Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
January 31, 2022

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:

**Johns Hopkins Federal Strategy @JohnsHopkinsFed – January 28**

Thanks to support from @NIH/@NIHFunding, an amazing breakthrough at @JohnsHopkins @HopkinsEngineer in robotic surgery possibilities! #FederalFundingFriday
[https://twitter.com/JohnsHopkins/status/1487152783677665282](https://twitter.com/JohnsHopkins/status/1487152783677665282)

**No Deal on Appropriations with Two Weeks Until Feb. 18 CR Deadline**
The need for at least a short-term continuing resolution (CR) is increasingly likely with less than two weeks until the expiration of the current CR and no agreement among appropriations committee leaders on topline funding for FY 2022. *BGov* reported on Jan. 31 that on Jan. 28, Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) noted that though it would be difficult to meet the Feb. 18 deadline, that appropriators continue to make progress on their negotiations. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) also issued a letter to House Democrats on Jan. 28 noting that members should be prepared for potential schedule changes to the planned district and committee work period from Feb. 14 – 18 to accommodate votes related to federal spending bills.

**Senate Committees to Hold Hearings for OMB Director Nominee**
Shalanda Young, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), will appear before two Senate committees to testify to become the permanent OMB director. The [Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](https://www.senate.gov/commerce/homeland/) hearing will take place on Feb. 2 at 10:15am, and the [Senate Budget Committee](https://www.senate.gov/budget/) will convene on Feb. 2 at 2:30pm. President Joe Biden formally nominated Young for the director role in November.

**Senators Indicate ARPA-H Bill Could be Added to Pandemic Preparedness Draft**
On Jan. 25, Senate HELP Committee leaders Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-N.C.) unveiled draft legislation, the [PREVENT](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr3240)
Pandemics Act, aimed at incorporating lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic into enhanced preparedness and response capabilities for future pandemics. In the press statement accompanying the draft’s release, Murray and Burr noted that they would also work with senators to incorporate additional provisions in the draft, potentially including language to authorize President Joe Biden’s research initiative, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). Language to authorize ARPA-H has already been introduced in the House through the ARPA-H Act (H.R. 5585) and the Cures 2.0 Act (H.R. 6000).

Gearing Up for 2023: Implementing the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy
Director of NIH’s Office of Science Policy Lyric Jorgenson, PhD, authored a Jan. 26 blog post on the planned Jan. 2023 implementation of NIH’s new data management and sharing policy. Jorgenson shared updates on NIH’s new and planned resources to assist grantees in the final year before implementation, including the Jan. 26 release of a new set of FAQs and a request for public comments on draft supplemental information to the new data management policy regarding responsible management and sharing of American Indian/Alaska Native participant data. Jorgenson also outlined additional related activities and resources to be released later in 2022.

Spotlight: Does Research Save Lives? The Local Spillovers of Biomedical Research on Mortality
The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) published a Jan. 24 spotlight of an Oct. 2021 working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research titled, “Does Research Save Lives? The Local Spillovers of Biomedical Research on Mortality.” The spotlight highlights the paper’s analysis to quantify the impacts to the health of local populations due to NIH funding, noting, “A core insight underlying the study is that grants are allocated to a specific researcher who has location, patient, and resource constraints. That means that innovations are first implemented locally, and then spreads outward.” The original paper suggested NIH-funded research publications are correlated with decreased patient deaths in the local area of the published researchers. Further, the authors calculated that for every 1% increase in NIH funding, the mortality for the related disease decreases by 0.22%, equivalent to $100,000 in additional funding leading to over 400 life years saved.

Upcoming Events
AACR Virtual Briefing on COVID-19 and Cancer – Feb. 9
Please join the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) for a virtual congressional briefing to release the AACR Report on the Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Research and Patient Care. This report will describe the significant impact the pandemic has had on patients with cancer and the field of cancer research; highlight how cancer researchers have responded to the challenges posed by COVID-19; and document lessons learned during the pandemic that can be used to improve cancer research and patient care moving forward.

The briefing will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 1:00 pm EST. Speakers will include Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), among others. The
Requests for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities

**NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Strategic Plan for FYs 2022-2026 – Feb. 10**
The NIH's Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity (COSWD) seeks feedback on its [draft FY 2022–2026 strategic plan](#), which includes a description of how COSWD will advance its mission to be the agency’s thought leader in the science of scientific workforce diversity, using evidence-based approaches to catalyze cultures of inclusive excellence. COSWD seeks stakeholder feedback on the plan’s three key goals — to build, disseminate, and act on the evidence to advance scientific workforce diversity — as well as objectives and cross-cutting strategies to support the goals. Stakeholders should submit responses to the [request for information](#) to COSWDStrategicPlan@nih.gov by Feb. 10.

**NIH Issues RFI on Genomic Data Sharing Policy – Deadline Feb. 28**
On Nov. 30 NIH published a [Request for Information](#) on potential updates to the NIH Genomic Data Sharing (GDS) Policy to keep pace with evolving scientific opportunities and stakeholder expectations. Comments will be accepted through February 28, 2022. NIH will use the responses to the RFI to consider options to update the GDS Policy and to harmonize with the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy.

For questions, please contact the NIH Office of Science Policy by email at SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov

**NIH Funding for Research and Capacity Building Efforts Related to Bioethical Issues – March 17**
The NIH [seeks to fund research](#) on ethical considerations related to biomedical research and projects that support capacity building in bioethics. Over the past three years, the NIH Office of the Director has partnered with all of our Institutes and Centers to support projects spanning the wide range of intersections between bioethics and biomedical research. Note that this opportunity applies to both basic and clinical research (and everything in between), from ethical considerations surrounding emerging technologies to developing capacity to further engage research participants as partners in research. Applications will be accepted until March 17, 2022.

Interested in collaborating with a bioethicist or a biomedical researcher to apply? Check out this symposium for tips on establishing partnerships: [https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=42402](https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=42402).

**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.

NIH COVID-19 Research Website provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about NIH research and our strategic role in COVID-19 research.

HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.

Combat COVID website including information for those who have never had COVID-19, have been infected, have recovered, and for health care providers.

**Job Postings**

**NEW** Director of Policy, ISSCR
The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) is seeking a full-time Director of Policy with experience in health policy issues to lead the ISSCR’s international policy and regulatory advocacy program. The ISSCR proactively engages in policy discussions concerning stem cell research and its translation to regenerative medicine at the state, federal, and international levels. The ISSCR’s Policy Director will draw on the organization’s articulation of rigorous professional standards for the conduct of stem cell research and clinical translation and will guide the ISSCR in the deliberation of new policy and regulatory issues. Additional details and application instructions can be found here.

Legislative Analyst, AAMC
The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) seeks a Legislative Analyst who, in collaboration with the Senior Director, Government Relations & Regulatory Affairs, will supervise, track, and analyze activities of Congress and federal agencies primarily related to health equity, diversity, and inclusion policies as well as other education, student financial aid, and health workforce related advocacy initiatives affecting AAMC member medical schools, teaching hospitals, physicians, and the patients they serve. Examples include health equity infrastructure, social determinants of health grants, and Title VII health workforce development and diversity programs at
the Health Resources and Services Administration. Additional details and application instructions can be found here.

Advocacy and Training Assistant, SfN
The advocacy and training assistant will provide support to all efforts of the SfN Advocacy and Training department. Supports committee activities, provides administrative support to SfN programming such as correspondence and scheduling, payment processing, and supports communication efforts regarding advocacy, policy positions, and training initiatives of the Society. Liaises across the organization for interdepartmental collaboration. To learn more about the position and apply, please click here.

Policy Fellow, AMP
The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) is accepting applications through Feb. 28 for the Policy Fellowship Program, which provides opportunities for early career scientists or professionals to gain skills and experience in and exposure to a variety of policy issues and aspects affecting molecular laboratory medicine. This is an ideal opportunity for someone who was recently awarded a masters or doctorate degree in the life sciences (within 5 years of application) with a strong interest in public policy as it relates to genomics, molecular or precision medicine. The fellow position is for 12 months, with a potential extension of an additional 6-12 months, and will report to the Senior Manager of Public Policy & Advocacy. A full position description, including fellowship activities, qualifications, and application requirements can be found here. The online application can be accessed here.

Advocacy & Engagement Specialist, AAMC
The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is seeking an advocacy and engagement specialist that will work with researchers, data experts, and policy analysts across the association to facilitate research, data gathering and story collection to complement lobbying efforts. The Specialist is an expert professional who will support the advancement of the AAMC advocacy agenda by helping identify and implement activities that engage AAMC members, staff, and partners to provide a strong foundation for AAMC lobbying and advocacy. In collaboration with the Senior Director for Advocacy and Engagement, the Specialist is a catalyst to the work of the Office of Government Relations. Learn more about the Association of American Medical Colleges here. To learn more about the position and apply, please click here.

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 ch Wagner@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.