

Turbulence Ahead: Safeguarding the Future of Research and Scientific Communication

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Welcome to the first Aeromedical SciComm column of 2025, friends! This time, I'd like to reflect on the importance of continued support, funding, and communication in science.

Science thrives on open dialogue and sustained funding, ensuring that vital research remains accessible to policymakers, practitioners, and the public. However, recent disruptions in scientific communication and funding threaten to erode decades of progress. Efforts to suppress research findings, restrict external communication, and limit funding pose serious risks to public health, environmental policy, and technological innovation. Without transparency and continuity, the scientific community struggles to provide the evidence-based insights needed for informed decision-making.

Restrictions on scientific communication—whether via the removal of key data from federal websites, publication limitations, or interference in research—weakens public trust and hinder preparedness for global challenges. When research is blocked or withdrawn due to external pressures, society loses valuable knowledge essential for addressing urgent issues like environmental sustainability and emerging health crises. Maintaining the integrity and visibility of scientific findings is crucial not only for global health but also for progress in communities worldwide.

Uncertainty in research funding only adds to these challenges. Recent freezes on federal grants and increased oversight of funding allocations have left many researchers in the aerospace medical community facing uncertainty, delaying critical projects and putting future advancements at risk. Scientific ecosystems take years to build but can be dismantled overnight. In response to these threats, scientists must actively engage in public outreach to highlight the value of their work. Whether through social media, public lectures, or advocacy efforts, effective science communication (SciComm) fosters public support and ensures continued investment in key research areas. Engaging with policymakers, educators, and the broader community strengthens trust in science and reinforces its essential role in addressing societal challenges.

The continuity of SciComm and funding isn't just a concern for researchers—it's a necessity for society. By protecting transparency, advocating for stable support, and fostering public engagement, we can ensure that science continues to serve the greater good.

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E-News on the Wing

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, Hospitality Room: Chicago A / B / C. But wait!!! Weren't we in Chicago last year??

Why YES! Yes, we were in Chicago in May 2024. You'll be glad to know Chicago survived our fun-loving group. Who knew Abby Elliott, Michele Garber, Liz Fox, and Lisa Veroneau would turn into gangsters? They arrived in a mob car, wearing shades and hats, smoking cigarettes, and carrying tommy guns. Wild ones! Plus, you can imagine how surprised we were when Chicago Wing President, Fran Laue, came in holding her own mug shot. Just released from the slammer. Mercy! All that happened as soon as we opened the Hospitality Room door. That's how our Chicago adventure kicked off. Thankfully, we didn't deplete our bank account for bail money. We're happy to return to last year's memories while announcing ... Atlanta's Hospitality and Welcome Reception Room: Chicago A / B / C.



Fran Laue



Wing members in Chicago.

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