

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – September 23, 2019

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:

[American Physiological Society Science Policy @SciPolAPS](#)

"I think the lesson for policy makers is that just trying to understand fundamental mysteries of nature will ultimately translate to important applications" — David Sachar [#SciComm](#) [#SciPol](#) [#FundScience](#) [#GGA19](#)

1. House Passes CR Through November 21

The House of Representatives September 19 passed the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019 ([H.R. 4378](#)), a continuing resolution (CR) which temporarily extends the FY 2019 funding levels for discretionary spending, including the NIH, through Nov. 21. The CR passed the House of Representatives by a vote of [301-123](#). The Senate is expected to consider the legislation the week of September 23. If passed by the Senate, the bill would also require the president's signature before October 1 to avert a government shutdown, because none of the 12 FY 2020 spending bills have been signed into law.

2. Senate Fails to Advance Labor-HHS Bill to Floor Consideration

The Senate September 18 failed to move forward on consideration of [H.R. 2740](#), the House-passed FY 2020 "minibus" package of four spending bills, including Labor-HHS. A 60 vote threshold was needed and [the motion failed 51-44](#) in a party line vote with the exception of Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who voted against the measure. The Senate had planned to replace the language of the House-passed package with Senate versions of the four bills, including a Labor-HHS [spending bill](#) with [report language](#) that was released September 18 after the Senate Appropriations Committee postponed consideration of the bill the week of September 9.

The committee also released an accompanying [press statement](#) and summary from Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), which noted that the spending bill provides a total of \$42.1 billion for the NIH in FY 2020, including the full \$492 million through the 21st Century Cures Act. This total funding level would represent a \$3 billion or 7.7% increase over the comparable FY 2019 funding level. This compares to the House-passed \$41.1 billion (a \$2 billion or 5.1% increase over FY 2019).

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research [issued a press statement](#) commending the investment in NIH while encouraging "lawmakers in both chambers to work swiftly toward enactment of a bipartisan spending bill that avoids unnecessary delays in scientific progress."

3. House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Hearing on Medical Research at NIH

The House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee September 25 [will hold a hearing](#) titled, "Investments in Medical Research at Five Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health." The hearing will begin at 10:00 a.m. in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building and will

also be webcast. NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, will testify, accompanied by directors from NIBIB, NIMHD, NCCIH, NCATS, and NLM.

4. Sen. Collins Opinion: Biomedical Research as an Investment

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) September 20 [published an opinion](#) in *The Ellsworth American* titled “Biomedical Research is an Investment in Our Health, Economy and Jobs.” Sen. Collins argues that investments in biomedical research and the NIH are not only leading to better health outcomes by curing diseases, but also improving local economies. Sen. Collins notes, “In 2017, NIH funding of \$90 million in Maine generated more than \$200 million in sales for other Maine businesses and supported 1,500 jobs in those businesses. In addition, our scientific research sector generated \$24 million in taxes and other revenues for state, county and municipal governments.”

5. Under the Poliscope: Update on Nonhuman Primate Research Studies

NIH Director of Science Policy Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, September 16 [published a post](#) on the *Under the Poliscope* blog with an update on NIH's initiative to optimize rigor and reproducibility in research with nonhuman primates (NHP). Dr. Wolinetz reviewed NIH's current efforts to “[bolster] activities and policies focused on enhancing the rigor and reproducibility” of NHP research, and reminded the community that NIH looks forward to engaging stakeholders on the topic in a forthcoming workshop.

6. NINDS Seeks Input in Strategic Planning Process

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is embarking on strategic planning process to develop guidelines for reaching a set of four strategic goals over the next 5-10 years and is [seeking community input](#). Please visit the [Request for Information](#) to submit comments by October 1.

7. Highlights from the Golden Goose Awards 2019

The 8th annual Golden Goose Award celebrated five scientists – Frederik Bang, Jack Levin, Noel Rose, David Sachar and Ernest Witebsky – for their federally funded work on crab blood, autoimmunity and cholera. Watch a [video on the awardees](#) or [read their stories](#) at <https://www.goldengooseaward.org/>.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

8. Congressional Briefing – A Healthy Start for Every Child – September 24

Please join the Friends of NIEHS (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences) as they host a Congressional briefing titled, “A Healthy Start for Every Child: How the Environment Influences Health & Development.” The briefing will take place Tuesday, September 24, from 12-1:30pm in 902 Hart Senate Office Building. Please see the flyer for additional information and RSVP to Lesia Griffin at griffin@hmcw.org or (202)544-7499.

9. Reception to Honor NIEHS Director Dr. Linda Birnbaum – September 24

Please join the Friends of NIEHS (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences) as they host a reception to honor NIEHS Director Linda Birnbaum, PhD, DABT, ATS, in her retirement. The reception will take place on Tuesday, September 24, from 5:30-7:30pm in 2043 Rayburn

House Office Building. Please see the flyer for additional information and RSVP to Lesia Griffin at griffin@hmcw.org or (202)544-7499.

10. AHRQ 20th Anniversary Celebration – September 24

Please join the Friends of AHRQ at a reception to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The reception will be held at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Rooftop (655 K St. NW, Washington, DC, 20001) on Tuesday, September 24, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Kristin.Rosengren@academyhealth.org by September 17.

11. Congressional Briefing – The BRAIN Initiative – September 25

Please join the Coalition for the Life Sciences as they host a briefing on Capitol Hill titled, “The BRAIN Initiative: IS the Grand Challenge Living Up to Expectations?” The briefing will take place Wednesday, September 25, from 12:00-1:00pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see the briefing flyer for additional information and RSVP to cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org.

12. Congressional Briefing – The Undiagnosed Disease Network – September 26

Please join the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) and American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) as they host a briefing titled, “The Undiagnosed Disease Network (UDN): The Interface of Research and Clinical Care to Solve Medical Mysteries.” The briefing will take place on Thursday, September 26, from 12:00-1:00pm in CVC 268. Please see the briefing flyer for additional information and RSVP to JStaszewski@ashg.org.

13. Congressional Briefing – Veterans Suicide Research at the VA – September 26

Please join the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) as they host a briefing titled, “The Science of Veteran Suicide.” The briefing will take place on Thursday, September 26, from 3:00-4:30pm in Capitol Visitors Center SVC 212-10. Please see the attached flyer for additional details and RSVP by September 23 to Heather Kelly, PhD at hkelly@apa.org.

14. AAI Research Advocacy Program – October 22

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) invites policy leaders from patient advocacy and other health and scientific organizations to attend its 2019 Research Advocacy Program (RAP) on October 22. Designed for the general public, the RAP features a series of talks by AAI-member scientists who are engaged in cutting-edge immunological research and who help participants understand the role of the immune system in preventing, causing, and treating disease. For more information see attached flyer and please RSVP to schumacher@aai.org by October 8.

15. NIH Fall Regional Seminar – November 6-8

The NIH is hosting the Fall 2019 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Phoenix, AZ, from Wednesday, Nov. 6- Friday Nov. 8. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about the program and to [register](#).

Job Postings

NIH Office of Science Policy Seeks Health Science Policy Analyst

The NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP) is hiring a Health Science Policy Analyst with various responsibilities including: serving as a technical resource for science policy, analysis, and development at NIH on issues of significance to the agency and the biomedical research community; addressing cross-cutting science policy issues and participating in drafting the agency approach and position; and providing leadership in developing major analysis of broad planning issues affecting the programs and policies of the major program components of NIH. Interested [members of the public](#) and [select eligibility applicants](#) should apply by September 27.

FASEB Seeks Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) seeks an experienced professional to serve as Manager, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. The successful candidate will work across the FASEB departments and 29 member societies to implement FASEB's DEI Strategic Plan and the efforts of the DEI Committee. The DEI Manager will also play a critical role in outreach by establishing collaborations with FASEB member societies and related stakeholder organizations and contributing to FASEB communications activities. The position incorporates opportunities for highlighting DEI initiatives in FASEB's broader advocacy and policy efforts. More details are in the [position description](#) and the [application site](#).

FASEB Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology seeks a Science Policy Analyst to spearhead its efforts related to research workforce and career development. Excellent opportunity for someone transitioning from bench to Beltway! Please see the complete [position description](#), and visit <https://bit.ly/2Sefl0u> or email a cover letter, CV/resume, and policy-oriented writing sample to resumes@faseb.org to 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.