Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up

October 29, 2020

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community and general updates. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the publication!

Congressional and NIH News

COVID-19 Relief Negotiations Slow, Possibility of Lame-Duck Spending Deal

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) sent an October 29 letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin outlining the issue areas for which she is awaiting an administration response as part of ongoing negotiations on a new COVID-19 relief package. The months-long negotiations have yielded little progress, forcing Congressional leaders to consider the possibility of passing a COVID-19 relief bill in the lame-duck session. As reported October 28 in *Roll Call* , Congressional leaders have attempted to push forward COVID-19 relief separately from the annual appropriations bills, but "the possibility of post-election tumult and the stopgap spending law expiring on Dec. 11, could incentivize lawmakers to add coronavirus-related aid to the [FY 2021] appropriations bills."

Rep. Kaptur Releases Comprehensive Vision for House Appropriations

House Appropriations Energy & Water Subcommittee Chairwoman Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) released a two-page vision of a path forward for the full committee, unofficially making her pitch to replace retiring Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) in the 117th Congress. As reported October 26 in *Roll Call*, Rep. Kaptur's plan includes restoring earmarks for local projects in spending bills and removing the Hyde amendment from the Labor-HHS spending bill. Rep. Kaptur also plans to promote subcommittees working together for programs that span appropriations jurisdictions.

NIH Releases Final Policy for Data Management and Sharing

The NIH on October 29 released the Final NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing which requires NIH funded researchers to prospectively submit a plan outlining how scientific data will be managed and shared. This will go into effect on January 25, 2023 and replace the 2003 NIH Data Sharing Policy. In a statement , NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, noted that the policy "establishes the baseline expectation that data sharing is a fundamental component of the research process, which is in line with NIH's longstanding commitment to making the research it funds available to the public." NIH Associate Director for Science Policy Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, authored an *Under the Poliscope* blog post on the policy, noting, "Responsible data management and sharing is

good for science; it maximizes availability of data to the best and brightest minds, underlies reproducibility, honors the participation of human participants by ensuring their data is both protected and fully utilized, and provides an element of transparency to ensure public trust and accountability."

NIGMS Deputy Director Judith Greenberg, PhD, to Retire

National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Deputy Director Dr. Judith Greenberg will retire at the end of October after 45 years of service according to an [October 23 *Feedback Loop* blog post](#). NIGMS Director Jon Lorsch, PhD, praised Dr. Greenberg's service to the NIH and the academic community. Lorsch separately announced Dorit Zuk, PhD, as acting deputy director in a separate [October 28 *Feedback Loop* blog post](#).

Upcoming Events

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](#).

R!A 2020 Post-Election Briefing – November 10

Please join Research!America in a post-election briefing featuring journalist and political analyst Frank Sesno, former CNN Washington Bureau Chief and anchor, and Director of The George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs, and Georges

Benjamin, MD, Executive Director, American Public Health Association. The briefing will take place on Tuesday, November 10 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET. Please see additional information and register here.

Apply for HIV Clinical Training Opportunities – January 19, 2021

The HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Foundation are accepting applications for the 2021 HIV Clinical Fellowship Program . For the first time, the program is supporting one year of HIV clinical training for full or half-time effort awards to allow greater flexibility for physicians to train in community-based settings. The award supports a stipend of $33,000 for half-time training or $65,000 for full-time, plus funding to cover fringe benefits. Physicians whose communities are underrepresented in medicine or who interested in working in the Southeastern United States are strongly encouraged to apply. Program and application requirements are on the HIVMA website, including recommended competencies for HIVMA Clinical Fellows. The deadline to apply is Jan. 19, 2021. For more information, please email HIVMA.

NEW **SOBC Capstone Conference – February 22-23**

This capstone research conference will celebrate ten years of the NIH Science of Behavior Change (SOBC) Common Fund Program. The goal of the SOBC program is to advance behavior change research through a focus on mechanisms of change and the integration of basic research with applied/interventional research. The capstone conference will highlight innovative examples of behavior change research consistent with SOBC principles, from use-inspired basic research to mechanisms-focused intervention science. The capstone conference on February 22-23 will be virtual, open to the public, recorded, archived, and proceedings summarized in a publicly accessible report. The agenda, speaker information, and a link to registration will be available on this website in the coming months.

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

Epilepsy Foundation Seeks Research Program Manager

The primary responsibilities of the Research Program Manager 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](#).

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: [asm.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 Christa Wagner at [chwagner@aamc.org](#) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](#).