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| October 12, 2021​​​​​​ The NABR Update is a news summary of federal and state government affairs, animal rights activities, and other issues related to animal research that may have a direct effect on your organization or its constituents. It's an exclusive service available for NABR members only. If your organization is interested in joining NABR or if you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at info@nabr.org. **FEDERAL****Senate Introduces the FDA Modernization Act of 2021**On Oct. 7, Senators Paul (R-KY), Lujan (D-NM), Kennedy (R-LA), Booker (D-NJ), and Braun (R-IN) introduced the FDA Modernization Act of 2021. This bill is a companion bill to the House version [H.R.2565](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/ch223A5B22H-R-1225D7D-r-33-s-1/bfbyj/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds), which was introduced back in April by Rep. Buchanan (R-FL). This legislation *“allows an applicant for market approval for a new drug to use methods other than animal testing to establish the drug's safety and effectiveness. Under this bill, these alternative methods may include cell-based assays, organ chips and microphysiological systems, sophisticated computer modeling, and other human biology-based test methods.”* This bill is supported by PETA, Animal Wellness Action, and the Center for a Humane Economy. Full bill language is not yet available but is likely to closely mirror the House bill referenced above.The press release can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/to-end-animal-testing-mandates/bfbyl/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds). Additional information can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/o-test-human-drugs-on-animals-/bfbyn/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds). Check out NABR’s bill summary: <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/download-file-546-0/bfbyq/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds>. **Dr. Francis Collins to Step Down as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**On Oct. 5 NIH Director Francis Collins announced his resignation effective in December of this year. Dr. Collins has served 3 different presidents for more than 12 years as NIH director, making him the longest-tenured director in history. During his service, Dr. Collins has been a proponent for basic research and has promoted many valuable initiatives such as the BRAIN Initiative, the Cancer Moonshot Initiative, and the creation of ARPA-H to name a few.  The NIH director oversees the nation’s largest medical research agency made up of 27 institutes and centers as well as the Department of Health and Human Services. This Senate-confirmed position requires a candidate to first be nominated by the president and then vetted by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committee before full Senate consideration.   NABR will report back when a list of possible nominations is released by the administration. The NIH press release can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/tor-national-institutes-health/bfbys/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds). As NABR members may recall, during the FY2022 Budget Request for NIH, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard questions Dr. Collins on the importance of animal research. Link can be accessed here: <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/M5k5OQ7MKl0/bfbyv/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds> **Dr. Collins Statement on NIH Chimpanzees Remaining at the Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research**NIH Director Francis Collins recently released a statement regarding the relocation of retired research chimpanzees at the Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research (KCCMR) to Chimp Haven.  Dr. Collins highlighted the relocation process in his statement by saying, *“transport of the chimpanzees is an animal welfare driven process that is closely coordinated between NIH, Chimp Haven, and the three primate facilities that are responsible for the chimpanzees’ care and safety.”* He went on to say, *“In February 2019, the three primate facilities and Chimp Haven developed standard criteria to assess the health of the chimpanzees at their locations to help inform relocation decisions. NIH also developed a protocol for an independent panel of veterinarians to use when relocation to Chimp Haven is not recommended by the attending veterinarian at the sending facility (APF, KCCMR, or SNPRC) or receiving facility (Chimp Haven).”* In this case, the NIH panel and attending veterinarian at the KCCMR agreed that “*49 of the 51 chimpanzees are at high risk of harm from transfer and therefore should live the remainder of their lives at KCCMR to ensure their safety and welfare.”* While many in the animal research community will agree with the decision that appears to have been made in the best interest of the animals, a number of animal rights activists have pushed for years to have them moved regardless of their current condition. The NIH press release can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/-comparative-medicine-research/bfbyx/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds).  **House Introduces the BRAIN Act to Create a Center for Neuroscience at FDA**House Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) recently introduced the “Bringing Regulatory Advances Into Neuroscience (BRAIN) Act.” The bill amends the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a Neuroscience Center of Excellence at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Neuroscience Center of Excellence (NCOE) will focus on streamlining the regulatory process for drugs and treatments for brain diseases, disorders, and traumatic brain injuries. This bill also creates a Neuroscience Translation Working Group at the NCOE consisting of eight members, including patient advocates, to advise the center on patient-reported outcomes, preferences, and data to create new regulations. Text of the bill can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/FAG2jbcWar6feoh2Byd0AdXSU-view/bfbyz/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds).  **Senate Removes ARPA-H From Reconciliation Bill** Last week, the Senate removed the proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) from its version of the reconciliation package. Sources close to the negotiations stated, “*it will be cut from the Senate’s version of the reconciliation bill because it requires regulatory authorities outside the scope of the chamber’s strict rules for passing bills with a simple majority through the process known as reconciliation.”* The Senate HELP Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee will now have to write an authorization bill for ARPA-H. Proponents for ARPA-H are still confident it will get done. Senator Blunt (R-MO), a top Senate appropriator, told Politico, “*I’m a supporter of the concept and had a good meeting with Eric Lander,” he said, adding: “I think it’s a little too early to tell how we get it done, but I do think we can, and should, get it done.”* NABR will continue to monitor ARPA-H as this develops. More information can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/ch-agency-spending-bill-515666/bfbz2/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds).  **NIH to Hold ARPA-H Stakeholders Meeting**In response to listening sessions hosted by the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), the White House Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) and NIH have posted a [summary](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/ning-Session-Summary-Final-pdf/bfbz4/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds) outlining topics discussed.  These sessions were attended by more than 5,100 stakeholders including 250 organizations around the country. These sessions were held to promote the mission of ARPA-H *“to build high-risk, high-reward capabilities (or platforms) to drive biomedical breakthroughs—ranging from molecular to societal—that would provide transformative solutions for all patients.”* On Oct. 20 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. EST, the NIH will hold a listening session to discuss the topics outlined and allow for further input from stakeholders. Attendees are asked to submit questions or comments to ARPAHcomments@nih.gov before the session. The link to the NIH ARPA-H events can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/arpa-h-events/bfbz6/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds).  **OLAW RFI on Clarifying the Reporting Requirements for Departures from the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Notice Number: NOT-OD-21-161)** NABR is working with partner organizations that produced the report – “[Reforming Animal Research Regulations](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/ulatory-Report-October2017-pdf/bfbz8/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds)” (RARR) to develop a joint letter in response to this RFI. “Comments must be submitted electronically on the [RFI webpage](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/-s-60259995154f0000c6001bd2/bfbzb/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds). Comments must be received on or before November 1, 2021, at 11:59 PM ET.” In preparation for developing the joint letter, NABR prepared a review/analysis of the RFI; a draft of which can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/download-file-545-0/bfbzd/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds). If you have specific issues and concerns with the current requirement for reporting departures from the Guide please send those comments to info@NABR.com and we will share them with our partner organizations.  **ANNOUNCEMENTS****Watch & Share FBR’s Latest PSA on COVID-19 Vaccines**NABR’s sister organization the Foundation for Biomedical Research put out a fabulous PSA thanking veterinarians, vet techs, animal caretakers and lab animals for their role in COVID-19 vaccine development. The efforts of all those involved in the process deserve our appreciation. Lifesaving vaccines and treatments were not possible without medical research with animals. It’s the least we can do to say thank you to all laboratory workers. The foundation educates and informs the public about the important role of animal models for therapeutics, drugs and vaccines. Please share FBR’s video “Meet the Unsung COVID-19 Vaccine Heroes” with your network.Watch the video here: <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/m20mdyfmw3c/bfbzg/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds>. Send a note to info@fbresearch.org with your thoughts on this video. If you’d like to make a charitable contribution to help FBR share this message with a larger audience, consider a donation to FBR today. Give here: <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/donationpage/bfbzj/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds>. **NABR President’s Latest Op-ed on mRNA Technology and Animal Research**The important role animal research has in the development of mRNA technology was recently discussed in the [Boston Herald](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/ls-to-thank-for-mrna-vaccines-/bfbzl/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds). Once again, animal research has proven to help scientists develop lifesaving vaccines and treatments against SARS-CoV-2. In the recently published article “*We have animals to thank for mRNA vaccines,” NABR President Matthew Bailey writes, “To the delight of high school biology teachers everywhere, messenger RNA is having a moment. It’s the technology behind Moderna’s and Pfizer-BioNTech’s vaccines against COVID-19, the safest and most effective yet developed.”*  Mr. Bailey also mentions that *“these vaccines are the first successful biomedical application of mRNA technology. But they won’t be the last. Moderna, BioNTech, and other firms are working on mRNA therapies that could prevent or cure everything from HIV and cancer to malaria and the flu. They’re also harnessing mRNA technology to develop vaccines against the most dangerous COVID-19 variants. All this scientific progress is the product of animal research. And when the next generation of vaccines and therapeutics fueled by mRNA technology arrives, we’ll have animal research to thank.”* Check out the full op-ed here: <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/ls-to-thank-for-mrna-vaccines-/bfbzl/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds> **OLAW Webinar on “What Every IACUC Should Know About AAALAC International”** The recording and transcript of the OLAW webinar “What Every IACUC Should Know About AAALAC International” is now available.  The webinar took place on Sept. 9 and featured Dr. Jane Na, director, Division of Assurances at OLAW, and Dr. Helen Diggs, senior director at AAALAC International.  Dr. Na discussed how “*institutions may reduce administrative burden by using sections of the AAALAC Program Description when preparing a Domestic Animal Welfare Assurance, as described in OLAW’s recent Guide Notice,* [*NOT-OD-21-130*](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/otice-files-NOT-OD-21-130-html/bfbzn/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds)*.”* Dr. Diggs covered “*AAALAC International’s history and mission, accreditation standards, review process, site visit trends, and the value of AAALAC International accreditation.”*The webinar recording and transcript are available [here](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/sources-webinar-2021-09-09-htm/bfbzq/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds). **Two US Scientists won the 2021 Nobel Prize for Research with Mice**The [2021 Nobel Prize](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/ine-2021-advanced-information-/bfbzs/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds) in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to the University of California - San Francisco professor David Julius and Scripps Research molecular biologist Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries of thermal and mechanical transducers with mice models. They studied mice to gain knowledge surrounding how temperature and touch can impact the nervous system.  Professor Julius identified a receptor that responds to heat with the help of *“the cellular target of capsaicin, the pungent ingredient of chili peppers.”* The discoveries of the TRPV1 and TRPM8 are critical in our ability to perceive temperature. Laureate Patapoutian identified sensors that can respond to touch and pressure. The discovery of the Piezo channels provided insight into our sense of touch and our ability to feel changes in body position and movement.  According to the [Nobel Assembly at Sweden’s Karolinska Institute](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/prizes-medicine-/bfbzv/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds), the two scientists’ discoveries *“have unlocked one of the secrets of nature by explaining the molecular basis for sensing heat, cold, and mechanical force, which is fundamental for our ability to feel, interpret and interact with our internal and external environment.”* Similarly, a [Nobel Assembly press release](http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/s-medicine-2021-press-release-/bfbzx/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds) states that the groundbreaking discoveries involving mice research by these two laureates *“have allowed us to understand how heat, cold, and mechanical force can initiate the nerve impulses that allow us to perceive and adapt to the world around us.”*  Read more about the importance of mice models in these discoveries: <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/ine-2021-advanced-information-/bfbzs/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds>. Also, check out FBR’s list of past Nobel winners’ research with animals: <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/medical-advances-nobel-prizes-/bfbzz/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds>.  **RSVP for NABR's Upcoming Webinar: Follow the Science! Why the Pursuit of Knowledge - and not 'Harm-Benefit Analysis' - is the Key to Scientifically and Ethically Sound Animal Research**Join us on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 12:30 p.m. EST when Jerrold Tannenbaum returns to our webinar series with a new presentation titled “Follow the Science! Why the Pursuit of Knowledge – and not ‘Harm-Benefit Analysis’ – is the Key to Scientifically and Ethically Sound Animal Research.” In recent years there has been much discussion in the research community about Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) adopting the Harm Benefit Analysis (HBA) in the review and evaluation of the proposed use of animals in biomedical research. NABR has heard from numerous members who are concerned about this discussion, specifically how both sides of the HBA are quantified, which carries profound ramifications for basic research. NABR discussed those concerns with Mr. Tannenbaum who will address them in this webinar. We look forward to having you join us for what promises to be an enlightening and stimulating discussion that will emphasize why research should follow the science in pursuit of knowledge. Register here: <http://go.pardot.com/e/858023/register-7232681363698931984/bfc12/303197153?h=iyF-tX7W7ZJevK0JMv6qGvEnwBk_NkxqadFF9SCyWds>   |

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