



March 19, 2009

Society Members Encouraged to Visit Capitol Hill during ENDO

ENDO 09 will be held in Washington, DC, and the location provides a unique opportunity for The Endocrine Society to engage the membership in advocacy efforts. When deciding whether to support a specific bill, members of Congress place the most emphasis on the views of their constituents. By taking advantage of the opportunity to visit their members of Congress while in Washington, DC, Society members will help to raise the visibility of issues that are important to endocrinologists. Congressional members are more likely to remember the Society's positions when faced with a vote on legislation that impacts endocrinologists if they have been briefed by someone in the field.

The Endocrine Society will provide any interested Society members with information about setting up a visit, talking points for issues of importance to endocrinologists, and "leave-behind" materials to support the Society's positions. We will facilitate the connection of Society members to others who share common members of Congress so that visits may be made in larger groups. Look for additional information next month in Society broadcast alerts and in future editions of *Endocrine Insider*. For additional information on ENDO Capitol Hill visits, or to learn more about visiting members of Congress, please contact Stephanie Kutler, Director of Government Affairs at skutler@endo-society.org.

NIH Announces New Stimulus Opportunities

On March 18, the National Institutes of Health announced the availability of stimulus funds for competitive renewals, administrative supplements, and summer research experiences. The deadline for competitive renewals is April 21, while the other two categories have multiple deadlines.

More information about these and other funding opportunities resulting from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act are available on the NIH website at <http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/>.

Society Urges FDA to Require Inclusion of Minorities in Drug Trials

On February 27, the Society submitted comments and its white paper "Increasing Minority Participation in Clinical Research" in response to a request for feedback from the FDA on participation of certain population subsets in clinical drug trials. In the cover letter, Society President Robert M. Carey, MD, highlighted recommendations specific to FDA and stated that many of the recommended approaches could be adapted to other underrepresented population subsets. The comments posted to the FDA website and became part of the public record on March 6.

The white paper resulted from an effort spearheaded by Dr. Maria Alexander-Bridges and the Government Relations Committee (now APOCC). In support of its advocacy agenda, in 2006 The

Endocrine Society received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the white paper was published in December 2007.

The Society uses the white paper as the basis for many of its advocacy efforts in support of eliminating health disparities. For more information on the Society's initiatives in this area, please visit the Society's website at http://www.endo-society.org/advocacy/health_disparities/index.cfm.

Congress Funds Government for FY 2009

After significant debate in the Senate and a short-term continuing resolution to fund the government from March 6 through March 11, President Obama signed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act on March 11, 2009. Most agencies funded under the omnibus bill did not receive an increase over FY 2008 levels, but agencies funding research were the exception. Please see below for specific details.

- NIH – \$30.3 billion (\$937 million over FY 2008)
- DOE Office of Science - \$4.77 billion (\$755 million over FY 2008)
- NSF - \$6.49 billion (\$425 million over FY 2008)
- VA Medical and Prosthetics Research - \$510 million (\$30 million over FY 2008)

Congress will now turn its attention to FY 2010 appropriations, and it is expected that the House and Senate will approve their respective budget resolutions before the spring recess, which begins April 4. Passage of the budget resolution is the first step in the appropriations process, and the budget resolution determines the amount that each appropriations subcommittee has to distribute across the programs under its jurisdiction. Further information on the FY 2010 appropriations process will be reported in future *Endocrine Insider* editions.

For questions regarding articles listed in *Endocrine Insider* or information on advocacy and policy activities within The Endocrine Society, contact the Government & Public Affairs department:

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