



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up

July 16, 2020

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the publication!

Congressional and NIH News

House Appropriations Committee Advances FY 2021 Spending Bill

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on July 13 approved an [amended](#) draft [FY 2021 spending bill](#) with accompanying [report language](#) by a party-line vote of [30-22](#). As passed by the subcommittee on July 7, the approved bill would provide a total of \$47 billion for the NIH in FY 2021 – \$5.275 billion more than the FY 2020 enacted level. Within the total, the bill would provide \$42 billion in annual appropriations, an increase of \$275 million above the FY 2020 enacted level (0.65%) and totaling \$500 million in new funding due to the transfer of one-time nonrecurring expenses in FY 2020. The FY 2021 bill also provides \$5 billion in emergency appropriations available through FY 2025. Of the emergency funding, which the bill allows NIH to use to offset expenses associated with COVID-related disruptions to research, \$2.5 billion be distributed across NIH proportionate to each institute and center's FY 2020 funding level. With the additional emergency funding and according to the report language, "Each Institute and Center will receive an increase of at least 7% over the 2020 enacted level."

The FY 2021 Labor-HHS bill is expected to be considered by the full House of Representatives the week of July 27.

COVID-19 Experimental Vaccine Shows Safety, Immune Response

Preliminary results from a Phase 1 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine trial supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) showed that the vaccine was "generally well tolerated and prompted neutralizing antibody activity in health adults," according to [a July 14 NIH News Release](#). The preliminary results investigating the vaccine co-developed by NIAID and Moderna, Inc., come from 45 participants ages 18 to 55 who began enrollment into the study in March. The Phase 2 trial began enrollment in May, and Phase 3 is expected to begin in July. NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, provides additional context to the preliminary vaccine trial results in a [July 16 NIH Director's Blog post](#).

NIH Releases COVID-19 Research Strategic Plan

The NIH on July 13 released the [NIH-wide Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research](#). As described in the related [Extramural Nexus post](#), the strategic plan outlines five cross-cutting strategies: invest in fundamental SARS-CoV-2 research, speed innovation through the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative, participate in public-private partnerships, support studies on preventative treatments and practices, and ensure accessibility to diagnostics, treatments, and preventions for underserved populations.

A COVID-19 Conversation with Drs. Collins and Fauci

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD, recently held a discussion live on social media platforms to discuss the latest COVID-19 statistics, the state of NIH research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, and more. [The conversation is now available on the NIH YouTube channel.](#)

Ad Hoc Member Resources

COVID-19 - Back to Campus: A Course on COVID-19 Safety

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has collaborated with member institutions and CITI Program to [launch a complimentary course to train research faculty and team members, research staff, students, and other staff at medical schools and research organizations on COVID-19 safety](#) as they return to campus this fall. The highlights of the course include a discussion of recommendations from NIH, CDC, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as optional modules on specific research areas. Organizations may subscribe to this free course by October 1, and learners will receive a CITI Program completion report as evidence of successful training. [Download a demo and learn more about the course here.](#)

Upcoming Events

NIH Human Fetal Tissue Ethics Advisory Board Meeting – July 31

The NIH posted a Notice of the first [meeting of the NIH Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board](#) in the Federal Register on July 15. The [virtual meeting](#) will take place on July 31 and will be open to the public from 10-11:05 am. According to the notice, there will be a 20-minute public comment period during the open session, and interested parties should notify the meeting contact person at least 4 days in advance to reserve a time slot.

Virtual Rally for Medical Research – Sept. 16-17

The Rally for Medical Research is held every September and includes more than 300 national organizations coming together in support of to call on our nation's policymakers to make funding for National Institutes of Health (NIH) a national priority and raise awareness about the importance of continued investment in medical research that leads to more progress, more hope, and more lives saved. This year's event will be held virtually on September 16-17. For more information and to register, please visit <https://rallyformedicalresearch.org>.

NIH COVID-19 Resources

[NIH COVID-19 resource for applicants and grantees](#) including guidance for various aspects of research and grant application processes, as well as FAQs and COVID-19 funding opportunities.

[COVID-19 “Updates History” webpage](#) that details relevant updates for applicants and grantees by date.

[FAQ document on COVID-19 flexibilities](#) related to policies and programs affecting the grants process.

[Funding opportunities specific to COVID-19](#) lists active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.

Job Postings

FASEB Seeks Associate Director for Legislative Affairs

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) seeks an experienced [Associate Director for Legislative Affairs](#) to serve as principal representative of FASEB to members of Congress and congressional staff and advise FASEB leadership and the Board of Directors on legislative strategies and advocacy initiatives related to increasing federal funding for and awareness of life sciences research. This position is responsible for developing and executing a successful appropriations strategy and legislative advocacy program on behalf of FASEB and FASEB member societies and coordinating with other stakeholders in the biomedical research advocacy community. Please see the [attached PDF job description](#) and [click here](#) to submit a cover letter, resume, and a short writing sample. For more information about FASEB, visit www.faseb.org.

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.*