

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 19, 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:

Coalition to Promote Research ([@CPR_Research](#))

Support peer review & U.S. scientific research agencies! Sign CPR petition #Sign4Science
tinyurl.com/CPRpetition

1. Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee Schedules Hearing on NIH FY 2018 Budget Request

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) [posted](#) details for a June 22 hearing to “Review the FY2018 Budget Request for the National Institutes of Health.” NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, is scheduled to testify and will be accompanied by six institute directors. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in 138 Dirksen Senate Office Building and will be webcast from the Subcommittee [webpage](#).

2. Senators Push Back on Proposed NIH Cuts in Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing

On June 15, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tom Price, MD [testified](#) at a hearing held by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS to discuss the President's fiscal year 2018 HHS Budget. In his opening [statement](#), Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) stated his firm position saying, “I want to be clear that, as chairman of this Subcommittee, I will not write a bill this year that reduces funding for the National Institutes of Health.” The Labor-HHS Subcommittee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.), the full Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), and Democratic Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) each expressed their concern with the 21 percent cut to the NIH. Additionally, Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) highlighted the long-term cost reduction impact of the NIH saying, “If you're fiscally conservative, this is a good investment because it will save us in our health care costs. If we could find the delay in onset of Alzheimer's, there's billions of dollars that will not be spent.”

3. Open Mike Blog: Update on NIH's Next Generation Researchers Initiative

On June 16, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, [posted](#) a blog update on the Next Generation Researchers Initiative (NGRI). Dr. Lauer recapped the [presentation](#) made by NIH Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD at the recent Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) [meeting](#), discussed the new approach put forward by the NGRI and announced the [new webpage](#) dedicated to the initiative. In case you missed the discussion at the ACD meeting, you can view the webcast recording at <https://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?Live=23678&bhcp=1>.

4. Research Coalition Launches “Advancing Principles of Scientific Stewardship” Petition

On June 12, the Coalition to Promote Research (CPR) launched a petition entitled, “Advancing Principles of Scientific Stewardship.” The statement encourages Congress and the Executive Branch to continue supporting: scientific merit review, also known as “peer review”; federally supported research; and scientific integrity and transparency. To read the full petition and/or sign on, please visit: <http://www.apascience.org/scientific-principles-petition/>

5. FASEB Workshop on Communicating Basic Biomedical Research

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is holding a workshop on June 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. that will bring together scientists, science reporters, advocates, and other stakeholders. The discussion will explore the effects of misrepresented or overstated (“hyped”) results on the biomedical research landscape as well as on public perception of science, the goals and pressures shaping the dissemination of research findings, and opportunities to improve communication practices. The workshop will feature a keynote presentation from Erika Check Hayden, a veteran science journalist and director of the Science Communication Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Members of the public can watch a [videocast](#) of the workshop on the NIH website. For more details, see the [workshop agenda](#). The National Institute of General Medical Sciences is co-hosting the event.

6. 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. The briefing will begin at noon and will take place in 2226 Rayburn House Office Building. Please contact Cynthia Malley (cmalley@apa.org) with questions and RSVP [here](#). Lunch will be available. Flyer attached.

7. Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus Briefing on Genetics of Autism

On June 23, join pioneering autism researcher, Matthew State, MD, PhD, for a congressional briefing on the profound scientific opportunities that are rapidly accelerating progress in autism research. Dr. State has led this effort and just recently published research that found distinct sets of genetic defects that could lead to autism. Dr. State will discuss his research and the potential for better and earlier detection methods, as well as the possibility for potential treatments. The briefing will take place from noon to 1 p.m. in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building. RSVP by emailing Lynn Marquis at cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org. Boxed lunches will be available for attendees. See attached flyer for more info.

8. House Cancer Caucus Event: Innovation Panel Discussion

The House Cancer Caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.), Brian Higgins (R-N.Y.), Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.) and Kevin Yoder (R-Kan.), will host an innovation panel to discuss the latest life-saving innovations in cancer treatment and research. The event will take place on Wednesday, June 29 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in 121 Cannon House Office Building. The briefing will provide an in-depth look into current breakthroughs being made by top researchers and drug manufacturers, and the impact of these breakthroughs on cancer patients. To RSVP for this event, or if you have any questions, please email Rachel Appleton in Rep. Kilmer’s office at Rachel.Appleton@mail.house.gov.

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 and P4C San Francisco on Nov. 14. Find out more information at <http://www.partneringforcures.org/>.

10. Congressional Briefing, Screening, and Poster Session for Dry Eye Awareness Month

On July 12, the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR), in conjunction with the Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS), will host a Capitol Hill luncheon briefing from noon to 1:15 p.m. in 2168 Rayburn House Office Building (Gold Room). The briefing will feature a panel discussion on the just-released TFOS Dry Eye Workshop II (TFOS DEWS II™) Report on Dry Eye Incidence, Diagnosis, and Treatment. A “Test Your Tears” screening and poster session will coincide with the luncheon briefing from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please see the attached flyer. To RSVP, contact Dina Beaumont (202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com).

11. 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.

12. Job Opening: Communications Manager at FASEB

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a non-profit scientific organization, seeks a Communications Manager to develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive public relations program for the Office of Public Affairs, including managing FASEB social media accounts and programs. A [position description](#) is available on FASEB’s website. Applications can be submitted online through the [FASEB Employment Opportunities portal](#). NOTE: this position is different than the Director of Communications opportunity that was advertised in April.

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.