NICHD Vision Process

Earlier this year, Dr. Alan Guttmacher, the new Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, announced a new initiative, the NICHD's Scientific Vision: The Next Decade. The initiative's purpose is to identify promising scientific opportunities the Institute can support over the next decade. According to the Institute's home page, "Unlike strategic planning efforts, in which the Institute sets specific priorities for its individual components, the Vision process will set a direction for the NICHD as a whole." Ultimately, the goal is that the process will produce "an ambitious but achievable scientific vision for the NICHD and its research communities."

Most input would be garnered through a series of workshops. The workshop themes are:

- Development
- Plasticity
- Cognition
- Behavior
- Reproduction
- Pregnancy and Pregnancy Outcomes
- Developmental Origins of Health and Disease
- Environment Diagnostics and Therapeutics

Based on input from NICHD staff and a select group of outside stakeholders, including PAA, members of all nine workshop-organizing groups have been selected. PAA members Linda Waite and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn were chosen to participate in the organizing committee of the Behavior Workshop. The workshops will be held between January and March 2011.

NICHD will share a draft vision statement with its Council in September 2011, after all of the workshops and the final conference, which is tentatively scheduled for late June, are completed.

Information about the Vision process is posted at: http://www.nichd.nih.gov/vision/. Individuals may send any related questions and comments to NICHDvision@mail.nih.gov.