

President Barack Obama recently [signed](#) the FY2016 Omnibus Bill, giving the National Institutes of Health a much needed boost of \$2 billion in the fiscal year 2016 budget. The NIH also [unveiled](#) its [NIH-Wide Strategic Plan, Fiscal Years 2016-2020: Turning Discovery Into Health](#).

Here is more news from the world of science advocacy:

### SCIENCE ADVOCACY NEWS

- An [update](#) on the Precision Medicine Initiative was recently presented. The NIH also released a [request for information](#) to identify a system(s) for conducting a physical evaluation and collecting specimens from Direct Volunteers for the PMI Cohort Program.
- Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) - the Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services spent the last year [meeting](#) with medical research and public health experts to become more acquainted with such issues.
- The Study Committee on Human Gene Editing will meet in Feb 2016 to discuss the scientific, social and ethical underpinnings of human gene-editing technologies. The last such meeting was [held](#) in December 2015.
- The Institute for Patient Access ([IfPA](#)) released a policy briefing entitled The Value of Human Milk Diets for Premature Infants. Read [here](#) for more details.

### IN THE NEWS

- A recent study [showed](#) that poverty may slightly increase childhood risk of neurological impairment.
- Another NIH-funded study [showed](#) that multiple biological pathways can lead to similar symptoms of psychosis; and yet showed that speeding up brain's waste disposal by proteasomes may slow down neurodegenerative diseases.
- The NIH [hosted](#) a meeting for scientists involved in the [BRAIN initiative](#) in December 2015.
- [BIO](#) and Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD) [launched](#) an initiative to share best practices on patient preference studies.
- [BIO](#) recently [released](#) infographics to highlight the value of biopharmaceutical innovation, including the impact on Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and HIV/AIDS.

### FOR AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION MEMBERS

- The NIH is [hosting](#) 'Marijuana and Cannabinoids: A Neuroscience Research Summit' in March 2016.
- Concussions are quite common in athletes but there are still gaps in care as far for treatment and reliable treatments do not exist. [Donate](#) to make a direct impact on concussion treatment!
- A Medicare beneficiary currently who receives Part D Extra Help or recently was deemed eligible for the subsidy can make use of this [factsheet](#) that was just released.
- The Sixth Ataxia Investigators Meeting will take place March - April 2016 in Orlando, Florida. Click [here](#) or contact Sue Hagen at [susan@ataxia.org](mailto:susan@ataxia.org) for more information.
- [BIO's](#) editorial website, [BIOtechNOW](#), provides the opportunity for patient advocacy organization to submit guest blog posts to highlight initiatives and bring awareness to their missions. If your organization would like to submit a guest blog post, please contact [Gautami Inamdar](#).
- Please review the [attached](#) submission that the [American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology](#) has prepared for bipolar disorder to submit for the January 2016 ballot. Kindly send you comments to the Executive Office no later than Monday, December 28, 2015.
- The Friends of NIDA annual meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at APA headquarters in the Capitol View Conference Center. Please [RSVP](#) using this form.