



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

September 21, 2020

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 we welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here is this week's featured tweet:

University of California Advocacy [@UCAAdvocacy](#) – September 17

The federal government's critical investments in biomedical research mean that [@NIH](#) researchers at [@UofCalifornia](#) & [@UofCAHealth](#) can continue to drive progress and advance cures nationwide! [#RallyMedRes](#) [#UCinDC](#) [#FundNIH](#)

House Releases Text of Draft FY 2021 Continuing Resolution

The House of Representatives on September 21 released [text of a draft continuing resolution](#) (CR) to fund the government through December 11, 2020. According to the [bill summary](#), the CR would appropriate funding at levels provided in FY 2020. The CR would also extend the availability of funding for certain multiyear research grants that were interrupted by COVID-19 and set to expire on September 30. The House Rules Committee is still scheduled to review the CR on [September 21, at 1:00 pm](#) in preparation for floor consideration.

DeLauro Debuts Plans for Appropriations Reform in 117th Congress

Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) revealed details of her plan to reform the appropriations process in the 117th Congress during the week of September 14. As described in [Politico Pro](#) on September 16 (subscription required), the plan aims to increase transparency and inclusivity in the annual appropriations process, including more opportunities to hear from subject matter experts. The plan also includes increased oversight of taxpayer dollars. Rep. DeLauro's plan is a part of her campaign to replace retiring Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) as Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Also publicly vying for the role are Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.).

NIAID Director to Testify on Federal COVID-19 Response

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director [Anthony Fauci, MD, is scheduled to testify](#) on September 23 at 10am before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on the federal response to COVID-19. Expected to join Dr. Fauci are leaders from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health.

Director of Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to Depart NIH

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, issued a [September 17 statement](#) regarding the upcoming departure of Debra C. Chew, Esq., the Director of the NIH Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). Dr. Collins thanked Ms. Chew for eight years of “extraordinary leadership,” including work to re-structure the EDI office to be more responsive to constituents, launch the Data Analytics Branch to collect and report workforce demographic data within NIH, create the Safe Zone Training to promote allyship with the sexual and gender minority population at NIH, and more. Treava Hopkins-Laboy, Acting Director of EDI, will serve as Acting Director during the search for Ms. Chew’s replacement.

Experts Conclude Heritable Genome Editing Not Ready for Clinical Applications

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, summarized a consensus report on heritable human genome editing from the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, and U.K. Royal Society in a [September 17 blog post](#). The report was authored by an 18-member commission, which was sponsored by NIH. “I’m gratified to say that in its new report, the expert panel closely examined the scientific and ethical issues, and concluded that heritable human genome editing is too technologically unreliable and unsafe to risk testing it for any clinical application in humans at the present time,” Dr. Collins noted. The consensus report has been delivered to the World Health Organization, which is also developing recommendations on heritable genome editing, which could be published this year.

Upcoming Events

Virtual Briefing: AACR Cancer Progress Report 2020 – September 23

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) invites you to attend a virtual briefing to unveil the 2020 Cancer Progress Report. This annual report to Congress and the American public 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, FDA, and CDC. This year’s report chronicles how federally funded research continues to save and 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 briefing will take place on Wednesday, September 23 from 12:00-1:00 pm EDT. [Click here to learn more about the program](#). This briefing will be presented via Zoom webinar. [Please register to attend](#).

AEVR to Host Virtual Events for International AMD Awareness Week and Emerging Vision Scientists Day on Capitol Hill – September 23

The Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) invites you to [two virtual events](#) associated with International Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Awareness Week 2020 and AEVR’s Sixth Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day on Capitol Hill.

A [congressional briefing](#), “Artificial Intelligence in Retinal Diseases—Focus on Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Diabetic Retinopathy (DR),” will take place September 23, from 12:00 -1:15 pm EST.

Secondly, 22 early-stage vision scientists will engage [in a conversation](#): “The Impact of COVID-19 Lab Closures on the Next Generation of Vision Scientists,” on September 23, from 1:30 - 2:00 pm EST

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

Global Liver Institute's Advanced Advocacy Academy – October 26-30

The Global Liver Institute's fourth annual [Advanced Advocacy Academy \(A3\)](#) will take place worldwide on October 26-30. This year's virtual event will offer liver patients, caregivers, and professionals the opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of drug development, clinical trials, state and federal legislation, media and communications, and liver health and disease. Live discussions with faculty members will enhance individual learning, foster engagement, and promote important conversations. Self-paced lessons can be customized to fit each attendee's personal learning style and schedule. Anyone impacted by liver disease and passionate about liver advocacy should [apply for A3 2020](#) online by October 1. For more information, see the [attached flyer](#) or contact a3@globalliver.org.

Virtual NIH Regional Seminar – October 27-30

The NIH is hosting a [virtual regional seminar](#) on program funding and grants administration from October 27-30. The event website includes a [detailed agenda](#) with keynote speakers and concurrent sessions. [Registration](#) is free and available on the event website.

NExTRAC Meeting – November 9-10

On November 9-10, 2020, NIH will be hosting a virtual meeting of the Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee (NExTRAC). The NExTRAC provides recommendations to the NIH Director and serves as a public forum for the discussion of the scientific, safety, and ethical issues associated with emerging biotechnologies. More information about the meeting will be posted, as it becomes available, to the [NExTRAC](#) page of the [OSP Website](#).

Requests for Public Comment

NLM Seeks Feedback on 10 Year Strategic Plan – October 19

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) to solicit public comments and assist NLM in its efforts to implement the NLM Strategic Plan 2017-2027. Specifically, NLM seeks feedback “on major opportunities or challenges relevant to the NLM mission that have arisen or become more important in the last five years and that have implications for the future of NLM in its capacity both as an institution conducting and supporting research and as a national library providing biomedical information products, services, training, capacity-building, and other resources to the world.” Comments are due no later than October 19 via [webform](#).

OLAW Seeks Feedback on Semiannual Animal Inspections – October 22

The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare ([OLAW](#)) is seeking stakeholder input on flexibilities available for conducting semiannual animal facility inspections. Specifically, OLAW seeks input on flexibilities available to Institutional Animal Care and Use

Committees for conducting semiannual inspections of their animal facilities. Additional details are provided in the [request for information](#). Comments must be [submitted electronically by October 22](#).

NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the institute's strategic planning process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so [through this form](#).

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

ASM Seeks a Regulatory Affairs Specialist

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM)'s Policy and Advocacy Department seeks an experienced Regulatory Affairs Specialist to strengthen its presence with federal agencies, specifically CMS and FDA, and proactively identify opportunities for ASM federal policy engagement on clinical and regulatory matters. This person will monitor, analyze, and report on regulatory activity that has the potential to affect the microbial sciences and clinical microbiology community in assigned policy areas, and work with ASM members and staff to develop position statements, testimony, and regulatory comments. View the full job description and [apply here](#). For more information about ASM, go to: www.asm.org

Epilepsy Foundation Seeks to Fill Positions on Its Research Team

- **Senior Director, Innovation, Research & New Therapies**, whose primary responsibilities include: directing the Epilepsy Foundation's Innovation and Entrepreneurship programs, working with the CMIO in setting the objectives and key results for the Research & New Therapies (R&NT) staff and assists in budget preparations and quarterly monitoring for the R&NT team and providing supervisory and mentoring support to R&NT staff, as needed. [Click here to see the full job posting and apply.](#)
- **Research Program Manager**, whose primary responsibilities include: Coordinating the development and delivery of the Epilepsy Digital Engagement Navigator (EDEN); developing engagement strategies, and work with our platform partner to ensure data is entered in the platform in an interpretable manner under the direction of the Director of Innovation and the CMIO; working with research clinical coordinator in the Human Epilepsy Project 2 study; assisting with analysis of research data sets by pulling and analyze various query requests from research data sets existing within the Foundation; and maintaining the web informational research tools such as the pipeline tracker. [Click here to see the full job posting and apply.](#)

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.*