

# Being an Advocate for Research

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University of California  
Los Angeles, California



June 2013  
26-30

19<sup>th</sup> International  
*C. elegans* Meeting

June 26–30, 2013



#WORM2013



*discover.  
understand.  
inform.*

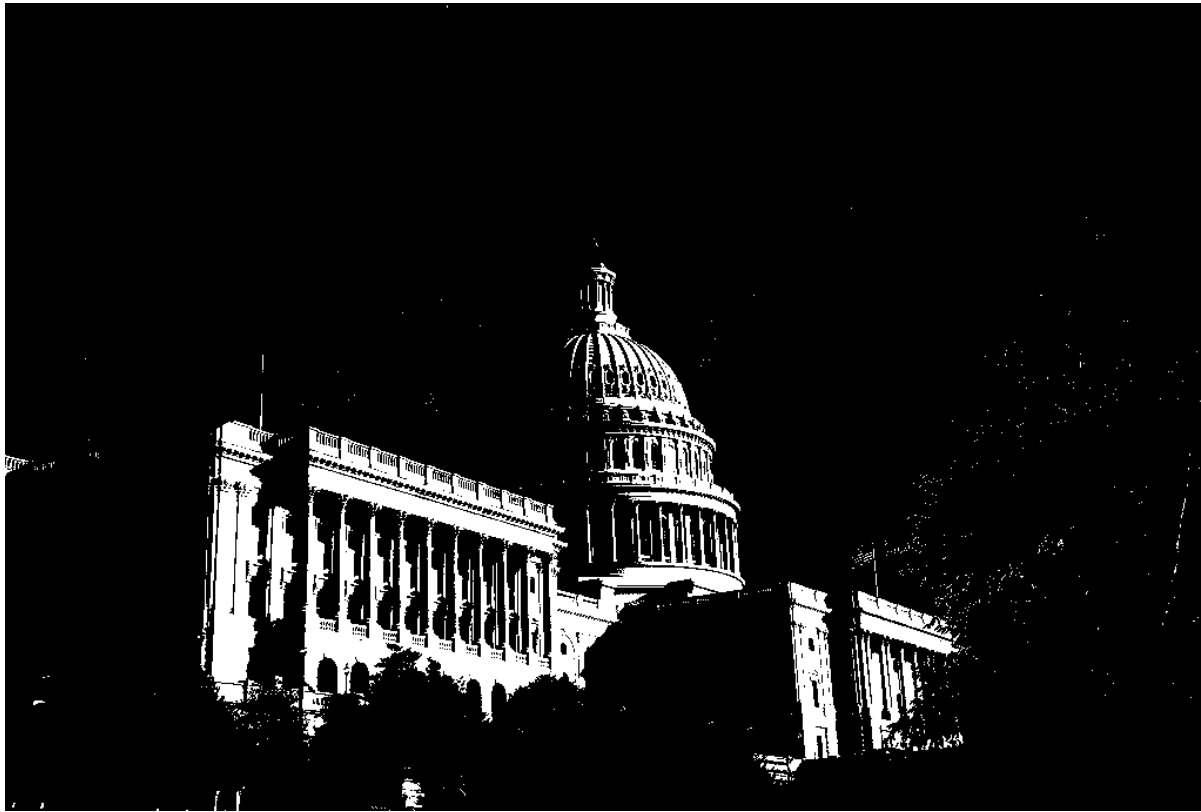
# Overview

- The mood in Washington
- Why get involved in advocacy
- How to get involved in advocacy
- Advocacy resources



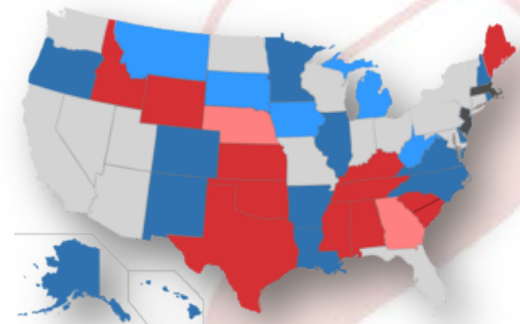
GSA Vice-President **Vicki Chandler** (center) with representatives of SFG and ASBMB at FASEB Capitol Hill Day

# The mood in Washington



# The mood in Washington

- Congress more focused on politics than substance
  - Focus on blame rather than compromise
  - Tensions all over: Democrat vs. Republican, Tea Party vs. others
- Major policy issues will drive the legislative agenda
  - Singular focus on spending and size of government
  - Focus on immigration, tax reform, gun control?
  - Research funding not a high priority
- Election season beginning for 2014 (and 2016)
  - 35 Senate seats are up for re-election (21 D, 14 R)
  - 5 Democrats and 3 Republicans are retiring



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Senate\\_elections,\\_2014](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate_elections,_2014)

# The mood in Washington

- What sequestration?
  - 5% across-the-board cut to all non-defense discretionary spending
  - “Once we ‘fixed’ FAA, everything is okay, right?”
  - Allows cuts to happen without anyone taking responsibility
- House and Senate are \$92 billion apart on FY 2014 appropriations
  - Initial House numbers suggest 18+% cut to NIH!
  - Little discussion of individual spending bills



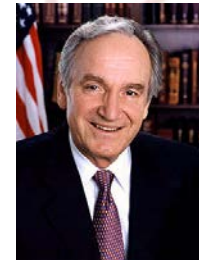
# The mood in Washington

Appropriations Subcommittee allocations for fiscal year 2014  
(compared to FY 2013 post-sequestration)

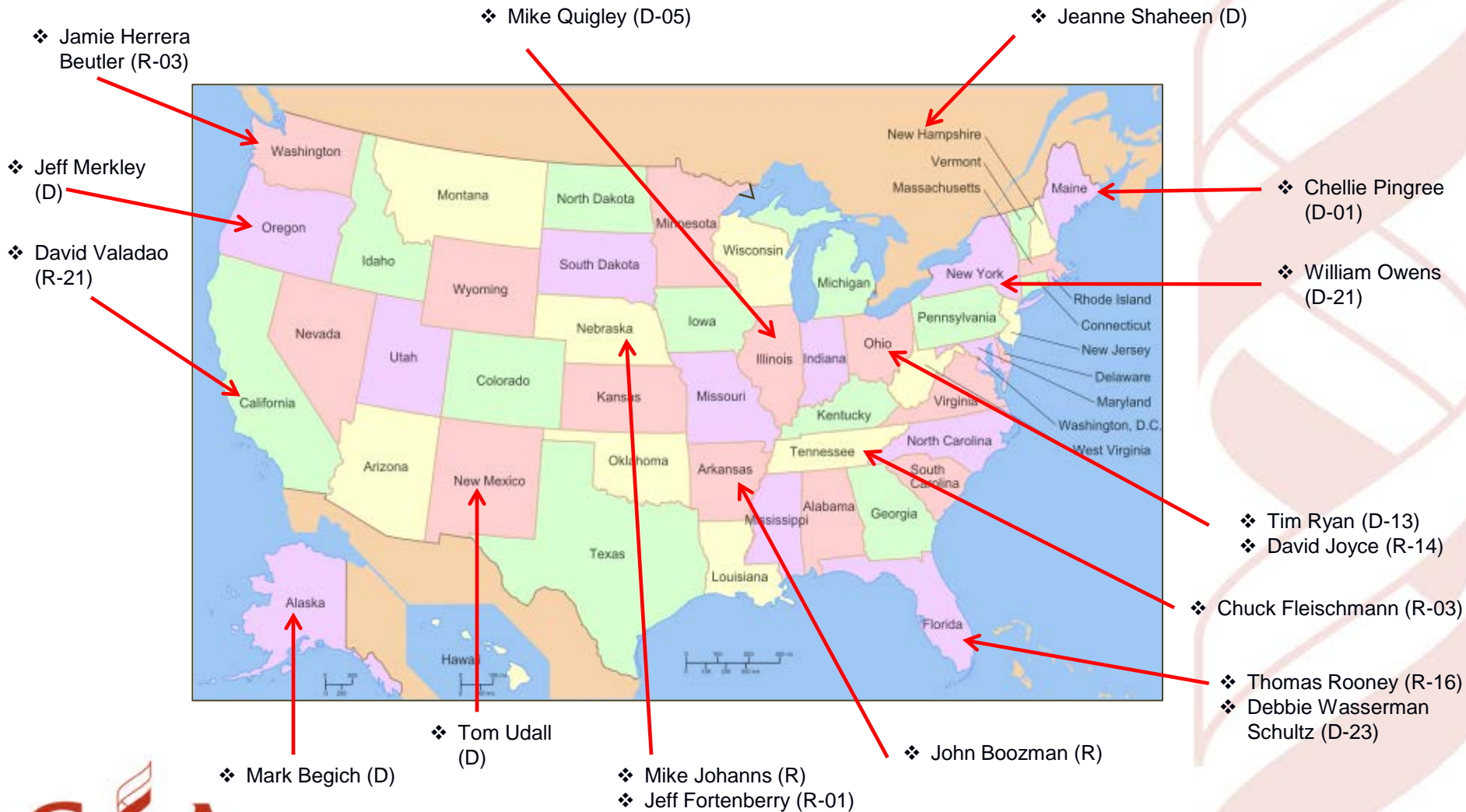
Subcommittee	House	Senate	Capitol chasm
Labor-HHS-Education (incl NIH)	\$122 billion (↓ \$28 B)	\$164 billion (↑ \$14 B)	\$42.5 billion apart
Commerce-Justice- Science (incl NSF)	\$47 billion (↓ \$4.2 B)	\$52 billion (↑ \$1 B)	\$5.4 billion apart
Agriculture	\$19 billion (↑ \$0.045 B)	\$21 billion (↑ \$2 B)	\$1.5 billion apart
Energy & Water (incl DOE)	\$30 billion (↓ \$1.7 b)	\$35 billion (↑ \$3 B)	\$4.3 billion apart

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- Need new champions for research
  - Few Members of Congress (or their staff) have backgrounds in science
  - Key supporters have retired
  - New faces on Appropriations Committee



# New members of Appropriations Committees





# Scientists as Advocates

- Decisions in Washington have a direct impact on what you do
  - Budgets for federal research agencies
  - Laws and policies that impact research
- Scientists have credibility and expertise
  - This includes students and postdocs → you have the most at stake for the future of science
- Policymakers need to hear directly from you, their constituents



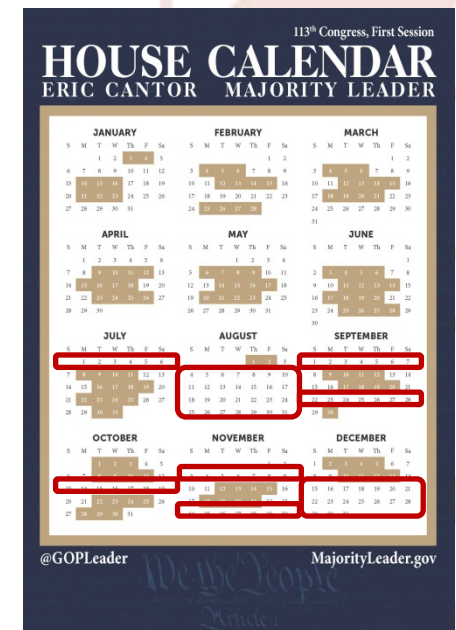
***YOU*** are the best advocate for your interests



# It's convenient to help

Although we'd love to see you in Washington, there's plenty to do at home:

- Follow your elected officials on Facebook and Twitter
- Participate in town halls and other public events—and ask questions
- Write op-eds and letters to the editor in your hometown newspaper
- Invite elected officials to visit your lab—and give them publicity when they do
- Give presentations about research to community and civic groups



# Write to Congress

Visitors | Educators and Students | Media | Doing Business with the House | Employment

Search:  GO

**UNITED STATES HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES**

FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE  
Enter your zip code  
90095 GO

113th Congress, 1st Session · The House is not in session

REPRESENTATIVES | LEADERSHIP | COMMITTEES | LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY | THE HOUSE EXPLAINED

**Legislative Activity**

Schedule | Floor Proceedings | Votes

Upcoming Events  
Watch Most Recent House Floor

Time (EST)	Session
7/9 10:00 am	Hearing: The Role of Innovative Intercity Passenger Committee on Transportation and Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials
7/9 10:00 am	Hearing: Legislative Hearing on Legislation, the Long-Term Choice Act; H.R. 1443; H.R. H.R. 2065 Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health
7/9 10:00 am	Hearing: "Keeping College Vets Improving Higher Education"

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[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

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**The Idea of the Senate**

Ever since the framers of the United States Constitution created the Senate, senators, scholars, journalists, and other observers have sought to explain its role in the federal system of checks and balances. What is it that makes the Senate stand apart from other legislative bodies? Why have its seemingly arcane rules and traditions survived, and what purposes do they still serve?

[The Idea of the Senate](#) features thoughtful analysis of the Senate's rules and procedures, its history and traditions, and its personnel and prerogatives. Covering more than two centuries of political thought, each entry in this collection provides a quotation from the original source placed into historical context.

**Frank R. Lautenberg In Memoriam**

Senator Lautenberg (1924-2013)

Centennial of Direct Election

April 8, marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 17th Amendment, establishing direct election of senators. [More](#)

Civil War Sesquicentennial: The Senate's Story

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, a [continuing series](#) of online features explores the

Floor Schedule

Monday, Jul 08, 2013  
2:00 p.m.: Convene and begin a period of morning business.

Previous Meeting  
Thursday, Jun 27, 2013  
The Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:19 p.m. [4 record votes](#) were taken.

[Daily Digest](#) (latest issue)

[Senate Calendar](#) (latest issue)

[Executive Calendar](#) (latest issue, PDF format)

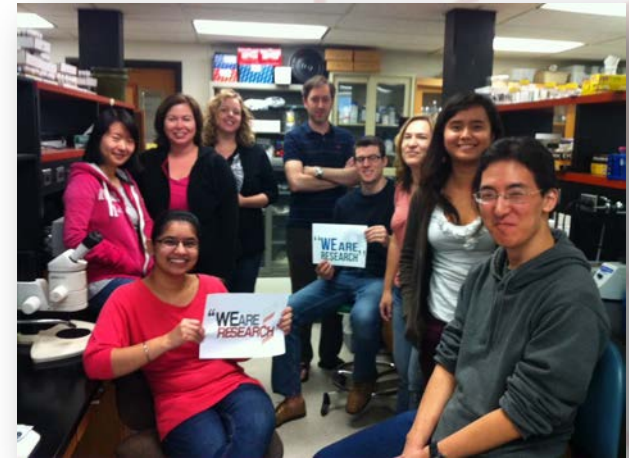
Floor Activity  
View the previous legislative day's [Floor Activity](#).

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)



# Being an effective messenger

- Be realistic
  - Large increases not tenable now
  - But targeted increases can be
- Be personal
  - Anecdotes can be more effective than data
- Be specific
  - Address one issue for each message or call
- Be a voter
  - Include your mailing address



"WE ARE RESEARCH"





# Stay in your domain

- YOU are the expert in science—but you are probably *not* the expert in politics or taxes or defense
- Talk about why supporting research is important
  - Why do you do what you do?
  - How many people do you work with?
  - How does your research pay off for society?
- But don't take the bait about what should be cut
- Don't make up an answer






# Advocacy Resources

- Sign up for e-advocacy lists



-  Follow **@GeneticsGSA** and **@FASEBopa**
- FASEB has lots of data and resources (**opa.faseb.org**)

### Sequestration Cuts Biomedical & Biological Research

**Federally funded biological research:**

- Improves health
- Increases innovation
- "Takes the next generation of scientists"
- Strengthens the economy

**The federal government funds research in every field through agencies and programs such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).**

*"I worry desperately that means we will lose a generation of young scientists."*  
Francis Collins, MD, PhD, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Since 2003, when the doubling of the NIH budget was complete, NIH's capacity to fund biomedical research has declined due to a combination of flat funding and inflation.

Under sequestration, NIH reductions reached 25 percent, a nearly one quarter loss in capacity. **NIH sequestration will be the largest cut of any program in the federal budget.**

**NIH Appropriation in Current and Inflation-Adjusted Dollars With Sequestration Loss**

**Let your research group's grant proposal to investigate new therapies for age-related diseases received a very high score but was not funded due to budget uncertainty, the realization of this year, receiving an even higher score, but the funding decision has been delayed again, due to budget uncertainty, if we do not get funding, the \$750,000 awarded for far to develop this line of inquiry will be lost - the project simply cannot be put on hold indefinitely. Even if we do receive funding, there are countless ways to study a disease that have no funds, and their promising research will go uncompleted. [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)**

Laura Rosenzweig, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine & Aging, Brown University

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### National Institutes of Health & California

**The National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

NIH is the nation's premier medical research agency, supporting research efforts in all 48 states and the District of Columbia.

**"Discoveries supported by the NIH not only help patients suffering from complex or debilitating illnesses. The findings also provide for research which is often the catalyst for future innovation that stimulates our economy and brings our quality of life to the forefront of discovery and medical science."**  
U.S. Representative Anna Escobedo Cabral

**BY THE NUMBERS: CALIFORNIA IN FY 2012\***

- \$1.675 Billion NIH funds awarded
- From FY 2009-12, NIH funding in California totaled \$7.8 billion
- 389 NIH-funded institutions
- 7,288 NIH grants awarded
- 46 Cong. districts with NIH grants

*\*Not subject to government*

**IMPROVING CALIFORNIA'S HEALTH THROUGH NIH FUNDING**

- The University of California (UC) has twelve campuses and two national labs located across the state with combined NIH funding of \$1.808 billion in FY 2012. Scientists at UC Berkeley found that the human eye uses certain fragments of the molecule keratin to prevent infection, which could lead to a new class of anti-viral drugs.
- UC Davis investigators led an international research effort that identified several new vaccine targets for the backbone (lipid) membrane. There are more than 1.4 million liposomes cases each year in the United States.
- NIH supports research at Stanford University, which was awarded \$242 million in FY 2012. Stanford researcher Ethan Vukobratovic received a Nobel Prize in 2012 for his work on G-protein-coupled receptors, a group of molecules targeted by about 40 percent of pharmaceuticals.
- Scripps Research Institute received NIH funding totaling \$224 million in FY 2012. Scripps researchers recently determined the structure of a key HIV1 influenza ("Swine Flu") protein.
- The University of Southern California was awarded \$184 million in NIH funding in FY 2012.

**NIH FUNDING IN SELECTED CALIFORNIA DISTRICTS\***

District	Cong. Title	District	Cong. Title	District	Cong. Title	District	Cong. Title
1	\$184,842,911	14	\$49,293,161	39	\$44,884,822	40	\$14,812,846
6	\$14,799,856	15	\$5,998,058	31	\$21,548,864	41	\$13,482,648
8	\$88,278,878	17	\$6,937,026	32	\$88,628,081	42	\$16,038,087
9	\$291,545,641	23	\$19,324,973	33	\$198,854,269	46	\$5,965,632
10	\$4,826,887	25	\$5,999,880	35	\$6,839,948	48	\$10,008,726
12	\$848,262,316	27	\$1,746,873	37	\$19,872,791	50	\$18,000,000
13	\$17,824,182	29	\$8,528,396	38	\$9,216,911	53	\$94,102,781

*\*District funding data is based on standing in the 110th US Congress*

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# Any questions?

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