

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

November 4, 2019

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:

American Association for Cancer Research @AACR

Robust, predictable funding for [#NIH](#) is critical to saving lives and supporting the economy. [@SenShelby](#) [@NitaLowey](#) [@SenatorLeahy](#) [@RepKayGranger](#) – please finalize FY20 to avoid delays in lifesaving research! [#FundNIH](#) <http://bit.ly/2NiRNFU>

Senate Makes No Process on FY 2020 Labor-HHS Bill

The Senate [by a party line vote of 51-41](#) on October 31, was unable to garner enough votes to begin consideration of [a spending package of four bills](#) (H.R. 2740), which includes the Labor-HHS-Education bill. This follows the October 31 passage of the Senate's first four FY 2020 spending bills in a bipartisan fashion [with a vote of 84-9](#). Much work remains before the November 21 continuing resolution deadline, and before final agreements can be made on any spending bills by both houses of Congress, as disagreements still remain about funding for a border wall and top-line allocations for all 12 spending bills

Ned Sharpless to Return to Lead NCI

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, stated in a [November 1 press release](#) that Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Norman "Ned" Sharpless, MD, will return to serve as director of the National Cancer Institute. Per the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, Dr. Sharpless's tenure at FDA ended on November 1. [President Trump November 1 nominated Stephen Hahn, MD](#), chief medical executive of the MD Anderson Cancer Center to be the next FDA Commissioner. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir, MD, will serve as Acting Commissioner during Dr. Hahn's Senate confirmation process.

Breakthrough Treatment For 90% of CF Patients Completes Phase III Trials

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, authored an Oct. 31 [editorial in the *New England Journal of Medicine*](#), as well as a [post on his *Director's Blog*](#) sharing news that a new triple-therapy for cystic fibrosis (CF) that targets 90% of disease-causing mutations successfully completed Phase III clinical trials. Dr. Collins played a critical role in this success as one of the leading researchers who discovered the gene that causes CF 30 years ago. The blog and editorial posts describe the significant work contributed by many international and NIH-funded scientists to bring a basic science discovery to the clinic, and the hope that brings to nearly 30,000 Americans living with CF.

Podcast on Conflicts of Interest in Peer Review

NIH's October 28 ["All About Grants" podcast](#) covered the issue of conflicts of interest in the peer review process. The episode features NIH's Review Policy Officer Sally Amero,

PhD, and covers issues such as the definition of a conflict of interest and how NIH addresses these conflicts, as well as the importance of managing these conflicts to preserve the integrity of the peer review system.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

Webinar on Public Health Initiatives to Address the Opioid Crisis - November 4

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) November 1 released the [report and recommendations](#) of an expert panel, the ASPPH Task Force on Public Health Initiatives to Address the Opioid Crisis. The report provides evidence-based recommendations in various areas to address substance use disorder. The report has been distributed to all state attorneys general and to more than 1,800 lawyers of record in the 2,600+ federal lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, distributors and retailers. ASPPH is holding a webinar for the public health community on the report, on Monday, November 4 from 2:00-3:00 pm EST. [Webinar registration is free but required](#). A recording of the webinar and the summary slide set will be available on-line shortly after the webinar concludes. For more information, contact Tony Mazzaschi at advocacy@ASPPH.org.

Congressional Briefing on Consequences of Disability Prejudice - November 5

Please join the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues at a Congressional briefing titled, "Ableism: The Causes and Consequences of Disability Prejudice." The briefing will take place on Tuesday, November 5, from 12:00-1:15pm in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building. Please [see the attached flyer](#) for additional detail, and RSVP to Sarah Mancoll (smancoll@spssi.org).

NIH Fall Regional Seminar - November 6-8

The NIH is hosting the Fall 2019 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Phoenix, AZ, from Wednesday, November 6 through Friday, November 8. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about the program and to [register](#).

Congressional Briefing on Thyroid Eye Disease - November 14

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) as they host the first ever briefing on thyroid eye disease. The briefing will take place on Thursday, November 14, from 12:00-1:15pm in 2075 Rayburn House Office Building. Please [see the attached flyer](#) for additional details and RSVP to Dina Beaumont @ 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com

NCATS Workshop on Repurposing Off-Patent Drugs - December 5-6

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) is hosting the Cures Acceleration Network Review Board Workshop titled, "Repurposing Off-Patent Drugs: Research & Regulatory Challenges" on December 5-6, 2019 in Rockville, Md. The workshop will assess challenges around finding new uses for drugs that are already on the market but lack commercial and regulatory incentives for research and development. Please visit the [Federal Register notice](#) for additional information and to register by December 2.

Call for Nominations for the 2020 Golden Goose Award - December 20

[Nominations are open for the Golden Goose Award](#), which honors federally funded researchers whose work may sound silly, odd, obscure, wasteful of taxpayer funding, or serendipitous, but has had a major, if not unintended, positive impact on society. [Fill out the nomination form](#) by **December 20** for the best chance to be considered for the 2020 award. In addition, please consider spreading the word about the nomination process in your organization's newsletter or email list, in a social media post, and/or [consider a donation or sponsorship](#) to support the award in 2020. [Contact us here](#) or visit our website for more information.

Job Postings

ASM Seeks Federal Affairs Specialist

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) seeks a Federal Affairs Specialist to work with the Director of Federal Affairs to advance microbial sciences, focusing on agricultural, energy, and environmental legislation and public policy. The position requires working collaboratively with internal departments to gather input from and communicate to stakeholders—including members, organizational partners, and media—about policy and advocacy efforts. Visit the ASM website for the [full job description](#). Please submit salary requirements, cover letter and resume to HR@asmusa.org.

HIVMA Clinical Fellowship Program Application Open

The HIV Medicine Association awards grants to support one-year of HIV clinical training to up to two fellows per year. Grants are made to the institution to support the fellow's stipend, to offset administrative costs, and to provide for additional educational opportunities. One of the program's goals is to increase the diversity of the HIV clinical workforce particularly from populations and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by HIV. Physicians who are underrepresented in medicine or interested in working in the Southeastern US are strongly encouraged to apply. The application deadline is January 7, 2020. For more information, please contact [Asha Farrah](#) or visit the [fellowship website](#).

AACR Seeks Senior Manager, Congressional Relations

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) seeks an experienced professional to serve as Senior Manager of Congressional Relations in its Washington, DC office. This position plays an integral role in advancing the AACR's science policy and advocacy work on Capitol Hill. The position assists the Associate Director of Congressional Relations in the communication of the AACR's policy priorities and positions to congressional offices, develops persuasive and informational materials, assists in the development and execution of advocacy strategies, and coordinates special events such as Capitol Hill lobby days and congressional briefings. For more information and to apply, please visit the [AACR Career Portal](#).

HCM Strategists Seeks to Fill Three Positions to Support the *All of Us* Research Program

HCM Strategists seeks to fill three new positions to support our work as an engagement awardee to the National Institutes of Health *All of Us* Research Program, a historic effort to gather data from one million or more people living in the United States to accelerate

research and improve health. HCM's engagement work is focused on ensuring that the *All of Us* participant community is reflective of the diversity of our country. We do this by reaching, educating and motivating communities historically underrepresented in biomedical research — directly and in partnership with key stakeholders and community influencers — to learn more about the program and enroll. [Please visit HCM's website](#) to learn more and apply for the Director, Stakeholder Engagement; Senior Associate, Community Engagement; and Project Manager positions.

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.*