



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will no longer require agencies to provide pre-approval for federal employees to travel to conferences or meetings hosted by non-government entities which should remove many of the barriers currently faced by federal staff. Agencies will also no longer have to report their expenditures for travel to non-federal conferences/meetings. That being said, agencies will still be required to keep a close eye on their travel expenses and may elect to keep some of their existing processes in place even with the new guidance. FASEB will be reaching out to relevant agencies in early 2017 to ensure that they are aware of the new OMB travel guidance and to get additional details about how each agency plans to implement the changes.

The 21st Century Cures Act- an Act that aims to change human life by discovering cures for various diseases - received [bipartisan support](#) for passage last week. [Read the President's statement](#) on this substantial endeavor.

Read this [summary analysis](#) prepared by [CRD Associates](#) of the election results, and what lies ahead.

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) is running unopposed for the chairmanship of the House Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for allocating funds to agencies that fund science and health research. Frelinghuysen has expressed enthusiasm for NSF and NIH. Learn more about Frelinghuysen [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

- [Read](#) what Dr. Francis Collins - director of the NIH had to say after he played with the internationally renowned classical cellist Yo-Yo Ma. As one can imagine, Yo-Yo Ma had some very interesting things to say about the neuroscience of music.
- Earlier in 2016, the NIDA released a Request for Information (RFI) to gather information from the research community related to increasing the varieties of marijuana and marijuana products for research. You can read the responses [here](#).
- The Hereditary Disease Foundation has a brand new look - check out their new website [here](#)!
- The Society for Neuroscience President Hollis Cline shared a statement affirming the Society's dedication to "supporting, engaging, and welcoming diverse voices and scientific exchange between scientists of all nationalities." Read the full statement [here](#).
- Watch an [inspiring webinar](#) hosted by the International Bipolar Foundation about the challenges of living with bipolar disorder.
- The AAAS [hosted a panel](#) to discuss how scientists can advocate for strong support of science under the new administration. Rush Holt, CEO of AAAS, published an [editorial](#) highlighting the need for the new administration to appoint a well-regarded science adviser and to embrace evidence-based decision-making.
- In science news,
 - Read about research that makes it possible to [model neurological disorders using stem cells](#)
 - New clues on [how the brain knows we are full](#), and to stop eating
 - Researchers catalog [subtle but widespread schizophrenia-associated differences](#) in gene activity
 - Researchers [pinpoint mechanisms that cause and maintain wakefulness](#)
- Recent news from [The Center for BrainHealth](#) :
 - Learn about [speakers for the February 2017 Lecture Series](#), and [get tickets](#)
 - Read an [interview with Dr. Dan Krawczyk](#) about how his research has shaped his new role as deputy director at the Center for BrainHealth.
 - Read about Texas scientists and medical professionals collaborating to provide more [safety measures and valuable resources for young athletes with brain injuries](#)
 - Read about research regarding [marijuana use and how it can affect learning and motor function](#)



FOR AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION MEMBERS

- The NIH [recently announced](#) a competition seeking for proposals for wearable devices to detect alcohol levels in real-time
- Please mark your calendars for the annual Monitoring the Future (MTF) Survey data hosted by the NIH. This event is on Dec 13, 2016 at 9:30 am, and you can access the meeting [here](#).
- As Congress and the incoming Administration consider options for repealing, replacing, or amending the Affordable Care Act in 2017, please considering sending a letter to President-elect Trump and Congressional leadership on the health care coverage and access issues that impact patients and their families. Please see attached for the letter text.
- [Register](#) for the third annual BRAIN Initiative meeting to be held on Dec 12 and 13.
- [Register](#) for the 19th annual [ASENT](#) (American Society for Experimental NeuroTherapeutics) meeting to be held in Spring of 2017.
- Participate in a [market research survey](#) for Essential Tremor. This This survey is about your reactions and attitudes to specific interventional treatments.
- Watch a [lively discussion](#) between Dr. Richard Hodes, Director of the National Institute on Aging and Cure Alzheimer's Fund President and CEO Tim Armour as they talk about the state of current issues and funding for Alzheimer's disease.
- Read this [informative article on the Affordable Care Act](#) (ACA), and what Americans want moving forward.
- [Watch presentations](#) from the 28th Annual International Mental Health Research Symposium hosted by The Brain and Behavior Research Foundation.
- [Register](#) for a webinar on the "Neuroinflammatory hypothesis of depression" to be held on Dec 13.