

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – September 26, 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.

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

1. **End of Fiscal Year Rapidly Approaching as Negotiations Continue on Stopgap Spending Bill**

Republican leaders Sept. 22 released [text](#) of a spending bill that would extend current funding levels for all federal agencies temporarily and avoid a government shutdown when the new federal fiscal year (FY) begins Oct. 1. However, Democrats have objected to the spending package as a “Republican-only” bill due to lack of aid to address the lead-contaminated water in Flint, Mich. and other policy riders in the spending bill. The spending package does provide \$1.1 billion in supplemental funding for Zika, including \$152 million for vaccine development, diagnostics, and other Zika research through the NIH. The next procedural vote in the Senate is expected to occur on Sept. 27; however, negotiations continue.

2. **NIH Launches Initiative to Study the Effect of Environmental Factors on Children**

The NIH Sept. 21 [announced](#) that it will provide \$157 million in awards to launch an initiative called Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO). The ECHO program is a seven-year initiative that will study how environmental factors in early child development influences the health of children and adolescents. This funding will build the infrastructure for the ECHO program, including the development of pediatric cohorts to enroll children from various racial, geographic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

3. *Congressional Briefing on Cancer Moonshot*

Cancer Moonshot Panel Discussion

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G-11

This panel discussion will highlight the recently-released Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel Report. The panelists will discuss the various recommendations made from the Report. Douglas Lowy, M.D., Acting Director of the National Cancer Institute, will speak at the event as well as members of the Blue Ribbon Panel.

Please RSVP by Friday, Sept. 23, to Rachel Marcus at Rachel.marcus@cancer.org.

4. *Congressional Briefing on Mental Health Research*

Future Directions in Mental Health Research: The View from Psychological Science

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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

Lunch will be available.

This briefing will highlight mental health research, including research supported by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and its advancements in recent years. Additionally, with the appointment of a new NIMH director in recent months, the speakers will discuss the future of mental health research.

Speakers:

- **Patricia Areán**, Ph.D., Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington;
- **William Hetrick**, Ph.D., Professor and Department Chair, Psychological & Brain Sciences, Indiana University; and
- **Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus**, Ph.D., Professor, Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles.

Moderator:

- **Howard Kurtzman**, Ph.D., Acting Executive Director for Science, American Psychological Association.

For more information, please visit [here](#), and you can RSVP [here](#).

5. *Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research*

Public Education and Social Contract: Restoring the Promise in an Age of Diversity and Division

Thursday, October 20, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center Amphitheater, Washington, D.C.

A reception will follow.

The 13th Annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) *Brown* Lecture will focus on whether it is possible to rewrite the social contract so that education is a fundamental right, so that it is uniform across states. Marta Tienda, Ph.D., will highlight her work at Princeton University, where she received funding from the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development to conduct her research on social inequality. Please see the attached invitation for more information.

Please RSVP for the event [here](#).

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.