



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up

May 21, 2020

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the publication!

Congressional and NIH News

FY 2021 Labor-HHS Outside Witness Testimony Due May 22

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.

NIH to Study COVID-19 Impacts on Pregnant Women

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) at NIH is funding a study to investigate pregnancy outcomes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic according to a [May 19 NIH Media Advisory](#). The study has two main goals: to evaluate if recent changes in health care delivery as a result of coronavirus have led to complications during birth and to determine the risk of pregnant women transmitting SARS-CoV-2 to their fetuses.

NIH Director: Swift, Coordinated Efforts Needed in COVID-19 Response

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and Johnson & Johnson Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chief Scientific Officer Paul Stoffels, MD, co-authored a [May 18 JAMA Viewpoint](#) on the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) public-private partnership. "The main goals ... are to establish a collaborative framework for prioritizing vaccine and therapeutic candidates, to streamline clinical trials and tap into existing clinical trial networks, and to coordinate regulatory processes and leverage assets among all partners," they wrote. NIH issued a [May 18 Media Advisory](#) summarizing the Viewpoint.

Deadline Extended for Institutional Training Grant Submissions

NIH issued a [May 11 Notice](#) extending the application deadline from May 25 to June 30 for institutional T32 and T35 training awards. The announcement in the [May 14 NIH Extramural Nexus](#) indicates the date has been adjusted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the once-a-year due date.

NIH Intramural Blog: History of Vaccine Development

The NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP) details IRP's history of vaccine research in a [May 18 blog post](#) titled, "A Long Tradition of Vaccine Breakthroughs: IRP Vaccine Research Stretches Back to the NIH's Birth." The post details more than 100 years of IRP's efforts to develop vaccines for a range of diseases from smallpox, rubella and hepatitis A to human papillomavirus.

NIH Directors' Blog Posts on COVID-19

NLM Director Patti Brennan RN, PhD: [Emergency Funding Allows NLM to Expand COVID-19 Research and Services](#)

Ad Hoc Group Community COVID-19 Resources

Please share your organization's recommendation letters, sign-on letters, and resources related to COVID-19 with Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the Thursday COVID-19 Follow Up!

ASM Virtual Briefing Series on COVID-19

The American Society for Microbiology is launching a three-part virtual briefing series to showcase the latest science behind COVID-19 Diagnostics, Vaccines, and Therapeutics. Please join ASM for Part 1 of this series **next Wednesday, May 27 at 2:00 pm Eastern**, "Diagnostics and Surveillance: *Moving Beyond the Pandemic with Accurate, Reliable, and Meaningful Tests.*" Please see attached flyer for more information, and [register here](#).

Save the date for Parts 2 and 3 of the series: In Pursuit of a Vaccine for SARS-CoV-2 - Thursday, June 4, 2020; 2:00 PM EDT and From Remdesivir to Human Convalescent Plasma: *Understanding COVID-19 Therapeutic Development* - Thursday, June 18, 2020; 2:00 PM EDT.

ASM also maintains a [COVID-19 resources page](#) with a wealth of science-based information. Questions can be directed to Mary Lee Watts at mwatts@asmusa.org.

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).

Upcoming Events

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.

NEW NIH ACD Meeting on RADx – May 26

The NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) [will meet via teleconference on May 26](#) at 1:00pm EST to review and approve concept clearances for the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program to develop COVID-19 testing technologies.

Requests for Public Comment

NCI RFI on Strategy for SARS-CoV-2 Serology Testing – May 26

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) issued a [May 14 request for information](#) seeking suggestions and research approaches related to SARS-CoV-2 serology testing. Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to Serology_RFI@mail.nih.gov by 11:59pm on May 26.

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](#).

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.*