

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – September 11, 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:

### **The American Physiological Society Science Policy Office (@SciPolsAPS)**

*You can join the National Day of Action for Research Funding from anywhere! Speak up for research funding Sept 14 [bit.ly/2xiFCDF](http://bit.ly/2xiFCDF)*

#### **1. President Signs Continuing Resolution Through Dec. 8**

On Friday, Sept. 8, the House approved, 316-90, H.R. 601, a package with \$15.25 billion disaster relief that also suspends the debt ceiling and continues funding for federal agencies (with a 0.6791 percent across the board cut) through Dec. 8. Among other provisions, the package also includes a provision (Sec. 138) prohibiting HHS from reducing NIH support for facilities and administrative (F&A) expenses (similar to language included in the House and Senate Labor-HHS bills for FY 2018). The president signed the bill late Friday, thus granting appropriators an additional three months to complete work on the FY 2018 spending bills beyond the end of the fiscal year Sept. 30. The Senate had approved the measure a day earlier, 80-17. [Bill text](#), a [section by section summary](#), and [press statement](#) about the package are available on the Senate Appropriations Committee website.

#### **2. House Continues Consideration of “Octo-bus”**

The House began consideration of the “Octo-bus” on Sept. 6 and plans to continue consideration of its committee-passed spending bills for the full fiscal year as early as Wednesday, Sept. 13. The floor schedule changed due to member absences caused by Hurricane Irma. After approving a four bill “security package” (H.R. 3219) earlier in the year, the chamber on Sept. 6 began consideration of the “Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act” (H.R. 3354), which bundles the eight remaining spending bills, including the FY 2018 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill (H.R. 3358, H.Rept. 115-234) approved by the House Appropriations Committee in July. The House Rules Committee ruled more than 200 [amendments in order](#), including 59 amendments to the Labor-HHS-Education portion of the package (Division F). The White House Sept. 5 issued a [statement of administration policy](#) in support of the legislation, but expresses concern with language in Division F prohibiting the administration from reducing NIH support for facilities and administrative expenses.

#### **3. Senate Committee Approves FY 18 Bill With \$2 Billion Increase for NIH**

The Senate Appropriations Committee released text of its FY 2018 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill ([S. 1771](#), [S. Rept. 115-150](#)), which the [committee approved](#), 29-2, on Sept. 7. The bill provides \$36.084 billion for NIH in FY 2018, including the full \$496 million provided for the agency through the Innovation Account established in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, a \$2 billion increase for NIH overall (on preliminary review, without the Cures funding, the bill provides \$35.588 billion, a \$1.856 billion or 5.5 percent increase above the comparable FY 2017 funding level). The bill rejects a number of the president's FY 2018 proposals: among other provisions, the bill continues funding for the Fogarty International Center, maintains AHRQ as an independent agency rather than consolidating it within NIH, blocks the administration from reducing NIH support for facilities and administrative expenses, and maintains the HHS salary cap at Executive Level II.

The Ad Hoc Group issued a statement (attached) commending the committee for its continued commitment to NIH funding growth, noting, “In addition to providing the hope of better health to millions of patients, NIH funding advances science, innovation, and economic growth. The nearly \$2 billion increase included in this bill keenly reflects the sustainable, predictable growth necessary to make these objectives a reality. We are grateful to Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt and Ranking Member Patty Murray, as well as their House counterparts, for their ongoing leadership in championing such a budget trajectory for the agency over the long term.”

#### **4. Dr. Collins Featured on “The David Rubenstein Show: Peer-to-Peer Conversations”**

On Sept. 6, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, sat down with David Rubenstein for an [interview](#) on the “The David Rubenstein Show: Peer-to-Peer Conversations.” Rubenstein uses the show as an opportunity to explore successful leadership through the personal and professional choices of some of the most influential leaders United States.

#### **5. Open Mike: Continuing to Clarify the NIH Definition of a Clinical Trial**

On Sept. 8, NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, [posted](#) an Open Mike piece as a follow up to case studies and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) [posted](#) on Aug. 11, which was an attempt to help clarify whether their human subjects research study meets the NIH definition of a clinical trial. Dr. Lauer's blog post says that questions and feedback from the scientific community prompted the NIH to refine the [case studies](#) and [FAQs](#), calling them “living documents” and saying that it is important that the NIH “gets this right.”

#### **6. NCI Scientists Receive 2017 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award**

Through a news release on Sept. 6, the NIH [announced](#) that two National Cancer Institute (NCI) scientists, John Schiller, PhD, and Douglas Lowy, MD, will receive the 2017 [Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award](#). In the release, Dr. Collins expressed his praise of the two NCI scientists saying, “I'm incredibly proud of this much-deserved honor bestowed upon John and Doug for their foundational discoveries that led to the creation of HPV vaccines. Thanks to their extraordinary efforts, we have the potential to eliminate cervical cancer and greatly reduce other HPV-associated cancers. This award reinforces the critical importance of basic research in the development of medical breakthroughs like the HPV vaccine.”

#### **7. Join the 2017 Rally for Medical Research Hill Day: Sept. 13-14**

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](#). Specific questions may be directed to [info@rallyformedicalresearch.org](mailto:info@rallyformedicalresearch.org) and for more information, visit: <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/>

#### **8. Alliance for Eye and Vision Research Congressional Luncheon Briefing**

On Sept. 13 from noon to 1:15pm in G-2043 Rayburn House Office Building, the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research will host a briefing that to kick off the Third Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day on Capitol Hill, held during International AMD Awareness Week 2017 and Healthy Aging Month. The

briefing, titled, “Advances in the Treatment of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Retinal Diseases,” will feature Mandeep Singh, MD, PhD, assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University. To RSVP for the briefing, contact Dina Beaumont by phone at 202-407-8325 or by email at [dinabeau@aol.com](mailto:dinabeau@aol.com). All luncheon briefing attendees and their colleagues are invited to attend the EVS Poster Reception, held on the evening of September 13 from 5:30-7:30 pm in Rayburn 2168 (Gold Room). More information attached.

#### **9. AACR Cancer Progress Report 2017 Release**

On Sept. 13, American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) will release its Cancer Progress Report 2017 at noon on Capitol Hill in 485 Russell Senate Office Building. The annual AACR Cancer Progress Report to Congress and the American public, now in its seventh edition, is a cornerstone of the efforts of the AACR to educate the public about cancer and the importance of biomedical research, as well as to advocate for increased federal funding for the NIH, NCI, and FDA. This year’s report chronicles how federally funded research continues to improve lives, and it shows that our ability to fully capitalize on our ever-growing knowledge of cancer is dependent on robust, sustained, and predictable federal funding. The report highlights how recent advances across the clinical cancer care continuum, in particular immunotherapy and molecularly-targeted therapies, are helping cancer patients and their families. This year’s report also focuses on the continued challenges we face in addressing cancer health disparities. Lunch will be provided at this widely attended event. Please RSVP for this event by September 8 by emailing [govrelations@aacr.org](mailto:govrelations@aacr.org).

#### **10. NSABB Workshop on Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern**

On Sept. 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](mailto:ramkissoonkr@od.nih.gov)) for questions.

#### **11. Golden Goose Awards**

The [Golden Goose Awards](#), taking place on Sept. 27 at the Library of Congress, 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](#)).

#### **12. 14th Annual AERA Brown Lecture In Education Research with Alfredo J. Artiles**

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) invites you to its [Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research](#). This lecture is designed to feature the important role of research in advancing understanding of equality and equity in education. This year's featured speaker is Alfredo Artiles, PhD, dean of graduate education and the Ryan C. Harris professor of special education at Arizona State University. Dr. Artiles is a leading scholar on understanding and addressing educational inequities related to the intersections of disability with other sociocultural differences. The lecture will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. ET on Oct. 19 at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center (1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC). You may RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/14th-annual-aera-brown-lecture-in-education-research-tickets-35522375381?aff=email072717>. This event is free and open to the public. A buffet reception will follow.

### **13. SfN Invites You to Its Neurobiology of Disease Workshop**

On Nov. 10, The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) will host a [2017 Neurobiology of Disease Workshop](#), "Gene Therapy to Address Unmet Needs in Neurology." This workshop will feature Florian Eichler, MD, Xandra O. Breakefield, PhD, and [others](#) to discuss the breadth of current and emerging gene therapy approaches to treat neurologic disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, ALS, or muscular dystrophy. This workshop embraces the breadth of "gene therapy" including viral vectors, oligonucleotides, and cell therapies used in promising preclinical studies and clinical trials for a variety of neurologic disorders long thought to be incurable. These new methods involve DNA engineering, gene replacement using virus vectors and the patient's own genetically modified cells, oligonucleotides that can "revive" beneficial gene functions or suppress toxic ones, and viruses and cells armed to tackle brain tumors. For question, please email [training@sfn.org](mailto:training@sfn.org).

### **14. 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](mailto:jbanez@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).*