

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – February 21, 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 National Institutes of Health (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:

Rally Med. (Research@RallyForNIH):

Registration is now live for #RallyMedRes! Register to join us in DC on Sept 13-14 in support of #MedicalResearch: surveymonkey.com/r/rally2017

1. House Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee requests public witness testimony

On Feb. 13, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS announced it will hold its outside and public witness hearings on Wednesday, Mar. 8 at 10am. Requests to testify are due Feb. 21. Directions on how to submit a request to testify or submit testimony for the record can be found [here](#).

2. Appropriators Move On FY17, Potential FY18 Budget Release in March

According to press accounts, House and Senate appropriators announced they plan to move forward with bicameral negotiations on the FY17 appropriations bills. Press coverage also claim that the Trump administration intends to release a fiscal year 2018 budget outline, or skinny budget, on Mar. 14. However, an official release date for the full budget has not yet been scheduled.

3. 44th Meeting of the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities

The 44th National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD) will hold a meeting on Feb. 28, 2016 from 8am to 3pm. The NACMHD advises the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Director on matters related to the NIMHD's mission. The meeting will be held at the NIH Main Campus (9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892) in Building 31 on the 6th floor Conference (Room 6). Seating is limited but the proceedings can be viewed at the [NIH Videocast Website](#).

4. Sign On Letters on the Federal Hiring Freeze, Public Health and Research

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the American Public Health Association (APHA) invite you to add your organizations to the attached letter to the administration expressing strong support for the federal public health and biomedical research workforces. Please contact Amanda Jezek at ajezek@idsociety.org by COB on Feb. 22 with any questions or to add your organization to this letter.

Additionally, Everylife Foundation for Rare Diseases is leading a patient organization sign on letter to the administration expressing concern about the impact of the hiring freeze on NIH and FDA. To view and sign the letter, click [here](#).

5. 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](#).

6. Lunch Briefing on Basic Biophysics Research and Its Connections to Human Health

On Mar. 7, the Biophysical Society is hosting a lunch briefing titled, “The Plumbing System for Cells - Understanding it and Why it Matters.” The featured speaker is Dr. Peter Agre, Director of the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute and recipient of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This briefing will take place at noon in 2253 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP by emailing eweiss@biophysics.org or calling 240-290-5606 by Feb. 28. The event is part of Biophysics Week. Flyer attached.

7. Lunch Briefing to Recognize World Glaucoma Week 2017

On Mar. 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 Mar. 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.