



<New> Highlights from the recent NASEM report, “Impact of COVID-19 on the Careers of Women in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine”

https://www.nap.edu/resource/26061/ReportHighlights_WomenCOVID-19_FINAL.pdf

Spring 2020 changed how nearly everyone conducted their personal and professional lives, within science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) and beyond. For academic STEMM, the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic ranged from delayed experiments in individual laboratories to cancelled global scientific conferences. People shifted classes to virtual platforms and negotiated with family members for workspace in their homes. This changed reality blurred the boundaries between work and nonwork, infusing ambiguity into everyday activities. While adaptations allowed people to stay connected, the evidence available at the end of 2020 suggested that the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic endangered the engagement, experience, and retention of women in academic STEMM.

<New> National Postdoctoral Association Conference

<http://washingtonupdate.faseb.org/national-postdoctoral-association-conference-features-faseb-presentations/>

The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) is hosting its annual conference this year virtually on April 15 -16. FASEB is coordinating three panel sessions and presenting one poster on a variety of topics pertaining to career development. Conference registration is open through April 11.

FASEB’s Excellence in Science Awards

The review period for nominations for 2021 and 2022 Excellence in Science Awards were revised. Review of the 2021 nominations was delayed to accommodate shifting responsibilities and schedules of our volunteers resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. That review process has resumed and the 2021 awardees will be announced later this spring.

<http://washingtonupdate.faseb.org/faseb-adjusts-schedules-excellence-science-award-cycles/>

As such, the nomination period for the 2022 award cycle will also be delayed, opening **on March 1, 2021**, and closing on June 3, 2021. Nomination criteria and eligibility will remain the same as in previous years with one critical exception — nominees for the 2021 cycle not selected for their respective award will automatically be renominated for the 2022 cycle as eligible.

<https://www.faseb.org/About-FASEB/Awards/Excellence-in-Science-Award>

Supporting the Whole Student: Mental Health and Well-Being in STEMM Undergraduate and Graduate Education

Student wellbeing is foundational to academic success. One recent survey of postsecondary educators found that nearly 80 percent believed emotional wellbeing is a "very" or "extremely" important factor in student success. Studies have found the dropout rates for students with a diagnosed mental health problem range from 43 percent to as high as 86 percent. While dealing

with stress is a normal part of life, for some students, stress can adversely affect their physical, emotional, and psychological health, particularly given that adolescence and early adulthood are when most mental illnesses are first manifested. In addition to students who may develop mental health challenges during their time in postsecondary education, many students arrive on campus with a mental health problem or having experienced significant trauma in their lives, which can also negatively affect physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing.

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/supporting-the-whole-student-mental-health-and-well-being-in-stemm-undergraduate-and-graduate-education>

NIH Releases NRSA 2021 Budgetary Levels

<http://washingtonupdate.faseb.org/nigms-council-discusses-funding-trends-new-strategic-plan/>

On February 3, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Advisory Council convened to discuss a variety of topics affecting the research community. In his opening remarks, Jon Lorsch, PhD, NIGMS Director, highlighted the steady increase in the number of NIGMS-funded investigators supported by the Maximizing Investigators Research Award (MIRA).

Recent FASEB Webinar: Supporting the Whole Scientist: Careers Beyond Academia

The number of PhDs awarded in STEM fields has steadily increased in the U.S., with over 42,000 awarded in 2019 alone. However, as of 2015, only 17.7 percent of STEM PhDs across STEM fields secured tenure-track positions within 5 years of graduating, as the number of tenure-track positions have not kept pace with the increase in STEM PhDs. This webinar offers ideas on how institutions and PIs can better support trainees seeking non-academic career paths. To view the webinar recording, visit

<https://www.faseb.org/Professional-Development/FASEB-Webinars>

Bringing the Science to You During a Pandemic

The FASEB Science Research Conference Series still continues — online. Pivoting from in-person conferences to virtual conferences because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the virtual Science Research Conferences underscores the need, now more than ever, to continue to share research findings and to build collaborations. The online conferences continue through October 2021.

<https://www.faseb.org/Science-Research-Conferences/Find-a-Conference>

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