

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – January 7, 2019

Happy New Year!

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:

[United4MedResearch @UMR4NIH Jan 4](#)

Why invest in medical research? Because we can't afford not to [#keepNIHstrong](#)

1. Mourning the Loss of NIAMS Director Stephen Katz, MD, PhD

Director of the NIH's National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Stephen I. Katz, MD, PhD, December 20, 2018 passed away after suffering a stroke. NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, [expressed](#) his sorrow at the sudden loss and his gratitude for all the work Dr. Katz had accomplished, especially during his tenure at NIH which began in 1974.

2. Senate Confirms Droegemeier to Lead White House Science Office

The Senate Jan. 2 by unanimous consent confirmed Kelvin Droegemeier, PhD, to be director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Droegemeier, was nominated July 31, 2018, and will fill a 2-year vacancy, although his start date remains uncertain during the partial government shutdown that includes OSTP. Dr. Droegemeier, a meteorologist by training, has an extensive background in both research and policy. He has most recently served as the Vice President for Research at the University of Oklahoma, as well as the Cabinet Secretary of Science and Technology under the Governor of Oklahoma. Dr. Droegemeier was previously appointed to the National Science Board by both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

3. NIH Director's Blog: Biomedical Research Highlighted in Science's 2018 Breakthroughs

In a Jan. 2 [blog post](#), NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, described the 2018 biomedical breakthroughs highlighted by *Science*, including development cell by cell, clinical use of RNAi, rapid chemical structure determination, cell phase separation, forensic genealogy, and human/Neanderthal hybrids. Dr. Collins concludes, "As exciting as these breakthroughs are, they only scratch the surface of ongoing progress in biomedical research. Every field of science is generating compelling breakthroughs filled with hope and the promise to improve the lives of millions of Americans. So let's get started with 2019 and finish out this decade with more truly amazing science!"

4. NCI Director Releases Plans for FY 2019 Budget

NCI Director Ned Sharpless, MD, Dec. 18 published a [Cancer Currents blog post](#) outlining NCI's budget plans for FY 2019. NCI will use three principles to guide funding allocation: increase support for cancer research through RPGs; stay true to the Cancer Moonshot vision; and prioritize training and support of early-stage investigators. Dr. Sharpless again mentioned that to

best support these priorities, "NCI divisions, offices and centers will operate at 95% of FY 2018 levels."

5. *Bloomberg Law*: Top NIH Policy Priorities for 2019

Acting NIH chief of staff and associate director for science policy Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, is featured in a *Bloomberg Law* [article](#) on the NIH's priorities for 2019 (subscription required). The article begins: "Curbing harassment and gender discrimination in biomedical research will rise to the top of the NIH's policy agenda in 2019." Other top issues include gene editing and data sharing. NIH also plans to issue a new data sharing policy in 2019, which will be "NIH's first blanket requirement to have data-sharing plans, instead of on a project-by-project basis." Dr. Wolinetz also posted a final [Under the Poliscopes blog post](#) summarizing the office's current projects.

6. NIH Posts Guidance for Implementing the Revised Common Rule

The NIH Jan. 2 posted [guidance](#) for the Implementation of the [Final Rule](#) on the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (Common Rule), for which the compliance date is Jan. 21. Changes to NIH policies and procedures include: "1) removal of the requirement for Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) to review grant applications and contract proposals related to research; 2) a new requirement for clinical trial informed consent documents to be posted on a public federal government website; and 3) changes to categories of research that qualify for an exemption; and 4) removal of the requirement for annual IRB reviews for certain categories of research."

7. *Science*: NIH Workshop Defines Fetal Tissue as "Gold Standard" for Key Studies

Meredith Wadman [Dec. 19 in Science](#) summarized a Dec. 18 meeting at NIH to discuss use of fetal tissue in humanized mouse models. NIAID hosted the closed-door session where scientists reported that these mouse models "remain the 'gold standard' for many kinds of studies, and any alternative animal model should be tested against such mice before being widely adopted."

8. Op-Ed: More Science than You Think is Retracted. Even More Should Be

Adam Marcus and Ivan Oransky, MD, December 26, 2018 published [a commentary](#) in the Washington Post examining the number of retractions in the scientific literature and their expectation that more will follow. They also highlight "another trend worth watching: the use of the False Claims Act, also known as the Lincoln Law, to go after scientists who commit fraud using federal dollars. The False Claims Act allows whistleblowers to collect hefty rewards for reporting faked data in grant applications and reports." Mr. Marcus, the managing editor of *Gastroenterology & Endoscopy News*, and Dr. Oransky, distinguished writer in residence at New York University's Carter Journalism Institute and vice president for editorial at Medscape, are co-founders of Retraction Watch.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

9. AAMC/FASEB Webinar on NAS Open Science Report – Jan. 14

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) are hosting the third webinar in their 2018 National Academies reports [webinar series](#). Study director Tom Arrison, of the National Academies, will unpack the key findings of the report "[Open Science by Design](#)," focusing on two essential

recommendations: 1) creating a culture that actively supports open science and 2) training students and other researchers to implement open science practices effectively. This webinar will also feature examples of institutional implementation of these recommendations. The webinar is being held on January 14, 1:00-2:00 PM ET and free [registration](#) is required. The video for the first webinar, which provides an introduction to the National Academies and overviews of the five reports in the series, is [available here](#).

10. 'Tis the Season ... to Nominate for the Golden Goose Award!

That's right – this is the best time of the year to nominate your colleagues, collaborators and role models for a Golden Goose Award. *What is the Golden Goose Award?* The [Golden Goose Award](#) honors federally funded research that may be odd, obscure or serendipitous but ends up having a major impact on society. *How do I nominate?* Visit [goldengooseaward.org](#) and click on “nominate” in the top right corner. *What do I need to know to nominate?* The form is easy! Tell us who you are nominating, what unexpected impact the research has had, and which U.S. federal agency funded the work. *Is there a deadline?* We accept nominations on a rolling basis throughout the year, but for the best chance to be considered for the 2019 award, submit by January 21, 2019.

Job Postings

PCORI Seeks Associate Director, Public Policy

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute seeks an Association Director, Public Policy. Position responsibilities include: supporting the Director for Public Policy and Government Relations, Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer, and the PCORI Board of Governors and executives in representing PCORI with Congress, including members, committee staff and legislative staff; support the development and implementation of PCORI's strategic plan related to reauthorization; and more. Please visit the [job posting](#) to apply.

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) seeks Government Relations Associate

ASCO seeks a high performing, entry-level [Government Relations Associate](#) with at least one year of administrative experience to join our Policy and Advocacy department. The selected candidate will provide comprehensive, high-quality program and administrative support to the to the Advocacy division on activities related to grassroots, Capitol Hill, federal regulatory agencies, state advocacy, and the Government Relations Committee. Specific tasks would include scheduling meetings on Capitol Hill and in the district, assisting with congressional briefings, receptions, and lobby days, coordinating the division budget, assisting with advocacy and policy website updates, provide support for ASCO's involvement with coalitions, and assist the team with bill tracking and grassroots software.

FASEB Seeks Senior Science Policy Analyst

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology seeks a Senior Science Policy Analyst. Primary functions of the role include analyzing science policy issues and independently managing committees, projects, reports, and seminars/workshops pertaining to the training and development of the biological and biomedical workforce and other topics of concern to the sustainability of the research enterprise. Please visit FASEB's [employment opportunities](#) site for [additional information](#) and a [link to apply](#).

ASHG Seeks Policy and Advocacy Assistant

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG), the primary professional membership organization for human genetics specialists worldwide, seeks a Policy & Advocacy Assistant. This person will report to the Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy, and will help fulfill the Society's advocacy role by helping to develop advocacy resources for members; supporting the development of policy statements; and coordinating policy and advocacy-related events and other administrative duties. Please visit FASEB's [employment opportunities](#) site for [additional information](#) and a [link to apply](#).

National MS Society Seeks Manager, Government Relations

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society mobilizes people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS. The Manager, Government Relations, will provide advocacy and policy support across all of the Society's activism. The position will directly lobby Congress, as well as implement advocacy and lobbying strategies and tactics at the federal and state levels. The position will be responsible for public policy and legislative research and analysis to help determine, assess and manage the Society's federal, state and local policy priorities. Additionally, the position will engage with advocacy staff and volunteers across the country. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

University of Florida Seeks Assistant Director of Federal Relations

The University of Florida Seeks an Assistant Director of Federal Relations for the Washington, D.C. office. Essential job functions include: manage and execute the government relations program for a portfolio of the University's federal interests; anticipate, monitor and analyze federal policy, funding developments, legislation and regulations, and provide regular reporting to internal stakeholders; build and maintain relationships with key legislative branch and executive branch officials, their staff members, and higher education and other policy advocates and associations; and more. More details and application instructions are available on the [job posting site](#).

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

The [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).

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. 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.

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.