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CALENDAR

FEDERAL

Participate in the Public Policy Process: Vote November 8 and Attend NABR's Next Webinar November 10

To fulfill the fundamental responsibility of all citizens, NABR urges our constituents to educate themselves about federal, state and local candidates and exercise the privilege of voting in the coming elections. Please make the long campaign season worthwhile by casting your vote by November 8.

On Thursday, November 10 at 12:30 p.m. please join us for NABR's next webinar, [Help Us Help You: Participating in the Public Policy Process](#). This webinar will share insiders' perspectives of Washington, DC and highlight important aspects of policy-making by using recent legislative and regulatory initiatives to demonstrate the importance of your participation. The session will provide the necessary information to become actively engaged in the regulatory and legislative processes and will provide guidance about how to help shape the environment in which NABR members work. NABR staff will also cover the results of the election and discuss what impact they may have on the laboratory animal community.

Vice President Delivers Cancer Moonshot Report

Vice President Biden delivered a [report](#) October 17 to President Obama and the nation on the status of the [Cancer Moonshot](#). The Biden Task Force report highlights the progress made during the first year and describes the initiative's five-year plan. It notes that the Cancer Moonshot effort "is about the entire cancer ecosystem working together to use our resources and tools intelligently and aggressively to catalyze improvements in care and our understanding of cancer."

In discussing the first strategic Moonshot goal, Catalyze New Scientific Breakthroughs, the report acknowledges the role of research animal models, saying "We are witnessing widespread and unprecedented optimism that we are on the verge of pivotal advances in oncology research. This view is based on progress in many areas, including immune-based and targeted therapies, genomics and precision medicine, advanced imaging technologies and other technological innovations, new cell-based and animal preclinical cancer models, greater understanding of the causes and molecular pathogenesis of cancer, and more." Without question, each of these areas of advancement was made possible in part by the humane use of animal models. To download a copy of NABR's one-pager on the Cancer Moonshot, [click here](#).

Some examples of the considerable media attention given the Moonshot include coverage by [The Scientist](#), [Reuters](#) and [CBS News](#).

Animal Research Helps Fight the World's Five Deadliest Diseases

A [new NABR factsheet addresses how animal research continues to save lives](#) by helping combat the five deadliest diseases in the world. The continuing scourges and their annual worldwide death tolls are: coronary artery disease (7.4 million people); stroke (6.7 million people); lower respiratory infections (3.4 million people); chronic obstructive lung disease (3.3 million people); and trachea, bronchus, and lung cancers (1.6 million people). The Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR) produced the original analysis, and NABR plans to use this information to educate policy makers and has created [a downloadable version of the factsheet for member use](#).

USDA Proposed Rule on Thresholds for De Minimis Activity and Exemptions from Licensing Under the AWA

The August 4, 2016 [Federal Register \(Vol. 81, No. 150, 51386-94\)](#) published a request for comments by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding a proposed rule to establish Thresholds for De Minimis Activity and Exemptions from Licensing Under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). NABR intends to submit comments which can be [found here](#). The primary point addressed by NABR in the letter is that the Federal Register notice inaccurately portrays the rulemaking as eliminating "obsolete requirements," when in fact, the proposed rule would eliminate exemption language for guinea pig, hamster and rabbit cages acquired before August 15, 1990. NABR believes the Agency should reissue a proposed rule for proposed changes to § 3.28 and § 3.53 with clear explanatory language stating that the proposed changes would make currently compliant primary enclosures noncompliant, and should require replacement of such enclosures by a specified date. Please feel free to use [NABR's comments](#) as a guide when submitting your own at [Regulations.gov](#). Comments are due Wednesday, November 2.

NABR and FBR at AALAS

If you will be attending the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Annual Meeting in Charlotte October 30 to November 3, please plan to stop by the NABR-FBR exhibit at booth #448. NABR staff in attendance -- Executive Vice President Matt Bailey, Director of Public Policy Mike Dingell and Senior Science Advisor Taylor Bennett -- look forward to answering your questions and updating you on our activities.

ANIMAL ACTIVISM

HSUS Announces White Paper on the Use of NHPs in Cocaine Research

On its [“End Animal Testing Campaign” Facebook page](#), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) announced the availability of the white paper, [Use of Non-Human Primates in Cocaine Research](#). While the piece appears not to have been published in a scientific journal, it is posted on [AnimalStudiesRepository.org](#), a project of the HSUS Institute for Science and Policy. The white paper is authored by Raija H. Bettauer, an attorney who also wrote the [HSUS-initiated paper, Chimpanzees in Hepatitis C Virus Research 1998-2007](#), published by the Journal of Medical Primatology in 2009. Both papers conclude primates are not effective research models for the conditions being studied. In the case of cocaine addiction, HSUS claims “despite pouring \$100 million into research that often involves primates, the NIH still has no effective medical treatment.”

In contrast, for those seeking educational resources about the value of nonhuman primates in research, please see the Foundation for Biomedical Research’s white paper and full color brochure at www.monkeyresearch.org.

Animal Rights Films Coming to a Theater Near You

Colin Trevorrow, who directed last year's Jurassic World, now is planning a sequel. Speaking at a film festival in Spain, Trevorrow claimed the movie would have direct relevance to contemporary issues concerning animal rights. [According to The Guardian](#), Trevorrow said Jurassic World 2 would address specific themes including “animal abuse, pet ownership, medical experimentation, and military use.” The plot of [Jurassic World](#), which took in \$1.7B at the global box office, featured genetically-engineered dinosaurs escaping from their compounds at an adventure park. The sequel is due for [release in summer 2018](#).

On a smaller scale, and closer to home, the movie [“Sanctuary” premiered at Paramount Pictures Studio in Hollywood last Friday](#). [The documentary](#) is the third produced by the Beagle Freedom Project and ARME (Animal Rescue, Media and Education), its parent organization. As [depicted in the latest trailer](#), “Sanctuary” deals with individually-named primates destined for sanctuaries coming from the pet trade, entertainment venues and medical research. However, the unidentified film clips are edited in such a way as to combine these purposes, confusing the histories and details about the animals shown.

INTERNATIONAL

EU Plans Conference on Non-Animal Test Methods

The European Commission is organizing a scientific conference, "Non-Animal Approaches - The Way Forward," in Brussels on December 6 and 7 to engage the scientific community and relevant stakeholders in "a debate on how to exploit cutting edge advances in biomedical and other research in the development of scientifically valid non-animal approaches," i.e., "alternatives" to animal testing. Program details, speakers and registration information are [available here](#). The European Animal Research Association (EARA) is working with industry, public and private research institutions to explain the benefits and limitations of animal research through active participation in the conference and planned public communications.

The conference was announced first in the European Commission's [Communication responding to the European Citizens Initiative](#) "Stop Vivisection," and is one of four actions that "should contribute towards the goal of, ultimately, phasing out animal testing." Additional actions include: (1) accelerating progress in the Three R's through knowledge sharing, (2) development, validation and implementation of new alternative approaches, (3) enforcement of compliance with the Three R's principle and alignment of relevant sector legislation. The conference will include a session to report progress on these three actions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Interactive Tool for Examining Federal R&D Budget Details

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has launched the "[Federal R&D Budget Dashboard](#)," an interactive tool for exploring long-term federal funding trends within the context of the broader budget. The dashboard allows users to examine basic federal spending data by agency and/or by character of work over multiple decades in total dollars, as a share of the budget, and as a share of the U.S. economy. Users also can look at the composition of the overall federal budget, including mandatory spending.

Guidance in Lab Animal Protocol Review Column: October Issue

Updated [Commentary on Lab Animal Protocol Review columns](#) can be found at the Guidance section of the NIH Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) website. In the October 2016 issue, A Word from OLAW responds to the topic “How should an IACUC handle high mortality rates?” Download the column here: [Lab Animal 2016; 45\(10\)](#). (PDF)

To further explore this and other topics, browse the OLAW [Topic Index](#). For additional information, visit [OLAW](#).

CALENDAR

October

- 30** [ASLAP CE Seminar](#)
Charlotte, NC
- 30- Nov. 3** [AALAS 67th National Meeting](#)
Charlotte, NC

November

- 11-15** [AAMC Learn Serve Lead 2016](#)
Seattle, WA
- 12-16** [Neuroscience 2016](#)
San Diego, CA

December

- 5-6** [SCAW Winter Conference](#)
San Antonio, TX
- 19-20** [ILAR Roundtable, Animal Models for Microbiome Research](#)
Washington, DC

