

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – January 9, 2017

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.

Follow us on Twitter. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is now on Twitter: @fundNIH

Editor's Note: The next Weekly Round Up circulate on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

1. Senate HELP Hearing on HHS Secretary Nomination

Morning Consult is [reporting](#) that the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee Jan. 18 will hold a confirmation hearing on President-elect Trump's nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services, Rep. Tom Price, M.D., (R-Ga). Currently, Dr. Price is Chairman of the House Budget Committee and a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. Before serving in Congress, Dr. Price was an Associate Professor at Emory University School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Orthopedic Clinic at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Ga. While the Senate HELP Committee is holding a hearing on the nomination, the Senate Finance Committee has jurisdiction over the nomination's confirmation. Therefore, the Senate Finance Committee will schedule a subsequent hearing and vote on the nominee.

2. NIH 2016 Research Highlights

NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Jan. 4 [highlighted](#) scientific breakthroughs in 2016 that involved NIH-supported research. Dr. Collins discussed several examples such as NIH-supported researchers analyzing DNA to study ancestral migration. Additionally, Dr. Collins described researchers who are studying how eliminating old cells improves aging, and he highlighted research that is expanding the use of DNA sequencing.

3. OSTP Releases Its Exit Memo

Per tradition, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [released](#) its "Exit Memo," highlighting the impact President Obama's policies have had on the scientific and technological enterprise. The exit memo highlights research initiatives created over the last eight years, such as the Precision Medicine Initiative and the BRAIN Initiative.

4. COBTH Op-Ed on Medical Research

The Boston Business Journal Jan. 6 [published](#) an op-ed by the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals highlighting the importance of federal funding for medical research through the NIH.

The op-ed discusses the importance of maintaining and increasing investments in medical research due to the “global competition in medical research and the life sciences.”

5. Op-Ed on the Importance of Funding Medical Research

BioEnterprise president and CEO Aram Nerpouni Jan. 3 [highlighted](#) how important funding medical innovation is in a recent poll of voters in battleground states, noting that “90 percent of poll respondents believe investment in medical research can not only lead to new discoveries that benefit patients, but also support high-paying jobs and boost the economy.”

6. Guide to Improving Science in Non-Statistical Proposals

The American Statistical Association Jan. 9 [released](#) a guide to help researchers in all disciplines improve their funding proposals by recognizing statistical issues in non-statistical proposals for funding. Among other recommendations, the report suggests that the Project Investigator should partner with a statistician during the design and planning of the study.

7. Teaching Reproducible Research Webinar

The American Statistical Association and the Center for Open Science sponsored a webinar in Nov. 2016 that highlighted how research experts teach undergraduate and graduate students to make their research reproducible. Additionally, the speakers discussed how they instill best practices in students as early as possible. A [recording](#) of the webinar is now online as well as [slides](#) and a [transcript](#) of the webinar.

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.