

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – January 17, 2017

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets suggested by members of the NIH advocacy community. We encourage all readers who are active on social media to use these messages, and welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round-Up.

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1. Senate Committee Schedules Hearing on HHS Secretary Nomination

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee Jan. 18 will hold a [confirmation hearing](#) on President-elect Trump's nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services, Rep. Tom Price, M.D., (R-Ga). Currently, Dr. Price is Chairman of the House Budget Committee and a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. Before serving in Congress, Dr. Price was an Associate Professor at Emory University School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Orthopedic Clinic at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Ga. While the Senate HELP Committee is holding a hearing on the nomination, the Senate Finance Committee has jurisdiction over the nomination's confirmation. Therefore, the Senate Finance Committee will schedule a subsequent hearing and vote on the nominee.

2. House Appropriations Committee Members Announced

House Appropriations Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) Jan. 11 [announced](#) the Republican membership of the Appropriations subcommittees. Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) remains Chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) Subcommittee while Reps. Jaime Beutler (R-Wash.) and John Moolenaar (R-Mich.) are new members of the LHHS subcommittee. House Democrats have not finalized their membership of the Appropriations subcommittees; however, House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) announced the addition of four new Democratic members to serve on the full House Appropriations Committee: Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.), Katherine Clark (D-Mass.), and Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.).

3. Letters to the Editors Highlighting Federally-Supported Research

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich Jan. 16 [highlighted](#) the importance of federal funding through NIH for biomedical research. Gingrich noted that “Nearly 65% of the breakthrough, “priority review” drugs approved by the FDA between 1988 and 2005 were developed based on research funded by the federal government.” In addition, researchers from Stanford Medical School and Caltech noted in their piece that “The NIH largely funds basic research into biological processes and specific diseases,” adding that “Biotech and pharmaceutical companies create and develop drugs based on these discoveries.”

4. **Brookings Analysis about Federal R&D**

The Brookings Institution Jan. 12 [published](#) a report on the direct and indirect benefits of federally funded investments in university research programs. The piece notes that “over 50 percent of the research performed by the nation’s colleges and universities is paid for by the federal government.” Additionally, Brookings adds that “these investments support hundreds of thousands of direct and indirect jobs across the country.”

5. **OSTP Director Delivers Farewell Message**

The White House Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) Director John Holdren, Ph.D., Jan. 12 [discussed](#) the impact the Obama Administration’s policies have had on science. Dr. Holdren highlighted President Obama’s appointments of the first ever U.S. Chief Technology Officer and Chief Information Officer as well as other accomplishments.

6. *Congressional Briefing on Clinical Cancer Advances*

ASCO’s Clinical Cancer Advances 2017

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-2045

Lunch will be provided.

This briefing will highlight recent advances in clinical cancer research, emerging trends in the field, and discuss the importance of federal funding for biomedical research.

Speakers:

- **Richard Schilsky**, M.D., FACP, FASCO, ASCO Chief Medical Officer;
- **Jan C. Buckner**, M.D., Mayo Clinic;
- **Deborah Schrag**, M.D., MPH, FASCO, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; and
- **Susan Corcoran**, Patient Advocate.

Please RSVP to Sarah Gibson at Sarah.gibson@asco.org.

Please Note: If you have information of interest to the NIH advocacy community that you would like to share with the Ad Hoc Group, please forward it to Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org or Clay Crabtree at ccrabtree@aamc.org.