

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 26, 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)

Watch @SenAlexander describe why proposals to reduce @NIH F&A support will result in less research and fewer jobs: <https://vimeo.com/222855018/2b1d7ac7da>

1. Senators Reject FY 2018 NIH Budget at Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee Hearing

On June 22, NIH Director Francis Collins testified at the Senate Labor HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee [hearing](#) on the President's FY 2018 Budget Request for the NIH. Throughout the hearing, senators from both sides of the aisle expressed their strong disapproval of the President's proposed \$7.2 billion (21 percent) cut to the agency. In his opening [statement](#), Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) stated, "I fundamentally disagree with the proposed funding reduction" and that the cut is "the wrong message to send," ultimately characterizing the proposal as "unacceptable."

2. Open Mike Blog: Perspectives on Evidence-based Funding

In a [blog post](#) on June 23, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, highlighted a recent keynote he delivered at the May 4 [NIH Regional Seminar](#). Dr. Lauer's talk, titled "Evidence-Based Funding: Thoughts about Extramural Scientists and Their Research," covers concerns about the "hypercompetitive nature of applying for NIH support" and how the NIH might measure the "contributions of NIH supported research to treating diseases." His keynote is available to view on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/lptetu-2mGI>.

3. Op-ed: Kentucky Will Suffer Under Trump's Research Cuts

On June 19, the Lexington Herald Leader [published](#) an op-ed by University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto, DMD, Sc.D, that discusses the potential impacts of the President's FY 2018 Budget Request on the commonwealth of Kentucky. After writing about the impact of the opioid epidemic on the state, Dr. Capilouto raises his concern on the additional impact of cuts to the University of Kentucky if federal funding for research are implemented. Recognizing that "research doesn't always yield instant results," Dr. Capilouto says that, "research is a wager on our future."

4. "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. WSJ Opinion: A Government Agency That Produces Real Innovation

On June 22, Mike Kalutkiewicz, founder of Belle+Prueve Public Affairs LLC, and Richard Ehma, MD, professor at the Mayo Clinic, wrote an [opinion piece](#) in the Wall Street Journal on the NIH titled, "A

Government Agency That Produces Real Innovation.” The writers, who open by calling the NIH “one of our most strategically important federal assets,” make the case that the NIH is a source for “high-quality patents.” The article discusses a [Manhattan Institute report](#), written by the authors of the opinion piece, that found NIH produces 20.4% more market value than average patents.

6. 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.

7. 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/>.

8. 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).

9. 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.

10. Join the 2017 Rally for Medical Research Hill Day: Sept 13-14

[Registration](#) for the Rally for Medical Research is now open. For five consecutive years, the Rally for Medical Research Hill Day's has raised awareness during a critical time about the urgent need for an increased investment in the NIH to improve health, spur more progress, inspire more hope and save more lives. The Rally for Medical Research Hill Day is scheduled to take place on Thursday, Sept. 14, in Washington D.C. A reception will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 13 on Capitol Hill from 5:30 to 7:30 pm following a Hill Day training session at 3:00 pm at the [Grand Hyatt](#). Additionally, a hotel room block has been reserved on a first come, first served basis at the Grand Hyatt, Washington DC. Specific questions may be directed to info@rallyformedicalresearch.org and for organizations interested in sponsoring the event, more information is available at: <http://rallyformedicalresearch.org/Pages/Hill-Day-Sponsors-2017.aspx>. Follow the Rally on Twitter @RallyforNIH or join the group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RallyMedRes/>

11. 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.