

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – September 12, 2016

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets suggested by members of the 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.

Tweet Tweet. This year's Rally for Medical Research Hill Day is on September 22, 2016, and you are encouraged to participate on Twitter using #rallymedres.

Follow us on Twitter. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is now on Twitter: @fundNIH

1. Ad Hoc Group Urges Congress to Avoid a Long-term CR and Provide NIH Funding Increase

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research sent a [letter](#) thanking appropriations leadership for championing sustained, real growth in medical research funding; urging \$34.1 billion for NIH in a final FY 2017 spending package by the end of the calendar year; and expressing a preference for an approach to FY 2017 that avoids a long-term continuing resolution (CR). The letter was signed by 210 organizations. Neither bill has been considered by its respective full chamber, and as the end of the fiscal year approaches Sept. 30, House and Senate leaders have been in discussions about a CR to extend current funding levels for all federal agencies temporarily until after the election and to avoid a government shutdown.

2. Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel Issues Research Recommendations

The Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel Sept. 7 released its [report](#) highlighting ten recommendations for achieving the Cancer Moonshot's goals. The panel's report is the culmination of the work of seven working groups, which were comprised of more than 150 scientists, clinicians, patient advocates, and industry representatives. Among the central actions identified in the report are the creation of a national network for direct patient involvement in data collection, development of technology and preclinical models, and expansion of prevention and early detection strategies.

3. Open Mike Blog Discusses the Impact of NIH-supported Publications

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, M.D., [discussed](#) in his Open Mike blog a new metric for measuring scientific productivity using citation impact, which is called the Relative Citation Ratio (RCR). Dr. Lauer focuses on a published [paper](#) from NIH staff in *PLoS Biology*, highlighting the RCR and the impact of a research article in its field.

4. Nominations Continue for 2017 Lurie Prize

There is still time to nominate a colleague for the Foundation for National Institute of Health's 2017 Lurie Prize in Biomedical Sciences. Nominations are being accepted until September 14, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. The Lurie Prize recognizes "outstanding achievement by a promising young scientist in biomedical research." You can learn more about the award and how to nominate a colleague [here](#).

5. Rally for Medical Research Hill Day

This year's Rally for Medical Research Hill Day will take place Thursday, September 22, 2016. More than 300 people, which is a record number of registrants, from 37 states have signed up to participate in this year's Hill Day, and if you have any questions, please contact info@rallyformedicalresearch.org.

6. Congressional Briefing on Advancements in Retinal Diseases

Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Retinal Diseases

Hosted by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

House Rayburn Office Building, Room B-338

This briefing is held during International AMD Awareness Week 2016 and Healthy Aging Month, and will focus on the latest developments in AMD diagnosis and treatment as well as other retinal diseases.

Speakers:

- **Amir H. Kashani**, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California.

Please RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com

7. Congressional Reception for Emerging Vision Scientists

Emerging Vision Scientists Reception

Hosted by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 pm

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2168 (The Gold Room)

The reception will highlight the work of 22 early-stage vision scientists, who will display posters and discuss their breakthrough research. Their research ranges from that addressing aging eye disease to deaf blindness. The event focuses on answering the question, "How will this research

delay or prevent the \$717 billion annual cost of eye disease and vision impairment projected by year 2050?”

Please RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com

8. *Congressional Briefing on Cancer Moonshot Technology Breakthroughs*

Cancer Moonshot: Breakthroughs

Sponsored by the American Institute for Medical & Biological Engineering

Thursday, September 15, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-339

Lunch will be provided.

This briefing will discuss recent breakthroughs in technology that are used to combat cancer. Specifically, the briefing will highlight innovative imaging techniques being used to diagnose cancer and new vaccines that are undergoing clinical trials.

Speakers:

- **David Mooney**, Ph.D., Professor of Bioengineering, Harvard University;
- **Nimmi Ramanujam**, Ph.D., Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Founder of the Global Women’s Health Technologies Center, Duke University;
- **Krishna Kandarpa**, M.D., Ph.D., Director of Research Sciences and Strategic Directions, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, NIH; and
- **Milan Yager**, Executive Director, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Please RSVP to smandell@aimbe.org.

9. *Congressional Briefing on the ABCD Study*

Brain Development and Our Kids’ Future - the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study

Sponsored by the Friends of NIAAA and Friends of NIDA

Monday, September 19, 2016

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2168 (The Gold Rom)

This briefing will provide an overview of the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, which is the largest long-term study of brain development and child health. The briefing also will highlight the impact the ABCD study will have for education and mental health.

Speakers:

- **Sandra Brown**, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research and Distinguished Professor, University of California San Diego, Co-Director ABCD Study Coordinating Center;
- **Sharon Levy**, M.D., Director, Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Program, Boston Children's Hospital;
- **Thomas Brock**, Ph.D., Commissioner, National Center for Education Research, Institute of Education Sciences;
- **Kevin Gray**, M.D., Director, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Medical University of South Carolina;
- **Nora Volkow**, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH; and
- **George Koob**, Ph.D., Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIH.

Please RSVP to Cynthia Malley at cmalley@apa.org.

10. *Congressional Briefing on Diabetes Research*

NIH Diabetes Research: New Approaches and Technologies

Wednesday, September, 20, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Capitol Visitor Center, Room SVC-200

Lunch will be provided.

This briefing will highlight the latest advances in diabetes research, and new technologies treating the disease. In addition, this briefing will discuss ways Congress can support diabetes research and public-private partnerships to prevent and treat diabetes. The Co-Chairs of the NIH Caucus, Senators Graham and Durbin, will give opening remarks.

Speakers:

- **Griffin Rodgers**, M.D., M.A.C.P., Director, National Institute of Digestive, Diabetes and Kidney Disease;
- **Peter P. Stein**, MD, Vice-president, Late Stage Development, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Merck Research Laboratories;
- **David Ehrmann**, M.D. Professor, Department of Medicine - Section of Endocrinology, The University of Chicago;
- **Payton Gibbs**, Type II Diabetes Patient; and
- **Kady Helm**, Type 1 Diabetes Patient.

Non-Hill staff must RSVP to RSVP@ACTforNIH.org

11. *Congressional Briefing on the Cancer Progress Report*

AACR Cancer Progress Report 2016 Release

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

12:00 p.m.

Russell Senate Office Building, Room 385

Lunch will be provided.

This briefing will highlight the impact of federally funded research. It will discuss the release of AACR's 2016 Cancer Progress Report, which highlights the importance of biomedical research as well as the need to increase funding for the NIH.

Please RSVP by September 16 to govrelations@aacr.org.

12. Congressional Briefing on the Zika Virus

Zika: A Case Study in Emergency Response across the Public Health Continuum

Sponsored by the Congressional Public Health Caucus

Friday, September 23, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-369

Lunch will be provided.

As the Coalition for Health Funding's annual "Public Health 101" briefing, this briefing will discuss with public health experts the current state of the Zika virus. In addition, speakers will highlight the vaccine research that is being developed to address the Zika virus.

Speakers:

- **Phyllis Arthur**, Managing Director for Infectious Diseases and Diagnostics Policy, Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO);
- **Janet Hamilton**, Surveillance Section Administrator, Florida Department of Health;
- **Edward R.B. McCabe**, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer, March of Dimes;
- **Nancy J. Murray**, President, The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh at ACHIEVA; and
- **Laura E. Riley**, M.D., Vice Chair, Obstetrics, Massachusetts General Hospital Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine.

To attend, please RSVP to crdfellow@dc-crd.com

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 Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org or Clay Crabtree at ccrabtree@aamc.org.