

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 17, 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:

[Emory University @EmoryUniversity](#)

"Customized antibiotic combinations could defeat 'superbugs' previously thought to be antibiotic resistant, finds Emory research <http://emry.link/zPGrQ1>"

1. House Begins Floor Consideration of FY 2020 Labor-HHS Bill

The House June 12 began debate on amendments to the FY 2020 Labor-HHS spending bill as a part of the four-bill "minibus" spending package (H.R. 2740), including Defense, Energy and Water, and State and Foreign Operations spending bills. Of the nearly 70 Labor-HHS [amendments](#) considered, the House approved 64, including Rep. Pocan (D-Wis.)'s [amendment](#) to prevent implementation of HHS's June 5 policy on extramural fetal tissue research. Not approved was an amendment to reduce spending for the entire Labor-HHS spending bill by 14 percent, offered by Rep. Banks (R-Ind.).

Consideration of the entire four-bill spending package with amendments is expected to continue the week of June 17 before the House votes on final passage. The Senate has yet to establish a timeline for consideration of its FY 2020 Labor-HHS spending bill.

2. Congress, White House Continue Budget Negotiations

Senate Republicans June 12 met with members of the Trump administration to continue discussions on budget caps for FY 2020 and the debt ceiling. As reported in [CQ](#) (subscription required), the Senate "will likely 'deem' a topline spending level for fiscal 2020 appropriations bills after lawmakers return from the July Fourth recess, unless a spending caps deal is struck before then." Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) noted that Congress will continue to push for a two-year budget caps deal, though is unsure of the administration's preference for a one- or two-year deal.

3. NIH ACD Meeting Presents Updates on Sexual Harassment, Foreign Influence

The NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) June 13-14 held a public [meeting](#) covering a range of topics. In particular, the ACD Changing the Culture to End Sexual Harassment working group [presented](#) an interim report including four recommendations, future topics to discuss, and a plan to produce a final report by the December 2019 ACD meeting. NIH Principal Deputy Director Michael Lauer, MD, [presented](#) on behalf of the working group on Foreign Influences on Research Integrity, which shared recommendations at the December 2018 meeting. Dr. Lauer emphasized that international collaborations "are acceptable and encouraged, [and] we urge researchers to err on the side of transparency."

4. NIH Director: Time to End the Manel Tradition

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, June 12 [announced](#) that he will no longer participate in all-male speaking panels, or "manels," often found at scientific conferences. Citing NIH's commitment to create an "inclusive and diverse workforce, Dr. Collins noted, "It is not enough to

give lip service to equality; leaders must demonstrate their commitment through their actions." Dr. Collins clarified that if "attention to inclusiveness is not evident in the agenda, I will decline to take part" in speaking engagement invitations and encouraged other scientific leaders to do the same.

5. *Open Mike*: How to Notify NIH about a Concern on Sexual Harassment

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, June 14 [posted](#) on his *Open Mike* blog the announcement of a new website "that allows for anybody in the biomedical research community to share information related to a potential case of sexual harassment directly and, if desired, anonymously, to NIH." Dr. Lauer notes that NIH can and will follow up on all concerns related to NIH-funded research submitted through the site and encourages individuals to also report allegations of sexual harassment or assault to appropriate authorities, including institution equal employment opportunity or human resource offices.

6. New NIH Resource on Legacy of Henrietta Lacks

The NIH Office of Science Policy June 13 shared a [blog post](#) about a new collaboration with the NIH Library to assemble a [resource](#) on the legacy of Henrietta Lacks in biomedical research. Cells from Ms. Lacks' cervical cancer were extracted 65 years ago, and the cells have contributed to important research findings and therapeutics all over the world, including the "development of the polio vaccine, the advent of recombinant DNA technology, [and] nanotechnology treatment for cancer."

7. NCI Cancer Currents: The Childhood Cancer Data Initiative

The NIH's National Cancer Institute (NCI) discussed its plans to develop a Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI), which would aim to "establish more efficient ways to share and use childhood cancer data to help identify novel therapeutic targets and approaches, underpin new drug development, and enable new research pursuits to better understand the biology of childhood cancers," in a Cancer Currents [blog post](#). The NCI is hosting a [symposium](#) to shape the scientific direction of the CCDI July 29-31 in Washington DC and is soliciting abstracts for posters until June 30. The public is encouraged to view by webcast.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

8. Congressional Life Science Fair and Reception – June 20

Please join the Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) for the second annual Life Science Fair and Reception on Capitol Hill. The event will take place Thursday, June 20 from 5-7pm in 2043, 2044, and 2045 Rayburn House Office Building. You can register [here](#) and see attached flyer for sponsorship information.

9. Congressional Briefing on HPV-related Cancers – June 27

Please join a group of organizations working on cancer prevention, screening and treatment for a briefing titled "Let's End HPV-related Cancers." The event will take place on Thursday, June 27 from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm in Room 2044 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The briefing is hosted by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), Moffitt Cancer Center, and Biden Cancer Initiative in partnership with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Association of American Cancer

Institutes (AACI), Prevent Cancer Foundation, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Please see the event [flyer](#) for additional details, and [RSVP here](#).

10. Congressional Briefing on the Science of Aging – June 27

Please join the Friends of the National Institute on Aging for a Congressional briefing titled, "The Science of Aging: Groundbreaking Research Supported by the National Institute on Aging." The briefing will be held on Thursday, June 27 from 2:00-3:00 pm in Capitol Visitor Center 268. Please [RSVP here](#).

11. Congressional Briefing on Dry Eye and "Test Your Tears" Screening – July 10

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research as they co-host a Congressional briefing during Dry Eye Awareness Month. The briefing, "Ongoing Impact of the TFOS DEWS II™ Dry Eye Clinical Practice and Research," will be held on Wednesday, July 10 from 12-1:15pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. A simultaneous screening for eye health will occur from 11:30am-2pm. Please see attached for additional detail, and RSVP to Dina Beaumont at dinabeau@aol.com.

12. 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

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