

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – February 13, 2017

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at @fundNIH) 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. This week's featured tweet:

Research Means Hope (@ResearchHope):

NIH yields life-changing benefits for every American <http://bit.ly/NIHFY17> @POTUS @SpeakerRyan @GOPLeader @SenateMajLdr #FundNIH

1. Ad Hoc Group Letter to President Trump and Congressional Leaders

At total of 260 organizations and institutions in the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research sent a [letter](#) to President Trump and congressional leadership, urging the completion of an FY 2017 spending package that includes \$34.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Many organizations also shared the letter on social media, and since the call to action, over 40 accounts [tweeted](#) out a call to fund the NIH and the link to the letter was clicked on over 550 times. Follow us on Twitter (@fundNIH) and join the conversation using the hashtag #FundNIH.

2. House Appropriations Committee Announces Members' Day Hearings

On Feb. 8, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen [announced](#) that the Appropriations subcommittees will hold Member's Day hearings in February and March. The series of hearings will provide members of the House an opportunity to identify their priorities for the upcoming appropriations season. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for March 1 at 10 a.m.

3. Senate Confirms Price as Secretary of Health and Human Services

On Feb. 10, after a late night party-line vote of 52 to 47, the full Senate [voted](#) to confirm the nomination of Rep. Tom Price, MD (R-Ga.) as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Price was sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building shortly thereafter. Dr. Price is the first medical doctor to lead the department in more than two decades.

4. Research!America and the Congressional R&D Caucus Luncheon

On Feb. 14, Research!America and the Congressional R&D Caucus will host a luncheon titled, "Medical Innovation 101." A panel will discuss the process behind medical progress, tracing the path from bench to bedside and discussing key variables that will affect efforts to overcome deadly and disabling diseases. The briefing will be held in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building from noon to 1pm. Lunch provided. RSVP to Rachel Weissman at rweissman@researchamerica.org or 571-482-2716. See full flyer attached.

5. Congressional Reception to Celebrate American Heart Month

On Feb. 15, the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, and WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease will host a congressional reception to celebrate American Heart Month. This reception will take place 5:30 to 7:30pm in 902 Hart Senate Office Building. To RSVP, email Cindy.Salinas@heart.org or call 202-785-7947.

6. National Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day Lunch Briefing

On Feb. 22, the Alliance for Aging Research will host an educational lunch briefing on the latest in heart valve disease research. In this briefing, you will hear about the latest in heart valve disease from Gary Gibbons, MD, director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, leading treatments from Joseph Bavaria, MD, former president of The Society for Thoracic Surgeons, and inspiring stories from two AHA Heart Valve Ambassadors. This briefing will take place in HC8 in the Capitol Building from noon to 1pm. Register [here](#).

7. Lunch Briefing to Recognize World Glaucoma Week 2017

On March 9, the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) will host a lunch briefing titled, “Translating Glaucoma Therapy from Bench to Bedside.” The featured speaker is Malik Y. Kahook, MD from the University of Colorado School of Medicine. This briefing will take place at noon in 2040 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP by emailing TaylorBeaumont1@gmail.com or calling 202-407-8320. Flyer attached.

8. Lunch Briefing Focusing on Vital Defense-related Vision Research

On March 21, the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) will host a briefing titled, “Deployment-Related Vision Trauma Research: Cornea Transplant Tissue Quality and Sight Restoration.” This briefing will take place at noon in 2040 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP by emailing TaylorBeaumont1@gmail.com or calling 202-407-8320. Flyer attached.

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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.