

Casting a Wide Oppnet

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One notable advocacy success story is the basic behavioral science funding initiative at NIH, the NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network, or OppNet (www.oppnet.nih.gov/index.asp), which was launched one year ago. (For the full story of how ten years of effort by APS resulted in OppNet, go to www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/observer . The OppNet initiative began as a result of APS Executive Director Alan Kraut's Congressional testimony on the FY 1999 NIH budget, in which he first raised concerns to Congress about NIH's lack of support for basic behavioral science research

In spite of a few roadblocks, supporters of behavioral science in Congress (with continuous encouragement from APS) used the yearly reports to cajole, convince and ultimately instruct NIH. OppNet will fund \$120 million of basic behavioral science research over the next few years. APS is widely credited as the driving force behind the initiative.