

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)
Hearing on The Frontiers of Human Brain Research**

Chairman Bucshon: I would like to welcome everyone to today's Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on the frontiers of human brain research.

As a doctor, I know firsthand there are many complexities surrounding the human body and understanding the human brain is one of the most challenging problems facing the scientific and medical communities. This problem will likely require an inter-disciplinary and multifaceted approach with the right scientific questions being asked and debated and clear goals and endpoints being articulated. The creative drive of American science is the individual investigator, and I have faith they will continue to tackle, understand and contribute original approaches to these problems.

We are hopeful that brain research will have important policy implications. Brain disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, epilepsy, dementia, stroke, and traumatic brain injury have an enormous economic and personal impact for affected Americans.

For example, Alzheimer's disease- a severe form of dementia and the sixth leading cause of death in the US- affects the 5.1 million Americans that have the disease along with their friends and family who watch their loved one suffer from its effects. The average annual cost of care for people with dementia over 70 in the US was roughly between \$157 and \$210 billion dollars in 2010.

More importantly, I want to stress the personal effect of this research, which to me is much more important as a medical doctor, but cannot be easily quantified. During my visits to Walter Reed Medical Hospital, I have met many brave young men and women who have unfortunately lost their arms and legs in Iraq and Afghanistan. Technologies, like the ones we will hear about today, will allow these young men and women to transition to the workplace, enabling these individuals to lead productive, independent, and fulfilling lives. This is why I think it's so important to continue supporting this research.

I want to stress my support for brain science research, in particular understanding neurological disorders and diseases from an interdisciplinary perspective. As our witnesses will testify today, brain science has benefited enormously from fields as diverse as applied mathematics, computer science, physics, engineering, molecular biology, and chemistry. More importantly, basic science research results from NSF funded research will be the future experimental tools for hypothesis-based data-driven research for brain science researchers.

I see this as an important opportunity for continuing interdisciplinary work between the various federal science agencies, including the NSF, NIH and DARPA and I hope to see more collaboration and productive research opportunities

Our witnesses today reflect the wide spectrum of research in brain science and richness in this field. I'd like to thank the witnesses for being here today and taking time to offer their perspectives on this important topic. I'd also like to thank Ranking Member Lipinski and everyone else participating in today's hearing.

Before I conclude today's hearing, I would like to recognize and thank Melia Jones. I appreciate your work on this Subcommittee for the last 2 years, and wish you all the best in your future endeavors. We hate to lose you, but Texas will gain a good friend.

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