



How can you advocate?

March for Science on April 22

Demonstrate your support for science research by marching. The need for science to inform policy is nonpartisan: it is essential for our health and our future. Put your boots on the ground and stand up for science!

www.marchforscience.nyc

Join 314 Action

to increase STEM based policy and support more scientists in leadership positions
www.314action.org

Contact your state and US legislators

to tell them we need to increase funding for science research and national science laboratories.

Find your legislators here:

www.usa.gov/elected-officials

Stay informed with our **FaceBook** group: **brainNY Advocates for Science**

For more ideas:

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/15/politics/ways-to-be-more-politically-active-trnd/>



brainNY is the Greater NYC Chapter of the Society of Neuroscience. brainNY seeks to raise the public awareness of brain science through the efforts of neuroscientists across academic and private institutions in NYC.

brainNY Advocates for Science promotes public support of all science research with an emphasis on neuroscience.

[@comebebrainy](http://comebebrainy.com/advocacy)

Questions and comments?

Contact us:

advocacy.nyc.sfn@gmail.com



You can advocate for science

Brain Awareness Week 2017

Come Be BrainNY!

<https://comebebrainy.com/advocacy>

advocacy.nyc.sfn@gmail.com



What is Science advocacy?

It is **organizing** publicly to put pressure on policymakers to ensure resources for scientific research.

It is **demonstrating** the tangible value of science in our everyday lives..

It is **discussing** the importance of science in conversation.

It is **supporting** *evidence based decision making* at personal, local, and governmental levels.

Why advocate for science?

We all benefit from science. From life-saving medical advances, to increased quality of life, to preservation of our planet, to understanding our past, every individual has benefited from the advancement of science.

The economic burden of human disease is increasing. We are healthier than ever and living longer, thanks to scientific advancements. However, with increased life comes age-related disease. In 2016, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias cost the U.S. \$236 billion. Let's work together to find cures.

Every voice matters. We are all indispensable when it comes to scientific advancement. The public largely funds the scientific research that occurs in the United States through taxes. By electing politicians who value science, we can maintain or increase science funding. We need everyone's support for government-sponsored science.

We need increased scientific funding. The need for science never decreases, but the funding can. In 2016, \$66 billion was invested in research. This was only 1.7% of the 2016 budget. The relative amount we spend on research has decreased over the past 25 years: in 1992, 1.9% of the budget went to research. (<https://www.aaas.org/page/historical-trends-federal-rd>)

When has advocacy been effective?

Mental Health Destigmatization. Increased conversations about mental health has led to substantial destigmatization of mental illness.. This trend to openly discuss mental illness is echoed by recent anecdotes from celebrities. Jon Hamm and Lady Gaga have spoken out about their depression. Stephen Fry has become the "face" of suicidal depression and bipolar disorder. Courteney Cox, and other famous mothers, have recently spoken frankly about postpartum depression. These conversations are important, and force policy-makers to listen.

BRAIN Initiative. Unlocking the mysteries of the brain requires advancing technologies to better study brain activity and function. After advocacy efforts from science foundations and corporations to renowned neuroscientists and members of the public, Pres. Obama launched this initiative in 2013. It has since granted over \$100 million to researchers to advance our knowledge of the brain. (www.braininitiative.nih.gov)

Environmental Protection Agency. In the 1950s and 1960s, there was public outcry about the impact of human activity on the environment. This forced Congress to act, resulting in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The EPA importantly also protects all Americans from pollution, for example by ensuring that we have safe drinking water.

Additional Resources:

Society for Neuroscience

www.sfn.org

Brainfacts.org

Dana Foundation

www.dana.org

Research America

www.researchamerica.org

American Association for the Advancement of Science

www.aaas.org

brainY

comebebrainy.com/advocacy

[@comebebrainy](https://twitter.com/comebebrainy)

advocacy.nyc.sfn@gmail.com