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By Theresa Defino

◆ **The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is urging Congress not to adopt appropriations language for fiscal year (FY) 2020 that would prohibit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from funding certain canine research**, saying it would "effectively terminate mission-critical research that will benefit the veteran community." The May 14 letter was sent to Sens. John Boozman, R-Arkansas, and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, chair and ranking member, respectively, on the Appropriations Committee. The House Appropriations Committee previously approved an FY 2020 funding bill that would not allow the VA to "purchase, breed, transport, house, feed, maintain, dispose of, or experiment on, dogs as part of the conduct of any study including an assignment of pain category D or E," part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's pain and distress categories, according to the letter. (*5/16/19*)

◆ **The National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is recommending NSF seek repayment of $265,957 among more than $117 million in costs the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) claimed on awards from March 1, 2014, to Feb. 28, 2017**. "Specifically, the auditors found $149,765 in unsupported expenses, $56,475 in inappropriately applied indirect costs, $50,360 in unallowable expenses, $8,853 in expenses not appropriately allocated to NSF awards, and $504 in the incorrect application of fringe benefits." Auditors also made three findings "related to improperly approved subaward payments, incorrect application of proposed indirect cost rates, and non-compliance with UPenn travel policies for which there were no questioned costs." (*5/16/19*)

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