Please join us in the Rayburn House Office Building, room 2325 from Noon to 1:30pm on Tuesday, May 12, 2015.

Special thanks to the Committee on Science, Space and Technology as well as Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson for support of this briefing.
Dr. Heather O’Beirne Kelly
Science Government Relations Office
American Psychological Association

Heather O’Beirne Kelly is a clinical psychologist who has served for the past 16 years as a senior legislative and federal affairs officer in the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Science Directorate. Kelly advocates for psychological science before Congress and within federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation. She also serves as APA’s lead psychologist for military and veterans policy and directs the APA Executive Branch Science Fellowship.

Dr. Gary L. Wells
Professor of Psychology
Iowa State University

Gary L. Wells is an internationally recognized scholar specializing in eyewitness memory and the reliability of eyewitness identification. He is a professor of psychology at Iowa State University as well as distinguished professor and Stavish Chair in the social sciences. He has been awarded more than $2 million in research funding from the National Science Foundation and his findings have been incorporated into standard psychology and law textbooks.

Wells has worked with prosecutors and police across the U.S. as well as the U.S. Department of Justice to improve and reform eyewitness identification procedures. Law enforcers increasingly use his research-based ideas, such as double-blind police lineups, across the U.S.

Wells’ works include more than 200 articles and chapters in leading publications as well as two books. His findings have received national media attention, in such places as the Los Angeles Times, TIME magazine, The New Yorker, and the New York Times. He has appeared on CBS’s “48 Hours”, the “NBC World News Tonight”, “60 Minutes”, “Court TV”, “Oprah” and CNN, among others.

Wells received his Ph.D. in psychology from The Ohio State University in 1977. In 2008 the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, awarded him an honorary doctorate.
Dr. G. Daniel Lassiter  
Professor of Psychology  
Ohio University

G. Daniel Lassiter is a professor of psychology at Ohio University and a fellow of six scientific societies, including the Association for Psychological Science and the American Psychological Association.

For more than 30 years, he has conducted research on issues related to social judgment and decision-making. Funded in part by the National Science Foundation, he examines the effect of presentation format on judge and juror evaluation of confession evidence. His findings regarding the video recording of police interrogations have influenced national policy in New Zealand as well as North Carolina and Vermont.

In 2010, Lassiter received the American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy. The citation noted that his “scholarship on bias and accuracy in evaluations of videotaped confessions serves as an elegant and inspirational model for bridging the gap between basic theory and real-world applicability. He has marshalled an impressive array of empirical facts so compelling, policymakers cannot fail to heed their import.”

Lassiter’s awards include Outstanding Book in Law and Psychology Award from the American Psychology-Law Society and a PROSE Award in Psychology from the Association of American Publishers.

Mark D. Shriver  
Professor of Anthropology and Genetics  
The Pennsylvania State University

Mark D. Shriver is a professor of anthropology and genetics at The Pennsylvania State University. His research interests are focused on the evolutionary-genetic architecture underlying human phenotypic variability. A major goal of his work is to apply understanding of human genomic variation to studies of common diseases and to superficial traits like skin pigmentation and facial features, with applications in forensic science.

Shriver’s lab occasionally consults with law enforcement agencies by using science to inform their investigations. In 2003, he assisted Louisiana police in an investigation of a serial rapist and murderer. Using ancestry markers developed to analyze DNA found at crime scenes, the team pointed detectives in the direction of suspects not previously considered, leading to apprehension and arrest. In 2009, Shriver provided similar assistance to detectives in Philadelphia working on the “Fairmount Park rapist” case.

Shriver received his Ph.D. from The University of Texas/Houston Health Center. His research has been funded by numerous agencies and he has published over 100 articles which have been cited over 12,000 times.
Dr. Fay Lomax Cook
Assistant Director, Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences
National Science Foundation

Fay Lomax Cook is assistant director for the Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. She is on leave as a professor at Northwestern University, where she is a faculty fellow of the Institute for Policy Research and professor of human development and social policy in the School of Education and Social Policy. Previously, she directed the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern.

Cook’s research focuses on the interrelationships between public opinion and social policy, the politics of public policy, public deliberation, energy policy, and the dynamics of public and elite support for programs for older Americans, particularly Social Security. She is the author of many scholarly articles and book chapters as well as five books, including most recently “Talking Together: Public Deliberation and Political Participation in America.” She is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, as well as a past president, and an elected member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. She has been a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation.