

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – July 31, 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:

Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research (@AcadRad)

The research community needs champions in Congress! Let's encourage more elected officials to see how effective @NIH is with #research \$\$\$. <https://twitter.com/NIHRecord/status/890991798679736321>

1. Labor-HHS Chair Tom Cole Writes About NIH in Tulsa World

On July 27 in the Tulsa World, House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) [wrote](#) an Op-Ed about congressional action on the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. In the Op-Ed, titled "Taking care of our health, education and jobs," Chairman Cole talks about how the Labor-HHS bill funds "some of our government's most vital agencies" saying, "From cancer research to early childhood education programs, this bill plays a large role in improving Americans' lives of all ages." Chairman Cole highlights the Subcommittee's efforts to support medical research saying, "This year, NIH received a total of \$35.2 billion, a \$1.1 billion increase from last year, an increase for the third consecutive year. These funds will be allocated among Alzheimer's disease research, the Cancer moonshot program for cancer prevention and cure research, medical drug innovation, mental health and substance abuse programs and numerous disease initiatives."

2. Collins and Volkow Highlight NIH Efforts to Address the Opioid Epidemic

On July 27, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Nora Volkow, MD [authored](#) a special report on how the NIH is working with other stakeholders to address the opioid epidemic. The report, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, highlights how "Recent NIH-industry partnerships, such as the Accelerating Medicines Partnership, demonstrate the power of public-private collaboration in speeding the development of new medications," and that "Ending the opioid crisis will require this kind of collaboration." Dr. Collins and Dr. Volkow describe efforts in three areas: overdose-reversal interventions, opioid addiction treatment, and nonaddictive interventions to manage chronic pain.

3. NIH Announces "All of Us" Community Partner Awards

On July 25, the NIH [announced](#) four organizations that will support the goals of the [All of Us research Program](#), a program as part of the Precision Medicine Initiative focused on gathering data from over 1 million people with the ultimate goal of accelerating research and improving health. The four partner organizations include FiftyForward, National Alliance for Hispanic Health, Delta Research and Educational Foundation, and San Francisco General Hospital Foundation. According to the news release, these awardees will receive a combined \$1.7 million this fiscal year to raise awareness about the program among seniors, Hispanics and Latinos, African Americans and the LGBTQ community, to complement other outreach efforts of the program.

4. Discovery Documentary "First in Human" Looks into NIH Clinical Center

Discovery is set to premier "First in Human" on August 10, which is a three-part documentary on the NIH Clinical Center. According to an [NIH news release](#), the documentary provides an "unprecedented, first-hand look at the successes and setbacks that are a part of developing brand-new medicines that may

ultimately benefit millions worldwide.” The documentary is narrated by Jim Parsons and will air on August 10, 17, and 24 at 9pm ET/PT.

5. 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.

6. 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 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 DC 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/>

7. NSABB Workshop on Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern

On September 25-26, the NIH and the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) will co-host a workshop to engage with stakeholders and facilitate information sharing among research institutions regarding their approaches to, and experiences with, implementing the [United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern \(DURC\)](#). This two-day workshop will involve discussions with diverse institutional representatives and facilitate the sharing of experiences including strategies, best practices, challenges, and solutions regarding policy implementation and the identification and management of DURC. While webcasting will not be available, the meeting will be recorded for future viewing on the [OSP Website](#). For additional details and to register please visit the [workshop website](#). Email Kevin Ramkissoon (ramkissoonkr@od.nih.gov) for questions.

8. FasterCures Convenes “Partnering for Cures” in 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 in San Francisco. Registration is now open for P4C San Francisco on Nov. 14. Find out more information at <http://www.partneringforcures.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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.