comment on Patient-Focused Drug Development for Huntington's disease and Parkinson's disease.
- The Parkinson's Disease Foundation ([PDF](#)) is [accepting](#) applications for the first PDF Women and PD Conference to learn about gender differences in Parkinson's Disease.
- [NINDS](#) will hold its 9th Nonprofit Forum September 8 and 9, 2015. Email [nindsvoluntaryforum@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nindsvoluntaryforum@mail.nih.gov) or call 301-496-5924 for more details.
- The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry ([AAAP](#)) is awarding travel grants for its annual meeting. Apply by September 1, 2015 [here](#).
- A seminar 'Seeing isn't always believing: the realities of imaging technology and neuroscience' is being held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015. To RSVP, contact Brian Barnett at [bbarnett@potomacinstitute.org](mailto:bbarnett@potomacinstitute.org) or 703-525-0770
- Emily Wu Truong will share her personal experiences facing stigma & discrimination after coming out with her story of mental health issues. [Register](#) here.
- [Register](#) for a webinar entitled '21st Century Pharmaceutical Collaboration: The Value Convergence Webcast' to be held on August 4, 2015 at 12:00pm.