

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – October 2, 2017

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

Association of American Universities (@AAUniversities)

In [@thehill](#), [@EliseStefanik](#) and [@ScottPetersSD](#) urge Congress to work across party lines to restore investment in [@NIH #FundNIH https://t.co/NVlJPt7et4](#)

1. HHS Secretary Tom Price Resigns

Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, MD, submitted a letter of resignation to President Trump on Friday, Sept. 29. According to a [press statement](#) from the White House, the president accepted the resignation letter from Secretary Price and appointed Don Wright, HHS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and Director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, as acting secretary, effective 11:59pm on Sept. 29.

2. Reps. Stefanik and Peters Write Op-Ed Supporting Investment in NIH

On Sept. 25, Reps. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y) and Scott Peters (D-Calif.) [shared](#) an op-ed in The Hill describing how “the Tuesday Group, a caucus of moderate House Republicans, and the New Democrat Coalition, a coalition of moderate House Democrats, are working together to support funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).” The lawmakers open the op-ed by saying, “Whether you’re a Republican, Democrat, independent or anything in between, your family and friends have been touched by disease.”

3. NIH Grantees Awarded with 2017 Nobel Prize

On Oct. 2, the NIH [announced](#) that three NIH grantees were awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The three awardees include Jeffrey C. Hall, PhD, of the University of Maine; Michael Rosbash, PhD, of Brandeis University; and Michael W. Young, PhD, of Rockefeller University. The three researchers were awarded for their research on molecular mechanisms that control circadian rhythm. According to the Nobel Prize [press release](#), the discoveries “explain how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with the Earth's revolutions.”

4. NIH Director Scheduled to Testify at Senate Opioid Hearing

On Oct. 5, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee [will hold](#) a full committee hearing on the “Federal Response to the Opioid Crisis.” NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, is among the federal witnesses scheduled to testify. Other witnesses include Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, and Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary

for Mental Health and Substance Use Elinore McCance-Katz, MD, PhD. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10am in 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

5. Briefing Social Science Solutions for Health, Public Safety, Computing, and Other National Priorities – Oct. 4

The Consortium of Social Science Associations and SAGE Publishing [invite you](#) to a congressional briefing on Social Science Solutions for Health, Public Safety, Computing, and Other National Priorities. This briefing will take place on Oct. 4 from noon to 1pm in 2075 Rayburn House Office Building. Featured speakers include: Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.), Wendy Naus of the Consortium of Social Science Associations, Andrew Bernat, PhD, from the Computing Research Association, Nancy La Vigne, PhD, from The Urban Institute, and William Riley, PhD, from the National Institutes of Health. RSVP [here](#).

6. Research!America Breifing on Alzheimer’s Research – Oct. 5

On Oct. 5 from noon to 1pm in 2075 Rayburn House Office Building, Research!America will host a [Capitol Hill briefing](#) on Alzheimer’s research. As you may know, Research on Alzheimer’s disease, like all medical research, spans a continuum, from basic science to care delivery. These disciplines exist in an ecosystem, and success across all disciplines is the key to finding a cure. Among the featured panelists taking part in this discussion is Richard Hodes, MD, NIH’s director for the National Institute on Aging. See the [event flyer](#) for more info. To RSVP, fill out [this form](#) or email rweissman@researchamerica.org.

7. American Statistical Association October Symposium Invitation – Oct. 11-13

The American Statistical Association (ASA) is hosting a [symposium](#) October 11-13 in Bethesda, MD to follow up the discussions generated by its 2016 [Statement on P-Values and Statistical Significance](#) on statistical and scientific evidence. The [ASA Symposium on Statistical inference](#) featured speakers include Marcia McNutt, John Ioannidis, and leaders of the statistical community. Discussions will center on specific approaches for improving statistical evidence as it intersects with three broad components of research activities: Conducting research in the 21st century; Using research in the 21st century; Sponsoring, disseminating, and replicating research in the 21st century; Online registration will be open through the end of the conference: <https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/ssi/2017/registration.cfm>.

8. 14th Annual AERA Brown Lecture In Education Research – Oct. 19

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) invites you to its [Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research](#). This lecture is designed to feature the important role of research in advancing understanding of equality and equity in education. This year’s featured speaker is Alfredo Artiles, PhD, dean of graduate education and the Ryan C. Harris professor of special education at Arizona State University. Dr. Artiles is a leading scholar on understanding and addressing educational inequities related to the intersections of disability with other sociocultural differences. The lecture will take place from 6 to 9 pm ET on Oct. 19 at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center (1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC). You may

RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/14th-annual-aera-brown-lecture-in-education-research-tickets-35522375381?aff=email072717>. This event is free and open to the public. A buffet reception will follow.

9. SfN Invites You to Its Neurobiology of Disease Workshop – Nov. 10

On Nov. 10, The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) will host a [2017 Neurobiology of Disease Workshop](#), “Gene Therapy to Address Unmet Needs in Neurology.” This workshop will feature Florian Eichler, MD, Xandra O. Breakefield, PhD, and [others](#) to discuss the breadth of current and emerging gene therapy approaches to treat neurologic disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, ALS, or muscular dystrophy. This workshop embraces the breadth of "gene therapy" including viral vectors, oligonucleotides, and cell therapies used in promising preclinical studies and clinical trials for a variety of neurologic disorders long thought to be incurable. These new methods involve DNA engineering, gene replacement using virus vectors and the patient's own genetically modified cells, oligonucleotides that can "revive" beneficial gene functions or suppress toxic ones, and viruses and cells armed to tackle brain tumors. For questions, please email training@sfn.org.

10. FasterCures Convenes “Partnering for Cures” in San Francisco – Nov. 14

Since 2009, [Partnering for Cures](#) (P4C) has been convening leaders with the experience, creativity, and motivation needed to transform the medical research system. The event is convened annually by [FasterCures](#), a center of the Milken Institute, and connects decision-makers from across diseases who are motivated by the same mission – to reduce the time and cost of getting new therapies from discovery to patients. [FasterCures](#) is taking P4C on the road and convening a smaller, cross-sector group of medical research leaders in San Francisco. Registration is now open for P4C San Francisco on Nov. 14. Find out more information at <http://www.partneringforcures.org/>.

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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.