

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – November 28, 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.

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1. House and Senate Health Committee Leaders Release 21st Century Cures Text

House and Senate health committee leaders Nov. 25 released revised [text](#) of the 21st Century Cures Act. Among other provisions of interest to the research advocacy community, the bill provides NIH with \$4.8 billion for Fiscal Years (FY) 2017-2026, including \$1.4 billion for the Precision Medicine Initiative, \$1.564 billion for the BRAIN Initiative, \$1.802 billion for cancer research, and \$30 million to expand clinical research for regenerative medicine using adult stem cells. The House Rules Committee has provided a [section-by-section](#) of the bill. The revised text also includes a larger package of bills addressing mental health and other hospital and health care issues.

2. White House Expresses Concern over a Proposed Short-Term Continuing Resolution

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest Nov. 22 [expressed](#) skepticism over a continuing resolution (CR) that would run through March 31, 2017, which House leaders [announced](#) that President-elect Trump requested that Congress pass. Earnest noted that “There’s no reason that Congress shouldn’t be able to fulfill their basic responsibility to provide an annual budget for the United States government and to do that on time, and to put forward a budget that is consistent with a set of principles about the best way to govern the country,” adding that the White House is “going to continue to advocate for the longest possible budget agreement we can get.” The current CR expires Dec. 9.

3. OMB Issues Guidance on Federal Employees Conference Travel

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Shaun Donovan Nov. 25 [issued](#) a memo to executive departments and agencies highlighting the Administration’s work to reduce wasteful spending and amending OMB Memorandum M-12-12. Specifically, the OMB memo noted that it was “critical” to “continue to root out wasteful spending while also ensuring that these steps do not impede on our nation's civil servants, who are in many cases the world's leading scientists...” Among the amendments is a change to the Administration’s policy on federal employee participation in external meetings and conferences. Director Donovan added that “The guidance below does not apply to Federal attendance at non-Federal conferences, although Federal agencies and employees must continue to exercise discretion and judgment in

ensuring that all conference expenses are appropriate, necessary, and managed in a prudent manner.”

4. **Holiday Gift Guide**

Just in time for Cyber Monday, STAT delivers a holiday gift guide for all the science-lovers on your list. From bling (gold-plated double helix necklace) to beverages (blown-glass blood vessel-shaped wine decanters), the guide is full of ideas for that hard-to-shop-for science enthusiast in your life: <https://www.statnews.com/2016/11/25/gift-guide-holiday-science>.

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.