**WASHINGTON UPDATE**

By Tim Leshan, VP for Government Relations

Following the passage of the FY11 spending bill, which cut $39 billion in federal research funding and other federal programs, Congress has begun work on its FY12 budget. In April, the U.S. House passed its budget blueprint on a party line vote, which calls for cutting $6.2 trillion over 10 years from the budget submitted by President Barack Obama. While this budget resolution is non-binding it does determine the allocations for the Appropriations subcommittees that provide funding for domestic non-discretionary programs like research funding agencies. The funding allocations the House has proposed would result in a total funding cut of $30 billion below the FY11 enacted level. However, this would include an increase to the Department of Defense of $17 billion. Therefore, $47 billion in domestic discretionary reductions are necessary to achieve the net $30 billion in savings.

Below are the funding reductions for some of the House subcommittees that include research-funding agencies:

**Labor-HHS-Education** includes NIH

$18.2 billion below FY11 (and $41.5 billion below the President’s request). This would follow an FY11 enacted level that represented a cut of $5.5 billion (3.36%) from FY10, for a possible 2-year cut of $23.7 billion (14.5%).

**Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies** includes NSF

$8.5 billion below FY11 (and $11 billion below the President’s FY12 request). This is on the heels of an FY11 enacted level that was $11 billion (17%) below FY10, for a possible 2-year cut of $19.5 billion.

**Homeland Security**

$1.1 billion below FY11 and $3 billion below the President’s request. This would follow an FY10 cut of $784 million (2%).

Each Appropriations subcommittee will now produce and pass its funding bill, which must then go to the full Appropriations Committee and the House floor.

**What’s Next?**

The U.S. Senate has not passed its FY12 budget and its Appropriations subcommittees have not received their funding allocations. Once the Senate begins work on its budget it is not expected to propose anywhere near the same level of funding cuts as the House. The two chambers will then have to reconcile the differences between their appropriations bills, which will take months and prove difficult. In the end, research funding agencies are likely to see cuts, but it is not clear by how much.

For more information please visit: northeastern.edu/governmentrelations

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**TIER 1 INTERNAL GRANTS AWARDED**

Please join the Office of the Vice Provost for Research in congratulating recipients of the first Tier 1 Interdisciplinary Research Seed Grant Program awards. Developed in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and College Deans, the new internal grant program supports multidisciplinary faculty teams in developing new and innovative research directions and in securing proof of concept that leads to external funding opportunities. Information on grants in support of interdisciplinary research can be found at northeastern.edu/research/interdisciplinary.grants.

**Exploiting Innate Mucosal Immunity for Acute, Safe and Focal Response to Biowarfare**

- Rebecca Wozniak (PE)
- Jeff Ruberti (MIE)
- Dave Buddi (Chem)

**Graphene and Carbon Nanotube Heterostructures for Advanced Photodetection and Photovoltaics**

- Sasiath Kae (Phys)
- Yung J. Jung (MIE)

**Assessment of Effects of Central Fatigue on Cognitive, Motor and Sensory Function**

- Dagmar Starnaud (Bio & ECE)
- Theresa O’Neill-Pizzi (Speech)
- Ying-Yee Kong (Speech)
- Deniz Erdogmus (ECE)

**Self-assembly of a Biological Clock**

- Fred Davis (Bio)
- Ferdi Hellewaeg (CEE)

**Visualizing Speech Melody to Improve Second Language Expressive Fluency**

- Richard Strasser (Mus)
- David Herlihy (Mus)
- Gloria Barczak (CBA)
- Fleura Bardhi (CBA)

**Brain Drain, Gain or Flow: Elite Education and Contemporary African Migration to the U.S.**

- Mindaeryl Buford (Soc & AAS)
- Holly Carter (Educ)

**Neglected Tropical Diseases in Kenya: A Study into the Causes of, Diagnosis and Control of Schistosomiasis, Leishmaniasis and Echinococcosis**

- Richard Wamai (AAS)
- Farreena Sultan (Chem)
- Michael Pollastri (Chem)
- David Wisely (CBA)

**Mechanisms of DNA Polymerase Management**

- Mark Williams (Phys)
- Penny Buening (Chem)

**Using Computer Games to Diffuse Suitable Innovations**

- Ann McDonald (Art)
- Richard C. Stoner (CBA)

**Improving Risk Prediction for Sudden Cardiac Death through Multiscale Computational Modeling of Microvolt T-Wave Alternans**

- Carol Brotto (ECE)
- Alain Karma (Phys)

**Theoretical Study of the Vibration of Inclined Stays in Cable Stayed Bridges**

- Luca Cattaglia (CEE)
- Bernardo Barbellini (Phys)

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**INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH EXPO**

The 10th Annual Research & Scholarship Expo was held April 6th, featuring 311 poster presentations (280 from students) on a wide range of topics in disciplines across the university, along with oral presentations and faculty works (books, music and artwork). Fourteen presentations were recognized with Outstanding Student Research Awards.

**INAUGURAL ACADEMIC HONORS CONVOCATION AWARDS**

University Professor
- William Dickams, Professor of Economics
- Judith Hall, Professor of Psychology
- Sheila Puffer, Professor and Cherry Family Senior Fellow of International Business

Distinguished Professor
- Vincent Harris, William Lincoln Smith Chair Professor in Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Kim Lewis, Professor of Biology

Excellence in Research and Creativity
- Stephen Nathanson, Professor of Philosophy
- Vladimir Torchilin, Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Excellence in Teaching
- Lori Gardiner, Associate Academic Specialist in Human Services
- Gregory Goodale, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies

Klein University Lecturer
- Vincent Harris, William Lincoln Smith Chair Professor in Electrical & Computer Engineering

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**FACULTY AND STUDENT RECOGNITION**

The 10th Annual Research & Scholarship Expo was held April 6th, featuring 311 poster presentations (280 from students) on a wide range of topics in disciplines across the university, along with oral presentations and faculty works (books, music and artwork). Fourteen presentations were recognized with Outstanding Student Research Awards.
Fy 2011 awards of note include:

- Mansoor Amiji, PI: $2,317,577
- Lisa Feldman Barrett, PI: $2,163,327
- Cathy Cogen, Director: $2,997,900
- Sanjeev Mukerjee, PI: $4,942,301
- Katherine Tucker, PI: $10,378,480
- Vladimir Torchilin, PI: $13,781,778

As of the end of April, with two months remaining in Fiscal Year 2011, external research funding was on track to exceed FY 2010 levels. Total dollar awards were 23% ahead of April 2010 totals. This upward trend continues to be driven by growth in the number of multi-year, multi-million dollar center and program project awards. FY 2011 awards of note include:

- Center for Translational Cancer Nanomedicine (NIH-NCI)
- National Interpreter Education Center (U.S. Dept. of Ed.)
- OnoSys: Raising the Level of Discourse in Programming Systems (DARPA)
- Olin Shively, PI: $4,384,487
- Development of Novel Non-PGM Electrocatalysts for PEM Fuel Cell Applications (DOE)
- Sanjeev Mukerjee, PI: $4,942,301
- Emotions are Emergent Events Constrained by Affective and Conceptual Processes Pioneer Award (NIH)
- Lisa Feldman Barrett, PI: $2,163,327
- Combinatorial-Designed Nano-Platforms to Overcome Tumor Drug Resistance (NIH-NCI)
- Mansoor Amiji, PI: $2,317,577