



Science Policy News

Entomological Society of America Science Policy News

August 2, 2016

ESA IN DC

- *ESA Selects New Class of Science Policy Fellows*
- *ESA Selects New EPA-OPP Liaison*
- *ESA Invited to Participate in State Department Public-Private Zika Roundtable Discussion*

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES AND NEWS

- *Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Zika Risks and Response*
- *House Appropriations Committee Approves Labor-HHS Bill*
- *House and Senate Appropriations Committees Approve Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill*

FEDERAL AGENCY AND ADMINISTRATION UPDATES AND NEWS

- *DOI Invasive Species Advisory Committee Holds Meeting*
- *New National Academies Prize in Food and Agriculture Science Announced*

ESA IN DC

ESA Selects New Class of Science Policy Fellows

Earlier this month, the ESA Science Policy Committee (SPC) concluded the review of a competitive application process to select the 2016 cohort of ESA Science Policy Fellows. The purpose of the program is to develop scientists from all career stages to serve as effective advocates for entomology and entomological research.

The ESA Science Policy program launched with the 2014 inaugural class of Science Policy Fellows who will complete their two-year commitment this fall. The Fellows engage in education events designed to teach them the basics and nuances of federal science funding, science advocacy, as well as to provide opportunities to meet with lawmakers and federal agency leaders, both in Washington D.C. and in their home districts.

The 2016 class of Fellows will begin their training at the International Conference of Entomology, September 25-30 in Orlando, FL and have their first trip as Science Policy Fellows to Washington, D.C. in Spring 2017.

The 2016 cohort of Science Policy Fellows includes the following ESA members:

- Dr. Jason R. Cryan, Deputy Director and Chief of Research and Collections for the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. Dr. Cryan's training is as a systematist.
- Dr. Michelle A. Duennes, a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Duennes studies bumble bee nutritional ecology.
- Dr. Jennifer R. Gordon, an urban entomologist for SC Johnson and Sons, Inc., in Racine, WI. Dr. Gordon's work focuses on insecticide resistance management.
- Mr. Joe Kaser, a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota. Mr. Kaser's research interests are with invasive species.
- Dr. Glen Scoles, a research entomologist with the USDA-ARS in Pullman, WA. Dr. Scoles' works on diseases transmitted by ticks to livestock.

Sources and Additional Information:

- More information on ESA's Science Policy Fellowship is available at <http://www.entsoc.org/sci-pol/esa-science-policy-fellows-program>.

ESA Selects New EPA-OPP Liaison

In late July, ESA announced the selection of a new Subject Matter Expert (SME) to serve as a liaison to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). Dr. Allan Felsot, a professor and extension specialist based at Washington State University's campus in Richland, WA, will serve as the Society's SME for a three-year term. The EPA-OPP liaison is as a scientific advisor on a broad range of issues related to pesticide safety regulations, efficacy testing of arthropod control methods, and integrated pest management in urban, medical, and agricultural contexts. Dr. Felsot's position will help bridge the gap between research entomologists, the Society, and EPA as a regulatory agency. He will also serve as an ex officio member of ESA's Science Policy Committee.

Sources and Additional Information:

- Dr. Felsot's biography and lab page information is available at <http://feql.wsu.edu/profiles/felsot.html>.

ESA Invited to Participate in State Department Public-Private Zika Roundtable Discussion

On July 13, ESA was invited to participate in a Department of State Public-Private Sector Roundtable Discussion on Zika to discuss the current steps being taken by the United States to prevent cases of domestic transmission as well as collaboration with foreign governments in countries already affected by the virus. Heather Higginbottom, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources; Catherine Novelli, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment; and Amy Pope, Deputy Assistant to the President, National Security Council, and Deputy Homeland Security Advisor all provided opening statements, with Jim Thompson, Director of Innovation in the State Department's Office of Global Partnerships moderating the event.

The primary issues addressed by speakers included the necessity to develop a comprehensive education program to inform both men and women of the dangers associated with Zika, as well as appropriate behavior to prevent contraction and transmission; developing a more reliable system of prevention, detection, and response; and advocating for the necessary funding to remedy the lack of resources. Opening remarks were followed by breakout sessions with smaller groups to allow attendees to interact and discuss the work being done at different agencies and organizations to combat the spread of the disease. Chris Stelzig, Director of Strategic Initiatives at ESA, attended on behalf of the Society and highlighted the unique role our organization can play as a convener between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the federal funding agencies with which we maintain relationships to develop innovative approaches to tackling this challenge.

Sources and Additional Information:

- More information on the State Department Roundtable is available at <http://www.state.gov/s/dmr/remarks/2016/260021.htm>.
-

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES AND NEWS

Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Zika Risks and Response

On July 13, the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues held a hearing titled "Zika in the Western Hemisphere: Risks and Response." Dr. Tom Frieden, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Judith Garber, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES); and Irene Koek, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) all testified regarding the immediate actions being taken by the U.S. to prevent the spread of Zika domestically and mitigate its transmission in affected countries.

Witnesses stated that the U.S. has been working with foreign governments to provide on the ground support, bolster vector control and surveillance efforts, and establish a comprehensive public health education response to encourage safe behavior and reduce transmission. Dr. Frieden also emphasized the ongoing efforts to increase the accuracy and availability of diagnostic tests provided to state public health departments.

Sources and Additional Information:

- An archived webcast for the hearing is available at <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/zika-in-the-western-hemisphere-risks-and-response-071316p>.
-

House Appropriations Committee Approves Labor-HHS Bill

On July 14, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill, a \$161.6 billion funding measure, by a vote of 31-19, with Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) crossing party lines to vote in favor with the Republicans. Unlike the Senate version, which was approved by a nearly unanimous vote on June 9, the House bill does not enjoy such robust support due to disagreements over funding levels and controversial policy riders.

The bill would provide \$33.3 billion for National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2017, a \$1.25 billion (3.9 percent) increase above FY 2016. This increase includes additional funding for all institutes and centers (ICs), as well as new funding for signature programs. While the total amount is less than the \$2 billion growth proposed in the Senate version, it is further proof of the bipartisan support for the NIH, particularly given Subcommittee Chairman Tom Cole's (R-OK) statement that he sees the funding in his bill as a floor, not a ceiling, and that he hopes the NIH number can increase to the Senate level.

Labor-HHS is the last of the FY 2017 appropriations bills approved by the House Appropriations Committee, but its fate is uncertain as Congress enters a month and a half-long recess, followed by presidential and congressional elections. It is expected that the Labor-HHS bill will be rolled into an omnibus appropriations bill, but whether that bill is finalized during a lame duck session in December or pushed into the next calendar year is unclear. Regardless, Congress will need to pass a short-term continuing resolution when it returns from recess to avoid a government shutdown at the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The House Labor-HHS appropriations bill can be found at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5926>.

House and Senate Appropriations Committees Approve Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill

Last month, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees each approved their versions of the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (Interior) spending bills. This appropriations legislation provides funding for many agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Forest Service (FS).

The House bill would provide EPA with \$7.98 billion, a decrease of \$163.9 million or two percent below the FY 2016 enacted level. The Senate version proposes \$8.1 billion overall, representing less than a one percent cut. EPA's Science and Technology (S&T) account, which supports all research and development activities, would receive \$720.1 million in the House bill, a two percent cut compared to the FY 2016 enacted level. The Senate proposes \$695.9 million for the S&T account overall, a 5.3 percent cut.

Both bills would cut the overall funding level for the FS. The House bill would provide \$5.4 billion, while the Senate version proposes \$5.3 billion, representing a 5.4 percent and 7.1 percent cut, respectively. Within the FS, the Forest and Rangeland Research account would receive \$292 million in the House bill,

an increase of 0.3 percent compared to the FY 2016 enacted level. The Senate would decrease this account, \$11 million below the enacted level. The House version would provide \$114.6 million for the Forest Health Management account, an increase of \$15 million above FY 2016 enacted level. However, the Senate version proposes a \$7.5 million cut to the program.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The House report is available at <http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hrpt-114-hr-fy2017-interior.pdf>.
 - The Senate report is available at <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/download/fy2017-interior-environment-and-related-agencies-appropriations-bill-report-114-281>.
-

FEDERAL AGENCY AND ADMINISTRATION UPDATES AND NEWS

DOI Invasive Species Advisory Committee Holds Meeting

On July 12-14, the Department of Interior (DOI) Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) held its spring meeting in Washington to solicit input for future recommendations to the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). ISAC is composed of 26 nonfederal invasive species experts who are charged with providing advice to NISC on a range of invasive species issues including prevention, control, and mitigation of economic, ecological, and human health effects. The meeting included updates regarding the implementation of previous ISAC recommendations, issue focused group discussions, and general member forums. ISAC also provides extensive reports for relevant federal agencies outlining the implementation status of previous recommendations, ISAC-relevant departmental news, and miscellaneous notes from each department that may inform future ISAC recommendations.

Sources and Additional Information:

- Additional materials from the Spring 2016 ISAC Meeting are available at <https://www.doi.gov/invasivespecies/spring-2016-invasive-species-advisory-committee-meeting>.
-

New National Academies Prize in Food and Agriculture Science Announced

On July 13, the National Academies of Science (NAS) announced the creation of a new prize in Food and Agriculture Science. The \$100,000 award will be presented annually, starting in 2017. This new prize is endowed by a partnership between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).

The prize will recognize a mid-career scientist at a U.S. based institution, or may be shared by a team of scientists who collaborated closely on a discovery. Areas of science deemed appropriate for nomination for this prize include “plant and animal sciences, microbiology, nutrition and food science, soil science, entomology, veterinary medicine, and agricultural economics.”

Nominations for the inaugural prize are open through October 3, 2016.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The NAS announcement of the prize can be found at <http://www.nasonline.org/news-and-multimedia/news/Food-Ag-Prize-Announcement.html>.
- To submit a nomination, visit <http://www.nasonline.org/programs/awards/food-and-agriculture.html?referrer=http://www.nasonline.org/news-and-multimedia/news/Food-Ag-Prize-Announcement.html>.