

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – October 1, 2018

Happy Fiscal New Year! It is the first day of the new fiscal year and NIH is fully funded for FY 2019! Read more below.

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:

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research [@fundNIH](#)

* NEWS FLASH * The FY19 Labor-HHS bill has been signed into law! First time in 2 decades it's signed on time. [#NIH](#) gets \$2B funding boost, bringing budget increase to \$9B over last 4 years! [#FundNIH](#)

1. House Passes FY 2019 Labor-HHS Bill, Signed into Law by President

The House of Representatives Sept. 26 approved the conference agreement for the FY 2019 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill (H.R. 6157), [361-61](#), officially clearing the package for the president's desk. The spending package also includes FY 2019 funding for the Department of Defense and a continuing resolution through Dec. 7 for any incomplete spending bills. Shortly after House passage, the Ad Hoc Group [issued a statement](#) praising lawmakers for completing the bill.

The president Sept. 28 signed the Labor-HHS funding bill before the beginning of the new fiscal year for the first time in 22 years. The package includes FY 2019 funding for the NIH for a total of \$39.1 billion for NIH, a \$2 billion (5.4 percent) increase over the comparable FY 2018 funding level. The president also issued a [signing statement](#) to accompany the Labor-HHS bill.

2. NIH Grantee Awarded 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Oct. 1 announced the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is awarded to James P. Allison, PhD, of the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas and Tasuku Honjo, MD, PhD, of Kyoto University Institute, Japan. The Academy noted that "by stimulating the inherent ability of our immune system to attack tumor cells, this year's Nobel Laureates have established an entirely new principle for cancer therapy."

The NIH issued a [press release](#), noting that "Dr. Allison has received continuous funding from NIH since 1979, receiving more than \$13.7 million primarily from NIH's National Cancer Institute (NCI) and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)." NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD added that "[Dr. Allison's] work was pivotal for cancer therapy by enlisting our own immune systems to launch an attack on cancer and arrest its development."

3. NCI Annual Plan and Budget Proposal for FY 2020

The NIH's National Cancer Institute (NCI) posted its [Annual Plan and Budget Proposal](#) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, which "directs attention to areas where there is unique potential to improve the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer." NCI Director Ned Sharpless, MD, identified four key areas for the NCI to focus on in FY 2020: develop the workforce of cancer investigators;

reaffirm our commitment to basic science to drive novel approaches and technologies; innovate the design, administration, and analyses of clinical trials; and increase data aggregation and interpretation to speed work across the cancer enterprise. The proposal also includes personal stories of patients helped by the NCI, for further emphasis on the importance of its work.

4. NIH Awards Supplemental Funding for Down Syndrome Research

The NIH [Oct. 1 announced](#) over \$20 million in supplemental funding to support Down syndrome research as a part of the [INCLUDE \(INvestigation of Co-occurring conditions across the Lifespan to Understand Down SyndromE\) project](#). INCLUDE was initiated in June 2018 “in response to a Congressional directive to develop a new trans-NIH initiative to investigate critical health and quality-of-life needs for individuals with Down syndrome.” The supplemental funding will go towards three main areas, including: targeted high-risk, high-reward basic science studies; development of a large study population to fully characterize condition traits at different ages of development and study co-existing conditions; and expanding clinical trials.

5. Open Mike: NIH Loan Repayment Programs

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, Michael Lauer, MD, shares updates on the NIH [Loan Repayment Programs](#) in a [Sept. 28 blog post](#). Applications are now open for the program which repays up to \$35,000 a year in educational debt “in return for a commitment to engage in research areas important to the mission of NIH.” The programs benefit nearly 1,400 scientists each year.

6. Trump Administration to Review Human Fetal Tissue Research

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Sept. 24 canceled an FDA contract for procurement of fetal tissue for research use and [announced](#) that it will undertake a comprehensive review of all federal research involving fetal tissue “to ensure consistency with statutes and regulations.”

7. JAMA Publishes Viewpoints on the Implications of Race in Medical Research

[Three Viewpoints](#) published in JAMA explore the implications of race in medical research. “[Examining How Race, Ethnicity, and Ancestry Data Are Used in Biomedical Research](#),” authored by NIH staff Vence Bonham, JD, Eric Green, MD, PhD, and Eliseo Pérez-Stable, MD, discusses the challenges researchers face with communicating information about human genomic variation in light of “the limitations of assigning social, political, and geographic labels to individuals” as more is learned about genomic diversity. Keith Wailoo, PhD, conveys the story of J. Marion Sims, who developed a modern gynecology technique by experimenting on enslaved women in Alabama in the 1840s in “[Historical Aspects of Race and Medicine](#).” And “[Race, Ancestry, and Reporting in Medical Journals](#),” by Richard Cooper, MD, Girish Nadkarni, MD, MPH, Gbenga Ogedegbe, MD, MS, MPH, grapples with the question, “Should medicine focus on shared humanity or recognize the salience of racial and ethnic divisions?”

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

8. Research!America Briefing on Migraine Sufferers – Oct. 3

During this Capitol Hill briefing titled “Research on Workplace Accommodations for Migraine Sufferers”, a moderated panel will discuss the profound social and economic impact of migraine, the importance of continued R&D and guidance on employer “reasonable accommodations” for

workers who suffer from migraine. The briefing will be moderated by Kevin Lenaburg Executive Director, Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients (CHAMP), and panelists include: Eileen Brewer Migraine Patient and Director of Communication and Education, Clusterbusters; Amy Miller, Ph.D. President and CEO, Society for Women's Health Research; Stacey Worthy, JD Counsel, Aimed Alliance.

The briefing will take place on October 3, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET in 188 Russell Senate Office Building. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by filling out this [form](#). For questions, contact Anna Briseño at abriseno@researchamerica.org or 571-482-2737.

9. One Voice Against Cancer Hill Briefing – Oct. 4

One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC), a coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer researchers, patients, survivors and their families, is pleased to invite you to a Congressional Lunch Briefing with National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director Dr. Norman Sharpless. This briefing, "On the Horizon: Opportunities & Challenges in Cancer Research," will highlight the progress that we've already made in the fight against cancer while also outlining those challenges that are still left to be addressed. Please see attached for additional information, and be sure to [RSVP here](#).

10. Biomedical Research Caucus Briefing – Oct. 5

Please join the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus for a briefing with Neil Shubin, PhD titled "A Revolutionary Look at Evolution." Dr. Neil Shubin is the author of Your Inner Fish. He also served as the presenter and scientific advisor for the Emmy Award Winning three-part PBS miniseries of the same name. Dr. Shubin will discuss with attendees his quest to understand the origins of the human body and how that search took him across continents and eons back in time. Please see the attached flyer for more details, and email Lynn Marquis (cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org) to RSVP.

11. Research!America Briefing on Oral Health – Oct. 10

Recent research suggests that oral health is closely tied to overall physical health, and poor oral health could play a role in a wide range of health conditions such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Join Research!America and partners Colgate and the American Association for Dental Research for a briefing titled "Oral Health is Systemic Health", which will cover the benefits of treating periodontitis on overall health, the need for continued research in this field, and the public health implications of unmet oral health needs.

Participants include Martha J. Somerman, DDS, Ph.D., Director, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR); Maria Ryan, Ph.D., Vice President and Chief Dental Officer, Colgate Palmolive Company; Marko Vujicic, Ph.D., Chief Economist & Vice President, Health Policy Institute, American Dental Association; Beth Truett, BS, M.Div, President, Oral Health America (Moderator).

Please contact Sara Chang at schang@researchamerica.org to RSVP.

12. NIEHS Hill Briefing: A Healthy Start for Every Child – Oct. 10

Please join the Friends of NIEHS for a U.S. Congress briefing titled, "A Healthy Start for Every Child: How the Environment Influences Health and Development," featuring NIEHS Director Linda

Birnbaum, Ph.D. The event will take place Wednesday, October 10, 2018 12:30p.m. – 2:00pm p.m. in the Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2045. Please RSVP to dcrsvp@thoracic.org and see the attached invitation for more information.

13. Panel Study of Income Dynamics 50th Anniversary Reception – Oct. 18

Please join the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) in celebrating it's 50th anniversary during an Oct. 18th reception. The event will take place at the Newseum from 6:30 – 9pm. Please RSVP to pathall@umich.edu and see the attached flyer for additional details.

14. NASEM: Upcoming Meeting on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Academia

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will [convene leaders](#) including “academic leaders, Title IX and diversity officers, ombudsmen, researchers in sexual harassment, and leaders from professional societies, foundations, and federal agencies to discuss strategies and share promising practices” to discuss sexual harassment in academia. The meeting will be held Nov. 9, 2018, from 9:00am – 5:00pm in Washington DC, and will focus on developing strategies on how to prevent sexual harassment in academia.

15. Learn Serve Lead – Nov. 2-6, 2018

Learn Serve Lead 2018 - the AAMC Annual Meeting is open for registration. The Nov. 2-6 event takes place in Austin, Texas and will draw 4500-plus attendees including a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to [four plenary sessions](#) including Grit author and researcher Angela Duckworth, PhD, and civil and women's rights leader Anita Hill, JD, there are more than 130 concurrent sessions. Some of the slated sessions include:

- Improving Population Health Through Learner-Engaged Research
- Rightsizing Research Infrastructure
- Achieving Health Equity through Research: Innovations From NIMHD-Funded Science
- Unhealthy Politics: The Battle over Evidence-Based Medicine

[Registration](#) is available online through Thursday, Nov. 1.

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.