

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 12, 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:

American Physiological Society Science Policy Office ([@SciPolAPS](#))

Share your breakthrough research story with [@ResearchHope!](#) #FundNIH #NIH #scicomm
bit.ly/2t3ML4v

1. White House Announces Continuation of Francis Collins as NIH Director and Appointment of Norman Sharpless as NCI Director

On June 6, the White House [announced](#) that Francis Collins, MD, PhD, would continue his appointment as director of the NIH. In response, Dr. Collins [tweeted](#) that he is, “Honored to be selected” and he considers it “a privilege to continue to lead this noble enterprise.” Additionally, on June 9, the White House [announced](#) that President Trump will appoint Norman Sharpless, MD as the next National Cancer Institute Director, a position that does not require Senate confirmation. Dr. Collins [wrote](#) about the announcement saying he is “very pleased with the news.”

2. NIH Withdraws GSI Proposal, Launches Next Generation Researchers Initiative at ACD

On June 8 at a convening of the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD), NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, [announced](#) that NIH has withdrawn the Grant Support Index (GSI) point system [proposal](#) put forward on May 2 while additional analyses are conducted. Instead, the NIH announced that it is implementing a new Next Generation of Researchers Initiative (NGRI), which seeks to support early stage investigators (ESI) and mid-career investigators. Effective immediately, the NIH Office of the Director will create an inventory of all ESIs and mid-career investigators within the fundable range and will track institute and center funding decisions for these two groups to evaluate if uniform decision making is occurring across the agency. NIH posted a [statement](#) from Dr. Collins and a [NGRI website](#), and invites feedback through the [Open Mike Blog](#) or the following email address: publicinput@od.nih.gov.

In addition to announcing the NGRI, the ACD meeting included an update on 21st Century Cures, an NIH Opioid Report, and a presentation on the Physician-Scientist Working Group, among other things. The full agenda, webcast, and power point slides from the ACD meeting can be found at <https://acd.od.nih.gov/meetings.html>.

3. HHS Secretary Tom Price, MD, to Testify at Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing

On June 15, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tom Price, MD [will testify](#) at a hearing held by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) to discuss the President's fiscal year 2018 HHS Budget. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in 138 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

4. Chairman Blunt (R-Mo.) Led Bipartisan Visit to NIH

On June 5, Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) led a bipartisan delegation of Senate Appropriations Committee members on a visit to the NIH. Chairman Blunt [tweeted](#) that the purpose of the delegation's trip was to “to hear more about their latest research on Alzheimer's, depression, & cancer.” Dr. Collins also [announced](#) the meeting through Twitter.

5. NIH Release: Workshop Addresses Opioid Misuse During Pregnancy

In a news release on June 8, the NIH discussed an opioid use disorder workshop [convened](#) in April 2016 which highlighted that “research is essential to determining how best to screen pregnant women for opioid use disorder, to treat pregnant women who have the disorder, and to care for infants as they experience withdrawal symptoms.” The workshop was sponsored by NICHD, CDC, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine and the March of Dimes.

6. 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.

7. 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, MD, director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS); Mary Franklin, executive director, National Headache Foundation; Brian Gifford, PhD, director, research and measurement, Integrated Benefits Institute; Jaime Sanders, The Migraine Diva; and Amaal J. Starling, MD, 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](#).

8. Capitol Hill Briefing on Patterns of Women’s Drinking and Their Impact on Public Health

On June 22, the Friends of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, in cooperation with the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, will host a congressional briefing titled, “The Changing Patterns of Women’s Drinking and Their Impact on Public Health.” Drawing on research supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), speakers in this briefing will discuss changing patterns of alcohol consumption by women, how alcohol affects women’s health, and evidence-based practices for preventing, diagnosing, and treating alcohol-related conditions in women. Please contact Cynthia Malley (cmalley@apa.org) with questions and RSVP [here](#). Lunch will be available. Flyer attached.

9. 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/>.

10. 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 or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.