

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – May 30, 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. Here's this week's featured tweet:

### **Association of American Medical Colleges (@AAMCToday)**

*#NIH is the driving force for biomedical research and discovery in this country, says @burklowj of the @NIH <https://twitter.com/uamedphx/status/867813763335847936>*

#### **1. Ad Hoc Group Responds to FY 2018 Budget Proposal**

The Trump Administration released its first [full budget proposal](#) on Tuesday, May 23. The Budget, titled "A New Foundation for American Greatness," provides a program level of \$26.9 billion for NIH, a \$7.2 billion (21 percent) cut below the final FY 2017 spending bill, which the administration estimates would lead to approximately 2,000 fewer grants compared to FY 2016. The funding proposal stands in stark contrast to the \$2 billion increase [recommended](#) by [Ad Hoc Group](#). You can read the Ad Hoc Group's statement in response to the president's FY 2018 budget proposal on the [Ad Hoc website](#). The Ad Hoc Group also ran an ad in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Politico*, thanking Congress for its support of medical research and urging a \$2 billion increase in FY 2018.

#### **2. House Appropriations Committee Chair Welcomes Responses to President's Budget**

In a [Dear Colleague Letter](#), House Appropriations Chair Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) announced an opportunity for Members of Congress to respond to the president's FY 2018 budget request. The letter states, "The Committee will be opening the member request database for further requests in response to the just-released budget from the President." The deadline for submission to the House Labor-HHS subcommittee is close of business June 6.

#### **3. Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Testimony Deadline this Friday**

The Senate Subcommittee deadline to submit outside witness testimony related to FY 2018 appropriations is close of business on June 2. All testimony must be in accordance with the [guidelines](#) set out by the subcommittee.

#### **4. Senators Send Letter to Appropriations Committee in Support of NIH**

On May 24, Senators Robert Casey (R-Pa.) and Richard Burr (R-N.C.) led a [letter](#) to the Senate Appropriations Committee asking appropriators to "maintain a strong commitment to funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)" in the FY 2018 Labor-HHS bill. The letter, which received a total of 57 signatures, including 15 Republicans, 40 Democrats, and 2 Independents, notes recent support provided to the NIH and states, "we must continue to invest in biomedical research that has the potential to save money in the future, improve the lives of Americans, and offer an economic return for our Nation."

#### **5. Vox Reporter Discusses Health Research with Chairman Tom Cole (R-Okla.)**

On May 23, Julia Belluz of Vox [published](#) her interview with House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.). During her sit down, Ms. Belluz asks Chairman Cole for his reaction to the president's budget request and discusses the bipartisan congressional support for NIH,

among other things. In response to a question about proposed cuts to NIH, Chairman Cole responded by saying, “I can say NIH will remain a priority in my budget, and we’re going to do everything we can to stay on the course we’re on — which is predictable and modest increases in funding.”

## **6. NIH Announces Appointment of NIH Deputy Director for Management**

On May 25, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, [announced](#) the appointment of Alfred C. Johnson, Ph.D., as NIH Deputy Director for Management. The appointment became effective on May 28, 2017. According to the announcement, Dr. Johnson has been serving as the NIH Acting Deputy Director for Management since May 2016 and has been the Director of the NIH Office of Research Services (ORS) since 2006. In a separate communication, Dr. Collins also announced that Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, would assume the role as Acting Chief of Staff for NIH. Dr. Wolinetz is also associate director for Science Policy at the NIH.

## **7. NIH Launches Study on Return of Individual-Specific Research Results**

On May 30, the NIH, in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the launch of a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that will convene a committee to review and evaluate the return of individual-specific research results from research laboratories, which are required to be returned in accordance with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). Additional information on the study can be found on the NAS [website](#) and in an *Under the Poliscope* [post](#) by Carrie Wolinetz, PhD.

## **8. E&C Committee Members Send Letter to NIH on Clinical Center**

On May 23, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy (R-Pa.) sent a [letter](#) to the NIH, following up on the committee’s oversight of incidents at the NIH Clinical Center in 2015 when inspections raised concerns in the Pharmaceutical Development Section (PDS) physical facility.

## **9. Once Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) Releases New Poll**

Once Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) [released](#) a new nationwide poll that shows an overwhelming 90 percent of voters believe federal funding for medical research, including cancer research, is “very” or “extremely” important. In a [statement](#) released with the new poll, OVAC writes, “Voters clearly understand the importance of continued investment in life-saving medical research and prevention. They want their elected officials to increase, not cut, NIH funding and prioritize our nation’s ongoing investment in cutting-edge cancer research.” OVAC also released an [infographic](#) with the new poll.

## **10. Updated FASEB NIH Funding Trends Slides**

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) updated its [NIH Funding Trends slide deck](#) to reflect FY 2016 appropriations for biomedical research as well as the proposed funding level included in the Trump Administration’s FY 2018 budget request. This presentation analyzes data on NIH appropriations, the number of Research Project Grants and competing awards issued by the agency, the average grant size, and application success rates. A summary of trends in NIH funding going back to 1995 is also included.

## **11. NIH to Hold Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting June 8 and 9**

Through a [Federal Register Notice](#), the NIH announced an Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) meeting, scheduled for June 8 from 9 am to 5:30 pm and June 9 from 9 am to 1 pm. The agenda includes the NIH Director's report and the ACD working group reports, among other business. The meeting will take place at National Institutes of Health, Porter Neuroscience Research Center, Building 35, Room 640, 35 Convent Drive in Bethesda, MD. More information will be made available on the ACD website: <https://acd.od.nih.gov/>

## **12. Research!America Congressional Briefing: Innovation Intersection**

On June 12, Research!America will [host](#) a congressional briefing titled, "Innovation Intersection" from noon to 1:00 pm. Experts from across the medical research continuum will focus on the development phase of the discovery, development and delivery continuum, exploring who, what, why and how of clinical research that is pivotal to delivering safe and effective medical innovations to patients. Panelists include John Hubbard, Ph.D., FCP, chairman of Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO), and president and CEO, Bioclinica; Victor J. Dzau, M.D., president of National Academy of Medicine; Patty Fritz, MS, vice president of US Corporate Affairs, UCB Inc.; Sudip S. Parikh, Ph.D., senior vice president and managing director, DIA. The panel will be moderated by Eleanor Perfetto, Ph.D., MS, senior vice president of Strategic Initiatives at the National Health Council. The briefing will take place in SVC 201. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by filling out this [form](#).

## **13. Research!America Congressional Briefing on Migraine**

On June 15, Research!America will [host](#) a congressional briefing titled, "The Value of Research and Prevention in Addressing the Societal Burden of Migraine." During this Capitol Hill briefing, a moderated panel will discuss the debilitating impact of migraines on health, the economy and society. Speakers include: Walter Koroshetz, M.D., director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS); Mary Franklin, executive director, National Headache Foundation; Brian Gifford, Ph.D., director, research and measurement, Integrated Benefits Institute; Jaime Sanders, The Migraine Diva; and Amaal J. Starling, M.D., assistant professor of neurology, Mayo Clinic. The briefing will be held from noon to 1 pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by filling out this [form](#).

## **14. FasterCures Convenes "Partnering for Cures" in Boston and San Francisco**

Since 2009, [Partnering for Cures](#) (P4C) has been convening leaders with the experience, creativity, and motivation needed to transform the medical research system. The event is convened annually by [FasterCures](#), a center of the Milken Institute, and connects decision-makers from across diseases who are motivated by the same mission – to reduce the time and cost of getting new therapies from discovery to patients. *FasterCures* is taking P4C on the road and convening a smaller, cross-sector group of medical research leaders twice – once in Boston and once in San Francisco. Registration is now open for P4C Boston on July 12, 2017, and P4C San Francisco on Nov. 14, 2017. Find out more information at <http://www.partneringforcures.org/>.

## **15. Golden Goose Awards**

The [Golden Goose Awards](#) celebrate the stories of how basic research delivers major societal impacts – from NIH-funded [massages for baby rats](#) that changed how we treat premature babies (and saved billions in health care costs) to the once canceled NIH-funded [adolescent health study](#) that informs everything from school curricula to public health programs. Each year, three teams of researchers are showcased through written stories and documentary videos, and honored with an award ceremony in Washington,

DC each fall. The award depends on the support of partners in the science community, and more than twenty different organizations in our community and beyond contribute each year. Attached are the 2017 Golden Goose Award Sponsorship opportunities (also on the Golden Goose Awards [website](#)). The deadline for sponsoring is Sept 6, 2017.

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