



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

April 20, 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:

United for Medical Research @UMR4NIH April 20

America's research institutions, patient and health advocates, and life sciences & biopharmaceutical companies are working to keep people safe and detect, treat and prevent #COVID-19. #UMRmembersRespond: <https://unitedformedicalresearch.org/covid-19/>

NIH Launches Public-Private Partnership to Combat COVID-19

The NIH [announced on April 17](#) that it would be joining with the Foundation for the NIH and 16 industry partners in a public private partnership to “develop a collaborative framework for prioritizing vaccine and drug candidates, streamlining clinical trials, coordinating regulatory processes and/or leveraging assets among all partners to rapidly respond to the COVID-19 and future pandemics.” The Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) partnership will have four fast-track focus areas: Standardize and share preclinical evaluation methods in an open forum that allows for comparison and validation; Prioritize and accelerate clinical evaluation of therapeutic candidates with near-term potential; Maximize clinical trial capacity and effectiveness; and Advance vaccine development.

Open Mike: Cyber Safety and COVID-19

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, Michael Lauer, MD, authored an [April 17 Open Mike blog post](#) discussing increased cybersecurity risks that have developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lauer urged NIH grantees to be vigilant by protecting against phishing attacks, securing your home office, and report any cybersecurity concerns to grantee organization's IT departments. The post also includes links to several cybersecurity resources.

Open Mike: Enhanced Security for NIH Peer Review Meetings

Dipak Bhattacharyya, PhD, NIH's Chief Information Officer for the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) authored an [April 16 Open Mike blog post](#) with updates on upcoming virtual peer review meetings. NIH efforts to ensure security of these meetings include utilizing a

FedRAMP-certified version of Zoom meetings, encryption and monitoring of video traffic, and enhanced security settings to ensure confidentiality of the meetings.

NIH NOSIs for COVID-19 Research

Three NIH institutes and centers released Notices of Special Interests (NOSI) related to availability of additional COVID-19-related research funding during the week of April 13. [National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke \(NINDS\)](#) released a NOSI “for the Establishment and Maintenance of a Research Database for Neurological Manifestations of the SARS-CoV-2”; the [National Library of Medicine \(NLM\)](#) released a NOSI regarding clinical data mining and public health surveillance methods; and [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\)](#) released a NOSI for additional research to “understand the potentially complex relationships between alcohol consumption and COVID-19 related-outcomes.”

FY 2021 Labor-HHS Outside Witness Testimony

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee has posted instructions for submitting outside witness testimony for FY 2021. [According to the instructions](#), testimony should be no longer than four pages and sent to the Subcommittee no later than close of business May 22.

Requests for Public Comment

NHGRI Seeks Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan – April 26

On April 13, NIH’s National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) released an [initial draft](#) of its 2020 strategic plan for stakeholder feedback. The draft covers four main areas focused on the institute’s responsibilities being at the forefront of genetics. NHGRI seeks stakeholder feedback by 5pm on April 26, and details on providing feedback on are on the [strategic plan website](#).

OBSSR Seeks Feedback on Scientific Priorities – April 30

The NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) is [seeking stakeholder feedback](#) on research directions to support OBSSR’s strategic plan. Specifically, OBSSR seeks feedback on “OBSSR would like input on the most important or cutting-edge, trans-disease research directions that would accelerate progress” in the following areas: synergy in basic and applied BSSR; BSSR resources, methods, and measures; and adoption of effective BSSR in practice. Responses are due by April 30 via submission via [obssr.ideascale.com](#).

NIDDK Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – July 31

NIH’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) issued a March 16 [request for information](#) on the institute’s five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, “The goal of the process is to develop a broad vision for accelerating research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions within the Institute’s mission,” and focuses on five broad themes for community input. [Comments are due](#) by July 31.

NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is embarking on an institute-wide strategic planning process, and published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so [through this form](#).

Upcoming Events

Apply for the NCI-DOE Collaboration 2020 Ideas Lab – Deadline April 30

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Department of Energy are co-hosting a 5-day workshop July 6-10 to foster interdisciplinary collaborations toward building a cancer patient “digital twin” to improve patient care. The Ideas Lab is open to cancer researchers, clinicians, biomedical engineers and mathematicians who must be accepted to participate in the event. Applications are due on April 30 at 5pm. Visit the [event website](#) for additional details and application instructions.

Webinar: The Need for Science Advocacy and How to Get Started – May 6

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) is hosting the first in a series of advocacy-themed webinars on Wednesday, May 6 at 12:00 pm EST titled, “Becoming an ASHG Advocate.” This initial webinar will highlight why advocating for genetics and genomics research is important and present several examples of how one can get involved in advocacy. Visit the [event website](#) for more information and to register.

NIH COVID-19 Resources

[NIH COVID-19 resource for applicants and grantees](#) including guidance for various aspects of research and grant application processes, as well as FAQs and COVID-19 funding opportunities.

[COVID-19 “Updates History” webpage](#) that details relevant updates for applicants and grantees by date.

[FAQ document on COVID-19 flexibilities](#) related to policies and programs affecting the grants process.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations provided through the first three COVID-19 supplemental packages (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; Families First Coronavirus Response Act; and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act).

Job Postings

ASM Seeks Senior Grassroots Manager

The American Society for Microbiology is seeking a Senior Grassroots Manager. This newly created position is responsible for developing and implementing an organizational grassroots strategy to engage ASM members on public policy issues that affect the microbial sciences. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

AAI Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), a non-profit professional biomedical research association, seeks a motivated and intellectually inquisitive individual to provide scientific expertise to the AAI public affairs program. This position supports the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, the members of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs, and other AAI staff in developing scientific and policy positions that convey the views, concerns, and interests of the AAI membership. Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with resume, including publications, and salary requirements, to FASEB Human Resources at resumes@faseb.org, or visit the [FASEB employment website](#) to apply. [See attached](#) and the [FASEB job site](#) to view a detailed job description.

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 Christa Wagner at chwagner@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.*