



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

May 4, 2020

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](https://twitter.com/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:

American Association for Cancer Research @AACR May 4

#ICYMI: During the recent [#AACR20](https://twitter.com/AACR20) Virtual Annual Meeting I, outcomes in patients with cancer who contracted COVID-19 was the focus of a plenary session that featured an international panel of experts. Read more on the blog: <https://bit.ly/2Laz8LX>

House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Hearing on COVID-19 Response – May 6

The House Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee [will hold a hearing](#) on Wednesday, May 6 at 10:00am titled, "COVID-19 Response." Witnesses include Tom Frieden, MD, President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, and former Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Caitlin Rivers, PhD, Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The hearing will be webcast.

Senate HELP Hearing on COVID-19 Testing – May 7

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee [will hold a hearing](#) on Thursday, May 7, at 10:00am titled, "Shark Tank: New Tests for COVID-19." NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and Acting Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) Gary Disbrow, PhD, will testify.

Ad Hoc Group Letter Urges Support for NIH in COVID-19 Supplementals

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research sent [an April 27 letter](#) to congressional leaders urging \$31 billion in additional supplemental funding for NIH in future comprehensive COVID-19 relief bills. This recommendation includes the NIH's proportion of the \$26 billion request proposed in [an April 29 letter](#) from members of the House of Representatives, as well as additional funding for more COVID-19 research, ramping up research activities that have stalled during the pandemic, and long-term investments in the workforce and physical laboratory infrastructure. The letter also encourages Congress to include statutory language in the next package to exempt key HHS programs from the regular appropriations discretionary spending caps for fiscal year 2021.

“Beyond the White Coat” Podcast Interviews NIH Director on COVID-19 Efforts

On the [May 1 episode of the podcast “Beyond the White Coat,”](#) David J. Skorton, MD, AAMC president and CEO, talks with Francis Collins, MD, PhD, director of the NIH, about NIH’s newly announced RADx (Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics) initiative, the importance of public-private partnerships, the importance of basic research, and more.

ASBMB Webinar: COVID-19 Interruptions to NIH Research

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) hosted [an April 20 webinar](#) with NIH representatives Michael Lauer, MD, deputy director for extramural research and director of the Office of Extramural Research, and Jodi Black, PhD, deputy director of the Office of Extramural Research at the NIH on the pandemic’s impact to NIH-funded research. Key takeaways include: NIH is a resource that scientists should utilize during the crisis; the recently passed CARES Act includes research-specific benefits; and more work is needed to ensure scientists and their labs are better prepared for future pandemics.

NIH Announces Study on COVID-19 Incidence in Children

[A May 4 NIH news release](#) announced the start of the Human Epidemiology and Response to SARS-CoV-2 (HEROS) study, sponsored by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The six-month study will enroll members from 2,000 families across the U.S. with the goals of determining a rate of SARS-CoV-2 infection in children and their families and the percentage of infected children who develop symptoms, and investigating differences between healthy children and those with asthma or other allergic conditions.

NOSI and Emergency Awards for COVID-19 Research

The week of April 27, three NIH institutes released notices on new funding opportunities for COVID-19 research. [National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke \(NINDS\)](#) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) “to rapidly improve our understanding of the neurological consequences of infection of SARS-CoV-2 and of COVID-19.” The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) released notices on emergency awards for [R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grants](#) and an [R01 Research Project Grants](#). The [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\)](#) issued a Notice of Information regarding the ability of “funded grantees and cooperative agreement awardees to engage in limited COVID-19 related research using part of their existing NCI-funded resources.”

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.

ASBMB Sign-On Letter, Op-Ed in Support of Peer-Reviewed Science

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) is [circulating a sign-on letter](#) to President Trump expressing concern over the administration’s recent revocation of a peer-reviewed NIH research grant for studies of coronaviruses by EcoHealth Alliance. ASBMB Public Affairs Director Ben Corb also published an April 30

[op-ed in CNN](#) noting concern over the politicization of peer-reviewed science. Organizations interested in joining the letter can [sign on here](#), and additional questions can be directed to Ben Corb at bcorb@asbmb.org.

Requests for Public Comment

NCCIH Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – June 30

NIH's National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) issued an April 27 [request for information](#) on the Center's five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, "The NCCIH is developing a new strategic plan to guide the Center's research efforts and priority setting for 2021 through 2026. Seeking input into the strategic planning process is critical for identification and consideration of research areas and topics to be included in the new plan. NCCIH is requesting input in any or all of 9 topic areas." [Comments are due](#) by June 30.

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

NIH OITE Hosts Webinar Series on Trainee Wellness – Week of May 4

The NIH's Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) continues to host various events focusing on trainee wellness and other career development topics, while trainees and researchers are working from home during the coronavirus pandemic. Upcoming webinars include "[Informational Interviews: What? How? Why?](#)" on May 4 from 3:00 – 4:00pm ET, "[Discussion for Building Resilience – Coping with Uncertainty](#)" on May 5 from 1:45 – 2:45pm ET, and "[Discussion for Building Resilience –Anxiety and Depression](#)" on May 6 from 11:00am – 12:00pm ET. Visit the [OITE "Upcoming Events" page](#) for the full calendar.

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.

Nominations Requested: 2020 Golden Goose Award to Recognize COVID-19 Research – May 22

The Golden Goose Award Steering Committee is requesting nominations for the 2020 award cycle to recognize individuals and teams whose federally funded research is contributing significantly to the response to COVID-19. The committee is seeking nominations that highlight outstanding scientific and technological research, originally focused elsewhere, that is now being redirected to address the COVID-19 pandemic. More information, including nomination criteria and the submission form, can be found [here](#). Nominations should be submitted by May 22, 2020.

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.*