

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – October 3, 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. President Signs Legislation to Keep the Government Funded Until December, Congress in Recess until November

President Obama Sept. 29 signed a spending package ([H.R. 5325](#)) that will keep the government funded through Dec. 9, provide supplemental funding to address the Zika virus, and fund the Department of Veterans Affairs through the end of fiscal (FY) year 2017. The stopgap funding section of the spending measure continues funding for most federal agencies at a rate of operations that is 0.496 percent below the FY 2016 level. The Zika portion of the package provides \$1.1 billion in emergency supplemental funding to be available through the end of FY 2017, with \$152 million for vaccine development, diagnostics, and other Zika research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The House and Senate have adjourned for the campaign season until after the November election. Both chambers will return from recess on Monday, Nov. 14.

2. October is National Biosafety Month

The NIH Office of Science Policy will be holding the [3rd annual](#) National Biosafety Month in October, a period during which institutions are encouraged to refocus their attention on biosafety policies, practices and procedures. The theme of this year's National Biosafety Month is Evaluation, Collaboration, and Commitment, and the NIH Office of Science Policy encourages wide sharing of best practices and institutional commitment to biosafety oversight and compliance activities. If you have any questions about National Biosafety Month, please feel free to contact Dr. Kathryn Harris at harriskath@od.nih.gov.

3. *Congressional Briefing on Oral Health*

Oral Health in an Aging Nation: An Unmet Public Health Challenge

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2322

Lunch will be provided.

This panel discussion will highlight cost savings and overall health benefits associated with the improved oral health of older Americans. The panel also will discuss the connection between oral health and chronic diseases. For more information, please visit [here](#).

Speakers:

- **Judith Jones**, DDS, MPH, DScD, Director, Center for Clinical Research, Professor, Department Health Policy & Health Services Research, Department of General Dentistry, Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine;
- **Michael Alfano**, DMD, Ph.D., President, Santa Fe Group, Professor, Dean and Executive Vice President Emeritus, New York University;
- **Marko Vujcic**, Ph.D., Chief Economist & Vice President, Health Policy Institute, American Dental Association;
- **Beth Truett**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Oral Health America; and
- **Fotinos Panagakos**, DMD, Ph.D., Global Director, Scientific Affairs, Colgate-Palmolive Co.

For questions or to RSVP, contact Rachel Weissman at rweissman@researchamerica.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 provided.

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. *Congressional Briefing on Type 1 Diabetes*

Are We Close to a Cure for Type 1 Diabetes?

Hosted by the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-340

Lunch will be provided.

This briefing will highlight Type 1 diabetes research, and the innovative efforts researchers are making to develop targeted therapies. In addition, the speaker will discuss recent progress in diabetes research.

Speakers:

- **Arturo Vegas**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Boston University.

Please RSVP to Tommy Mattocks at cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org.

6. *Science Policy Happy Hour*

DC Science Policy Happy Hour

Thursday, October 6, 2016

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

City Tap House, 901 9th St. NW, Washington, D.C.

Engaging Scientists and Engineers in Policy (ESEP) will be hosting a regular happy hour for D.C.-based people interested in or already engaged in science policy.

For more information about the event, please contact Erin Heath, AAAS, at eheath@aaas.org or Toby Smith, AAU, at toby_smith@aau.edu.

7. *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](#).

8. Congressional Briefing on Environmental Health Research

NIEHS at NIH: Marking 50 Years of Connecting Environmental Health Research to Community Needs

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Russell Senate Office Building, Room 385

This briefing will highlight how the NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) research addresses community health needs and discuss how exposures to environmental toxicants can lead to health problems.

Speakers:

- **Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S**, Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) & the National Toxicology Program;
- **Christopher Gavigan**, Co-Founder and Chief Purpose Officer, The Honest Company;
- **Joel Kaufman, M.D., MPH**, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington School of Public Health;
- **Virginia Rauh, Sc.D.**, Professor of Population and Family Health, Director, Child, Adolescent and Family Health Certificate, Columbia University Medical Center; and
- **Robert Wright, M.D., MPH**, Professor of Environmental Medicine & Public Health, Director, Division of Environmental Health, Mount Sinai Department of Preventative Medicine.

Please RSVP to chughes@thoracic.org.

9. Congressional Reception for NIEHS

50th Anniversary of the NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Sponsored by the Friends of NIEHS

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-369

This reception will highlight the 50th Anniversary of the NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the innovative research the NIEHS is conducting.

Speakers:

- Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S, Ph.D., Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health, Master of Ceremonies; and
- Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program.

Please RSVP to Lesia Griffin at griffin@hmcw.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 Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org or Clay Crabtree at ccrabtree@aamc.org.