



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

January 27, 2020

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](#)) suggested by members of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) advocacy community. We encourage all readers who are active on social media to use these messages, and we welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here is this week's featured tweet:

Association of American Medical Colleges @AAMCtoday January 23

Research like this proves that today's science could lead to a breakthrough cure for millions living with a chronic or life-threatening condition. To continue to deliver and provide hope to patients, we need sustained, predictable funding for [#NIH](#).

House Members Write to NIH Director Regarding Foreign Influence

On January 10, four bipartisan members of the House of Representatives sent a [letter to NIH Director](#) Francis Collins, MD, PhD, regarding foreign government influence in NIH-funded research. Reps. Castor (D-Fla.), Bilirakis (R-Fla.), McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), and Veasey (D-Texas) sent the inquiry to "better understand the steps NIH is taking to address this issue and protect taxpayer-funded medical discoveries."

JAMA: NIAID Director Co-Authors Viewpoint on Coronavirus Outbreak

NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, MD, co-authored a [January 23 JAMA Viewpoint](#) summarizing the history of coronavirus infections, an update on the more recent outbreak in China, and a look ahead to the work of the research community to prepare countermeasures. The [NIH news release](#) added that NIAID-funding in currently supporting research into diagnostic tests and "exploring the use of broad-spectrum anti-viral drugs" to combat the current coronavirus outbreak.

NIH Council of Councils Discusses Artificial Intelligence, Strategic Plan Updates

The NIH Council of Councils met on January 24 to discuss a variety of topics, including a general NIH update from NIH Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD, and a presentation on updating the NIH-wide strategic plan for FY 2021-2025. Dr. Tabak's presentation included updates on the NIH budget, artificial intelligence, and sexual harassment in biomedical research. The full meeting agenda and presentations are available on [the meeting website](#).

NIH Director's Blog: Insurance Status and Racial Disparities in Cancer Diagnosis

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, authored a [January 21 blog post](#) describing NIH-funded research into racial disparities in cancer diagnosis. Dr. Collins outlined the new study which found that in a study of over 175,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer, "nearly half of the troubling disparity in breast cancer detection can be traced to lack of adequate health insurance." Dr. Collins added that the "findings suggest that improving insurance coverage may help to increase early detection and thereby reduce the disproportionate number of breast cancer deaths among minority women."

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

OSTP Extends Deadline for Comments on the American Research Environment – January 28

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [recently extended](#) the deadline for a [request for information \(RFI\) on the American Research Environment](#) originally published in the Federal Register. On behalf of the Joint Committee on the Research Environment (JCORE), OSTP seeks comments on "actions that Federal agencies can take, working in partnership with private industry, academic institutions, and non-profit/philanthropic organizations, to maximize the quality and effectiveness of the American research environment." Comments are due by January 28 via email to the National Science and Technology Council Executive Director, Chloe Kontos at JCORE@ostp.eop.gov.

Film Screening of *Jim Allison: Breakthrough* – January 29

Please join ACT for NIH Foundation as they host a reception and private screening of *Jim Allison: Breakthrough*, a film about the Nobel Laureate's work in cancer immunotherapy. The event will take place on Wednesday, January 29, from 5:30-8:00pm in the Madison Building at the Library of Congress. RSVP by January 22, 2020, to RSVP@ACTforNIH.org. Please indicate if you are attending the reception, the screening, or both. Please see the [event flyer](#) for additional details.

Update Registration Open: NIH Workshop on NHP Models and Charting the Path Forward – February 18-19

The [NIH is convening a workshop](#) on the "unique challenges and important generalizable lessons in terms of science, welfare, and ethics" of research on non-human primates (NHPs) on February 18-19. The workshop will "identify emergent challenges facing the conduct, reproducibility, and translation of rigorous research when working with NHP models and discuss strategies for addressing these challenges, including building on or augmenting current best practices." Additional details regarding the meeting agenda, location, transportation, and lodging options are available on the [travel logistics page](#).

Reeve Summit 2020 – February 26-28

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is hosting its first national conference in Washington, DC, February 26-28. Reeve Summit 2020 will bring together those who have had an extraordinary impact on the lives of people with paralysis and related disabilities, including 300 community members, health professionals and caregivers, and will include powerful keynotes, educational sessions, and opportunities to connect with those who are

changing the culture and reality of spinal cord injury. Please contact Kim Beer at kbeer@christopherreeve.org with any questions about the conference. Registration and more information can be found [on the event website](#).

Workshop on Emerging Bioethical Issues in Biomedical Research – February 26

On February 26, NIH will be sponsoring a workshop conducted by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to examine emerging bioethical issues related to biomedical research. The workshop will begin at 8:30am and take place at 500 Fifth St. NW, or can be viewed via webcast. Please visit [the workshop website](#) for additional details and to register.

Congressional Briefing on Glaucoma Research and Practice – February 26

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research as they co-host a congressional briefing titled, "The Impact of Federal Funding on Glaucoma Research and Clinical Practice." The briefing will take place on Wednesday, February 26, from 12:00-1:15pm in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see [attached flyer](#) for additional details, and RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com.

New Request for Public Comment on Characteristics of Data Repositories – March 6

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has issued a request for information (RFI) on characteristics of data repositories, on behalf of the multi-agency Subcommittee on Open Science of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Science. The proposed set of desirable characteristics for data repositories is part of the Subcommittee's efforts to improve the consistency of information that Federal agencies provide to the scientific community about the long-term preservation of data resulting from Federally funded research. Please visit the [Federal Register post](#) for more information and to submit comments by the March 6 deadline.

NLM Requesting Information on ClinicalTrials.gov Modernization – March 14

The NIH's [National Library of Medicine \(NLM\) is requesting comments](#) on its multi-year plans to modernize [ClinicalTrials.gov](#), which "enhances transparency across the clinical research enterprise" and "helps enhance public trust in clinical research." The modernization initiative aims to "update the technological infrastructure underlying ClinicalTrials.gov, enhance its public-facing components, and deliver a modern user experience with a platform and services that continue to accommodate growth and enhance efficiency." Comments must be submitted electronically by March 14. Additionally, NLM will host a public meeting on April 30 to elicit further comments.

Social Science Advocacy Day – March 30-31

Please join the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) as they hold their annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. Social Science Advocacy Day brings together social scientists and other science advocates from across the country to engage with policymakers in Washington, DC. The two-day event includes in-depth training and logistical support (including scheduling

meetings with Congressional offices and providing an on-call expert to answer your day-of policy questions), as well as polished, up-to-date materials to help you bring your message to Capitol Hill. [Visit the event website](#) for more information and to register.

NIH Regional Seminar in Baltimore, MD: April 20-22, 2020

The NIH is hosting the Spring 2020 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Baltimore, MD, from April 20-22. [Visit the meeting website](#) to learn more about the program and to register; early bird registration rates apply through December 31.

Job Postings

The Myositis Association Seeks Director, Communications & Research

The Myositis Association is seeking a new Director of Communications & Research's to raise the visibility of TMA and myositis diseases among key audiences and to position TMA as the "go to" organization/source for information, research and clinical trial updates, and support resources and services for the myositis patient, care partner, and medical community. [Please visit the job posting](#) to learn more and to apply.

APS Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The American Physiological Society seeks a Science Policy Analyst to develop and implement advocacy strategies on issues related to animal research, research funding, and other policy issues. Please review the [position description](#) carefully. You may apply by visiting <https://www.faseb.org/About-FASEB/Careers.aspx> or by emailing a cover letter, resume, and policy-oriented writing sample to resumes@faseb.org.

ASBMB Seeks Federal Affairs Manager

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) seeks a Manager, Federal Affairs to join the Public Affairs team. The federal manager will assist in the development and execution of ASBMB public affairs programs with respect to federal science funding agencies; help manage Public Affairs Advisory Committee operations, and work closely with ASBMB public affairs leadership in developing, articulating, communicating and implementing public policy positions on behalf of ASBMB. Visit the [posting of the full job description](#) to learn more and review application instructions.