



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

September 28, 2020

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](https://twitter.com/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 Society for Nutrition @nutritionorg – September 23

[Ask Congress](#) to approve \$15.5 billion in emergency funding for NIH and additional funding for NSF today! [#FundNIH](#)

Ad Hoc Group Issues Statement Urging Funding for NIH

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued a [September 25 statement](#) expressing concern “that funding for medical research supported by the NIH ... remains in limbo despite ongoing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.” The statement expresses appreciation to House lawmakers for approving a continuing resolution (CR, [H.R. 8337](#)) to avoid a government shutdown through December 11, and for giving NIH targeted flexibility to preserve certain multiyear grants, with the expectation that the Senate will follow suit shortly. The coalition also notes, however, that action is urgently needed both to provide at least \$15.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding to address COVID-19-related disruptions and efforts and to finalize FY 21 appropriations with at least \$44.7 billion for NIH. The Senate is expected to consider the CR September 29, just before expiration of the fiscal year on September 30.

House to Draft \$2.4 Trillion COVID-19 Relief Package

Press reports indicate that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has asked House committee leaders to draft a slimmed-down COVID-19 relief bill compared to the Heroes Act ([H.R. 6800](#)), which the House passed in May. The overall price tag of the package has been among the points of contention in negotiations between Democrats and the White House and Senate Republicans. Speaker Pelosi has indicated that the new package will total \$2.4 trillion, with a vote as soon as the week of September 28, and she and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin reportedly spoke September 25. In its [September 25 statement](#) on the continuing resolution, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research urged lawmakers to provide NIH with \$15.5 billion in emergency funding both to advance new COVID-19-related research and to resume pre-pandemic research, as [recommended by nearly 200 organizations](#).

House Select Subcommittee to Hear Testimony from HHS Secretary

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar is scheduled to testify before the House Oversight Committee's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis on [Friday, October 2, at 9am](#). The hearing will be Secretary's first appearance before Congress since February.

Upcoming Events

NEW Virtual Briefing: *Rare Cancer Day Congressional Briefing* – September 30

The SHEPHERD Foundation will host a [virtual briefing](#) that will include a panel presentation by diverse leaders in the field of rare cancer, including patients, oncologists, and researchers. You will learn facts about rare cancer, the gaps in current treatment and research systems, and policy recommendations for addressing them. The briefing will take place on **Wednesday, September 30 from 12:00-1:00 pm ET**. [Please register to attend](#).

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](#).

Ad Hoc Group Member Resources

Research!America Vote Science Strong Campaign

Research!America recently launched a national campaign-engagement initiative, [Vote Science Strong](#), aiming to elevate the importance of research and innovation in the national conversation this election season. The campaign includes resources for voters and candidates to learn and engage on the importance of funding medical research and the impacts of research on human disease.

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.