

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – November 19, 2018

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:

NIH [@NIH](#) Nov 14

“An NEI-funded study found that maintaining [#EyeHealth](#) could help protect memory and thinking skills as we get older. Read more: https://nei.nih.gov/content/study-suggests-maintaining-good-vision-may-stave-cognitive-decline?utm_source=ThisIsNIH...#ThisIsNIH#NEInews.”

1. Joint Select Committee Holds Markup of Budget Reform Proposal

The Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform (Select Committee) Nov. 15 began a [markup](#) of its [proposed legislative changes](#) to the current budget and appropriations process, opting to conclude consideration of the measure Nov. 27.

The Select Committee's legislative proposal recommends: moving to a biennial budgeting process; adjusting Congress's deadline for budget submission from April 15 to May 1; and requiring the Executive branch to provide a new annual supplemental budget submission by Dec. 1 of each calendar year. The 16-member bipartisan, bicameral Select Committee was formed through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 ([P.L. 115-123](#)) and charged with providing recommendations to “significantly reform the budget and appropriations process.”

The Select Committee [considered 15 amendments](#) during the markup and [passed three](#), including an amendment to maintain yearly reconciliation rules, and an amendment to encourage development of bipartisan budgets.

The committee is expected to consider additional amendments before its final vote Nov. 27. According to the [summary](#) of the panel's recommendations, if the committee passes the bill, it will be introduced in the House and considered under regular order, followed by introduction in the Senate and referral to the Senate Committee on the Budget before full Senate consideration in which support of three-fifths of the Senate is required to pass the bill. The deadline for the select committee to report its final bill is Nov. 30.

2. House Republicans Prepare to Select Appropriations Committee Ranking Member

House Republicans will need to select a new Ranking Member to the House Appropriations Committee following the recent midterm elections and retirement of Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.). Currently, Reps. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Kay Granger (R-Texas), Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.) and Tom Graves (R-Ga.) are competing for the position. According to press reports, the Republican Steering Committee, which will cast the final vote, will be named the week after Thanksgiving (see [Politico Pro](#), subscription required).

3. Sen. Enzi Asks NIH, FDA About Succession Planning

Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) Nov. 14 sent letters to [NIH Director](#) Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and [FDA Commissioner](#) Scott Gottlieb, MD, asking about the agencies' plans for “succession management and ensuring knowledge transfer during transition in mission critical senior leadership positions.” Sen. Enzi is requesting responses from the agencies by Dec. 10 regarding details of their succession plans and approaches to workforce preparedness.

4. *Open Mike*: Working Together to Protect the Integrity of NIH-funded Research

In an *Open Mike* [blog post](#), NIH deputy director of extramural research Mike Lauer, MD, describes steps NIH is taking to address research misconduct, including the recent NIH [notice](#) on institutional reporting, [partnering](#) with recipient institutions and the Office of Research Integrity to protect human participants and vertebrate animals, and taking actions such as imposing specific award conditions when needed.

5. *Open Mike*: Implementation of the NIH Inclusion Across the Lifespan Policy

In another *Open Mike* [blog post](#), Mike Lauer, MD, discusses the NIH's revised [Inclusion Across the Lifespan Policy](#), which "requires individuals of all ages (including children and older adults) be included in clinical research studies unless there are scientific or ethical reasons to exclude them," and goes into effect for all applications due Jan. 25, 2019 or later. Dr. Lauer reminds readers of his co-authored JAMA [Viewpoint Essay](#) which summarized the need for this policy, and work NIH is doing to implement requirements outline in the 21st Century Cures Act ([P.L 114-255](#)). The post continues with the explanation that "NIH will require awardees to submit de-identified participant-level data on sex/gender, race, ethnicity, and age at enrollment in progress reports" and details on how that data will need to be submitted.

6. Notice of Legislative Mandates in Effect for FY 2019

The NIH posted a [notice](#) on legislative mandates for the use of NIH funds in FY 2019. The notice lists legislative mandates that remain in effect and relevant section in the FY 2019 Labor-HHS funding bill, including: salary limitation; gun control; anti-lobbying, acknowledgment of federal funding; restriction on abortions; exceptions to restriction on abortions; ban on funding human embryo research; limitation on use of funds for promotion of legalization of controlled substances; restriction on disclosure of political affiliation for Federal scientific advisory committee candidates; dissemination of false or misleading information; restriction of pornography on computer networks; and restriction on distribution of sterile needles.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

7. NIH Webinar on Proposed Key Provisions for a Future Draft Data Sharing Policy – TODAY!

NIH will be hosting a second informational public webinar regarding the agency's solicitation for public input on proposed key provisions that could serve as a foundation for a future NIH policy for data management and sharing (released through a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) on October 10, 2018). This webinar, led by Dr. Carrie Wolinetz, Acting NIH Chief of Staff and Associate Director for Science Policy, will take place on Nov. 19, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m EST.

8. AAMC/FASEB Host Webinar Series on 2018 NASEM Reports – TODAY!

The AAMC, FASEB, and National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) are hosting a [new webinar series](#) titled, "The Impact and Implementation of the NASEM 2018 Reports on the Biomedical and Medical Workforce." With an interactive webinar format, we invite you to bring your questions and experiences to share as we discuss how to implement these findings at an institutional level. The series will begin with an overview of how NASEM develops its reports, followed by additional webinars to discuss each of the five reports, featuring NASEM study directors. The series begins Nov. 19, 1:00-2:00 PM EST.

9. NIH ACD Meeting – Dec. 13-14

The NIH Advisory Council to the Director (ACD) will hold a public meeting Dec. 13 from 8:30am-5:30pm and Dec. 14 from 9am – 12pm at the NIH. Details are available through a [Federal Register notice](#), and will become available on the [NIH ACD website](#). Agenda items include the NIH Director's report and ACD Working Group reports.

Job Postings

American Heart Association Seeks Government Relations Manager on Appropriations and Regulatory Affairs Manager

This [Government Relations Manager](#) represents the American Heart Association before Congress and the Executive Branch agencies on legislative and regulatory issues related to biomedical research heart disease and stroke prevention programs. Responsibilities include: developing and executing appropriations requests before the House and Senate Labor Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriation Subcommittees for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and for heart disease and stroke prevention programs administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This position is also responsible for developing knowledge and expertise (and when applicable, advocacy positions) related to all issues relevant to the research environment. The Government Relations Manager will devise strategies and tactics to achieve specific policy objectives in collaboration with AHA media, grassroots and policy staff; serve on coalitions and other external working groups or organizations focused on research and prevention issues; build relationships and maintain communications with Members of Congress, Executive agency officials, and their staff. This position will also manage two external coalitions focused on research and prevention funding for heart disease and stroke.

Under the direction of the Vice President of Federal Advocacy, the [Regulatory Affairs Manager](#) would be responsible for monitoring, analyzing, and drafting responses to a prescribed set of federal regulatory and reimbursement-related issues that impact the association's public policy agenda. The primary focus of the AHA's regulatory work is with the Department of Health and Human Services and its key agencies: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Food and Drug Administration, and Health Resources and Services Administration. Major topics would include rules that impact ACA markets and patient protections, Medicare coverage determinations and Medicare payment rules, and FDA initiatives focused on drug/device development and safety. As part of your work, you would also identify opportunities for high level volunteers and staff to serve as representatives of the Association on appropriate federal regulatory and oversight bodies, including advisory panels and councils. Other duties may include providing limited lobbying support on proposals related to delivery system reform, quality improvement, laboratory developed tests, and other issues.

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Seeks Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation seeks a motivated individual to join a policy team committed to making a difference in the lives of people with paralysis and/or mobility impairments. The [Policy and Advocacy Coordinator role](#) will offer an opportunity to learn more about the issues and initiatives that the Reeve Foundation is working on to address the difficulties faced by people with paralysis and their families and help support and advance that work. The role will also offer an opportunity to oversee the Reeve Foundation's Regional Champions grassroots advocacy education program. To apply, please send resume along with cover letter by email to Felice Fullem at: ffullem@christopherreeve.org.

COSSA Seeks Candidates for Staff Assistant

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is seeking to fill the position of Staff Assistant. The Staff Assistant will provide critical support to COSSA team members on a variety of activities and tasks. The primary functions of this position fall into two categories: (1) Administrative and Membership Support; and (2) Research and Policy Support. The position reports directly to the Executive Director and requires close collaboration with the entire team. This is a full-time, exempt position. In addition to salary, benefits include medical, dental, life and disability insurance, paid annual and personal leave, and employee pension once eligibility requirements are met. Additional details are in the attached flyer. Interested applicants should send a resume, cover letter and salary history to jobs@coessa.org by December 7, 2018.

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.