**TO:** NBTS Membership

**FROM:** Public Affairs Committee

 Sonya K. Sobrian, Chair

 ssobrian@howard.edu

**RE:** **New Activity**

**Date:** August 15th, 2013

The American Psychological Association (APA) Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE) is working to build a coalition of scientific societies that are invested in supporting and promulgating ethically and scientifically sound research with animals. NBTS has accepted their invitation to join this coalition to address issues related to using animals in research. Current membership in the coalition also includes the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) and the Research Society on Alcohol (RSA).

The coalition is devoted to providing a unified voice for dealing with issues impacting research with animals. The range of issues could include increasing regulation without evidence of enhanced laboratory animal welfare, evolving strategies to address anti- animal research activism, and public education about the true nature and contribution of research with animals. The coalition might also engage in activities that promote judicious interpretation and application of regulations and policies, to meet the dual goals of ensuring meaningful laboratory animal welfare while sustaining scientific progress.

As its initial activity, the coalition partners are co-sponsoring a Congressional Briefing on the importance of research with animals that is scheduled for September 19, 2013 (location to be determined). The Committee’s intent in organizing this briefing is to educate congressional members and staff about the value of animal research. The focus of this briefing is how research with laboratory animals benefits our children/youth. The agenda will have three speakers, each focusing on how lab animal research has informed our understanding of different pressing health issues, i.e., substance abuse, behavioral/mental disorders, and traumatic brain injury, specifically sports-related TBI. To date, Dr. Edythe London and Dr. David Hovda, both from UCLA, have agreed to speak at the briefing and we are working on securing a third panelist. The briefing will be moderated by Allyson Bennett, current Chair of CARE.

This is being sent to you as a member of NBTS to keep you informed of the activities of the Public Affairs Committee. If you have any comments related to this memo, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the email address above.