

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – Nov. 13, 2017

Editor's Note: The Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will break Nov. 20 for Thanksgiving, and will resume publication on Nov. 27.

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:

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

200+ orgs wrote to [@SpeakerRyan](#) [@GOPLeader](#) [@NancyPelosi](#) [@SenateMajLdr](#) [@SenSchumer](#) to [#RaisetheCaps](#) [#FundNIH](#) bit.ly/FY18BudgDeal

1. White House Nominates Alex Azar to serve as next HHS Secretary

On Nov. 13, President Donald Trump [tweeted](#) to announce the nomination of Alex Azar to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), saying Mr. Azar “will be a star for better healthcare and lower drug prices!” The new HHS nominee has worked for Eli Lilly for the past 10 years and has prior experience at HHS during the Bush Administration. Mr. Azar succeeds Secretary Tom Price, MD, who resigned his post in September.

2. NIH Announces Departure of NIBIB Director

On Nov. 8, Dr. Collins [announced](#) the departure of National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) Director Roderic Pettigrew, PhD, MD. In the announcement, Dr. Collins wrote that Dr. Pettigrew will step down in mid-November to “become the chief executive officer of a new program called EnHealth that will integrate engineering into all of the Texas A&M colleges within the university’s system that are part of the healthcare enterprise.” Dr. Pettigrew served as NIBIB director for 15 years. Jill Heemskerk, PhD, who most recently served as deputy director of NIBIB, will serve as acting director.

3. NIH Director and Deputies Write Op-Ed on Next Generation Researchers Initiative

On Nov. 7, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD, and Michael Lauer, MD, [wrote](#) an op-ed in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) that highlights how the Next Generation Researchers Initiative can be a solution to increase funding opportunities for early- and midcareer investigators. Expressing concern and underscoring the need to change the current funding landscape, the authors write, “We know that in the current hypercompetitive environment many outstanding early-career investigators are left out in the cold. We risk fostering a research environment in which society will, in the years ahead, expect crucial cures from a less-experienced, poorly funded, and dwindling cohort of investigators.”

4. Open Mike Blog on Selecting Journals with Credible Practices

On Nov. 8, NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer posted a [blog](#) that discusses a recently released [Guide notice](#) that "encourage authors to publish in journals that do not undermine the credibility, impact, and accuracy of their research findings." Dr. Lauer says the goal of the notice is to "raise awareness about practices like changing publication fees without notice, lacking transparency in publication procedures, misrepresenting editorial boards, and/or using suspicious peer review." He underscores why this is important by stating, "Ensuring the credibility of NIH funded research is important to maintaining public trust in research."

5. House, Senate Release Tax Bills

House and Senate lawmakers continue to work to advance its respective proposals to reform the nation's tax code. Various Ad Hoc Group members have released statements in reaction to provisions that may impact patients, researchers, and research institutions. Among others, the [Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology](#), [American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#), [Association of American Medical Colleges](#), [Association of American Universities](#), and [Association of Public & Land-grant Universities](#) commented on the proposals.

6. Senate HELP Committee Schedules Hearing on Gene Editing Technology

On Nov. 14, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee [will hold](#) a full committee hearing entitled, "Gene Editing Technology: Innovation and Impact." The hearing is scheduled for 10 am and will take place in 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Witnesses scheduled to testify include: Matthew Porteus, PhD, MD, associate professor of pediatrics at Stanford University; Katrine Bosley, chief executive officer and president of Editas Medicine; and Jeffrey Kahn, PhD, MD, director of the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

7. Senate NIH Caucus Lunch Briefing on Cancer Immunotherapy – Nov. 14

On Nov. 14, the Senate NIH Caucus will host a Capitol Hill lunch briefing from noon to 1:30pm in 562 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Newly installed National Cancer Institute Director Ned Sharpless, MD, will introduce leading researchers in the field to discuss how these therapies work, what we know so far, and what we are still trying to learn about how this transformative treatment could be a new frontier to prolong and save lives. This briefing will also address how Congress can most effectively support this work. To RSVP, email RSVP@ACTforNIH.org. See the attached flyer for more details.

8. AAU-APLU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Showcase – Nov. 14

On Nov. 14, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Universities, in partnership with the National Academy of Inventors and VentureWell, will host its inaugural exhibition and reception featuring startups from across the country that grew out of federally-funded university research and are fueling the innovation economy. This event will highlight the important role federally-funded university research plays in fueling entrepreneurship, innovation and impact across the nation. The event will take place from 5-7pm

in the Rayburn Foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building. To RSVP, email showcaseRSVP@aplu.org. See the attached flyer for more info.

9. ARBIR Capitol Hill Lunch Briefing on Diagnostic Innovations – Nov. 14

On Nov. 14, the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research will host a lunch briefing on Capitol Hill entitled, “Diagnosing Disease: How to Do it Better for Patients and Health Care.” This briefing will cover the future of diagnostic innovation and how scientific advancements can improve patients’ experiences. Featured speakers include Steven Seltzer, MD, chair emeritus of the department of radiology at Brigham & Women’s Hospital and Krishna Kandarpa, MD, PhD, of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). This event will take place in 122 Cannon House Office Building from noon to 1pm. Lunch will be provided. To RSVP, email ccappelletti@acadrad.org. See the attached flyer for more info.

10. United for Medical Research Amazing Things Briefing – Nov. 14

On Nov. 15, United for Medical Research will host an “Amazing Things Hill Briefing” at 2 to 3:15 pm in G2007 Rayburn House Office Building. A panel discussion will include four NIH-funded researchers whose ground-breaking discoveries and personal stories have been featured on the Amazing Things Podcast series. RSVP by November 14th to umr@hudsonlake.com Light refreshments will be served. Reps. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), Fred Upton (R-Mich.) and Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) will join the event. For more info, view the event flyer: <http://bit.ly/2yKIcmSAmazingThings>

11. Research!America Capitol Hill Events – Nov. 15

On Nov. 15, Research!America will host a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Capitol Hill briefing and “Walk in My Shoes” interactive experience. Featured panelists include Gary Gibbons, MD, director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; David Mannino, MD, FCCP, FERS, U.S. respiratory medical expert for GlaxoSmithKline; Grace Anne Dorney, JD, MA, president of the Dorney-Koppel Foundation and patient with COPD; and Jerry Kirshnan, MD, PhD, associate vice chancellor for population health sciences and professor of medicine and public health at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The briefing will take place in the U.S. Capitol Building, room S-115 from 12:30 to 1:30pm. The interactive experience will follow. To RSVP, this [form](#) or email efruchterman@researchamerica.org. For questions, contact rweissman@researchamerica.org. See [this flyer](#) for more info.

12. ARVO Briefing on Healthcare Savings Through Research – Dec. 7

On Dec. 7, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology will host a briefing that will tie the value of research to the hot topic of health care spending. Speakers will quantify how the use of an eye-imaging technology invented with NIH and National Science Foundation funding generated billions of dollars in Medicare savings. Attendees can get their eyes screened starting at 11:30 am in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building, with the lunch briefing beginning at noon. View the attached flyer for more information. ARVO is hosting the event in conjunction

with the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR). To RSVP, call Dina Beaumont 202-407-8325 or email dinabeau@aol.com.

13. Job Announcement - HIVMA Hiring Senior Advocacy and Policy Manager

The HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) is searching for a Senior Advocacy and Policy Manager who will lead HIVMA policy and advocacy efforts on key issue areas, including federal appropriations for HIV related programs, biomedical research, HIV criminalization, system and payment reform, and promoting science-based prevention and public health. For more information on the position, please visit <https://infectious-diseases-society-of-america.hiringthing.com/job/52141/senior-advocacy-and-policy-manager>

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.