

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – May 20, 2019

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:

[American Cancer Society @ACSNews](#)

"American Cancer Society sets challenge goal to reduce overall cancer mortality 40% between 2015 and 2035 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3322/caac.21564> ..."

### 1. Ad Hoc Group Signs Community Letter Urging Budget Caps Agreement

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research joined a May 17 [letter](#), which is signed by 15 research coalitions representing over 500 member organizations, urging the president and Congressional leaders to "begin negotiations and ultimately reach a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps for FY20 and FY21 above the levels specific in the Budget Control Act (BCA)."

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) suggested in a May 17 [press interview](#) that a meeting between Congressional leaders and the White House was in the process of being scheduled for the week of May 20 (CQ, subscription required).

### 2. FY 2020 Public Witness Testimony Deadlines

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee posted [instructions](#) for submitting outside witness testimony ahead of its work on FY 2020 appropriations. According to the instructions, testimony should be no longer than four pages and sent to the Subcommittee no later than close of business June 3.

The Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee may begin its markup of the FY 2020 spending bill the week of June 3 ([Bloomberg](#), subscription required).

### 3. Senate Panel Postpones Consideration of Advisory Panel Bill

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) [May 15 opted](#) to postpone consideration of legislation to increase transparency about federal advisory committee members over concerns that the bill could affect the peer review process at the NIH. The bill would require members of federal advisory committees to be designated as special government employees (SGE); however, officials at HHS have expressed concerns that if the provision requiring SGE designation would be applied to peer reviewers, it would pose substantial burden to both NIH and voluntary reviewers, potentially slowing the peer review process and creating recruitment challenges. No timeline has been announced for future consideration of this bill.

### 4. NIH Council of Councils Convenes for Triannual Meeting

The NIH [Council of Councils](#) met May 17 on the NIH campus to discuss various updates and issues. Topics included Common Fund concept clearances and the policy governing concept clearances, introductions to the offices of data science strategy and AIDS research, and an update from NHLBI director Gary Gibbons, MD. The meeting also included a Congressional

update from NIH Office of Legislative Policy and Analysis Director Adrienne Hallett. Presentation slides and a video recording of the meeting are available on the [meeting website](#).

## **5. NIH Hosts Listening Session on Sexual Harassment**

The NIH's Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) Working Group on Changing Culture to End Sexual Harassment held a May 16 public [listening session](#) on the NIH campus to “provide a venue [for] targets of sexual harassment to share their experiences.” After an opening statement from NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and brief statements from the Working Group’s co-chairs, the session facilitator NIH Associate Director for Science Policy Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, welcomed five invited guests to tell their own stories of harassment and retaliation, including one scientist who was able to speak about the experiences of women of color in science.

## **6. NIA Unveils Resource for Alzheimer’s Disease Clinical Trial Recruitment**

Director of Alzheimer’s Disease Centers Program at the NIA, Nina Silverberg, PhD, May 15 shared an update about a new resource for Alzheimer’s science at NIA. The website, [ADORE](#) (Alzheimer’s and Dementia Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement Resources), is “a searchable, online toolbox designed to help researchers engage, recruit, and retain participants in clinical trials and studies for the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.”

### **Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events**

#### **7. Congressional Briefing on National Science Foundation-Supported Research – June 4**

Please join the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) for a Congressional briefing on research supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The briefing will take place June 4 from 12-1:30pm in the Capitol Visitors Center room 268. Please see attached for additional information and RSVP to Benjamin Krinsky at [bkrinsky@faseb.org](mailto:bkrinsky@faseb.org).

#### **8. NIH ACD Meeting: June 13-14**

In a [Federal Register notice](#), the NIH announced the next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting will be held June 13-14 at the National Institutes of Health, Building 1, Wilson Hall, 1 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892. Preliminary agenda items include: the NIH Director’s Report, ACD Working Group Reports, and Other Business of the Committee.

#### **9. Rally for Medical Research – September 18-19**

Join a broad coalition of stakeholders representing millions of patients and other advocates from the medical research advocacy community on September 18-19, 2019, for the next Rally for Medical Research Hill Day and help raise awareness of the urgent need for continued investment in the NIH to improve health, spur more progress, inspire more hope, and save more lives. Please visit the [event website](#) for more information and to register. Registration closes August 30.

### **Job Postings**

#### **March of Dimes Seeks Director of Public Policy Research**

March of Dimes seeks a Director of Public Policy Research. This individual would be responsible for generating policy analysis and documents, supporting the Advocacy and

Government Affairs team by providing data and information, maintaining March of Dimes' profile in the policy research and academic community, and serving as an integral member of cross-departmental work and teams. Additional details and application information can be found [here](#).

**University of Florida Seeks Assistant Director of Federal Relations**

The University of Florida Seeks an Assistant Director of Federal Relations for the Washington, D.C. office. Essential job functions include: manage and execute the government relations program for a portfolio of the University's federal interests; anticipate, monitor and analyze federal policy; and more. Details and application instructions are available on the [job posting site](#).

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](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).