



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

January 13, 2020

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](https://twitter.com/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:

American Cancer Society @AmericanCancer January 8

#BREAKINGNEWS: The [#cancer](#) death rate declined by 29% from 1991-2017, including a 2.2% drop from 2016-2017. The steady 26-year decline is driven by long-term drops in death rates for the four major cancers - lung, colorectal, breast, & prostate. <http://bit.ly/39JEpVP>

FY 2021 Appropriations Outlook

[CQ January 13 published a 2020 Legislative Preview](#) focused on the FY 2021 appropriations process (subscription required). The preview lays out the expected FY 2021 timeline with the cycle beginning on February 10 with the delivery of the president's budget request, followed by Appropriations Subcommittee hearings in the House and Senate. The budget caps for FY 2021 are already in place following passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, at a \$5 billion increase over FY 2020 for all nondefense discretionary spending. While there is an opportunity for both chambers to complete work on many if not all spending bills by August recess, the 2020 election is likely to impact what is actually accomplished by the start of FY 2021 on October 1.

NIDA Director to Testify at Hearing on Cannabis Policies – January 15

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) director Nora Volkow, MD, will testify at a January 15 [hearing before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health](#) titled, "Cannabis Policies for the New Decade." The hearing will take place in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building at 10:00am.

NIA Director's Blog on FY 2020 Budget

National Institute on Aging (NIA) Director Richard Hodes, MD, shares NIA's [2020 vision for aging research](#) in a January 8 blog post on following passage of the FY 2020 spending bill. Dr. Hodes summarizes NIA's FY 2020 funding, which includes a 3.3% budget increase and additional funding designated for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (AD/ADRD). Dr. Hodes also shares goals for 2020 including increasing the numbers and diversity of clinical trials participants; increasing support for patients and caregivers;

exploring new ways to move the science of aging forward; and further emphasizing the importance of data sharing.

American Cancer Society Reports Largest One-Year Decline in U.S. Cancer Rates

The [American Cancer Society published its annual statistics report](#) January 8, showing, "The death rate from cancer in the US declined by 29% from 1991 to 2017, including a 2.2% drop from 2016 to 2017, the largest single-year drop ever recorded." This one-year decline is a continuation of a 26-year long decline in overall cancer deaths. The overall rates of new cancer cases remain unchanged.

Updated Human Subjects Research Decision Tool

The [NIH Office of Extramural Research](#) recently updated its [quick decision tool](#) to assist researchers in determining whether or not their research could be considered human subjects research. The updated decision tool reflects changes implemented as a result of the 2018 revised Common Rule requirements.

Open Mike: Celebrating 20 Years of ClinicalTrials.gov and Looking to the Future

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, provides context for the NIH [Request for Information on the modernization of ClinicalTrials.gov](#) in a [January 7 Open Mike blog post](#). Dr. Lauer explains that the NIH's National Library of Medicine (NLM) aims to "deliver an improved user experience on an updated platform that will accommodate growth and enhance efficiency" and wants to engage a wide array of stakeholder to create a roadmap for modernization. Responses to the RFI are due March 14.

Open Mike: Case Study in Review Integrity — Asking for Favorable Treatment

Dr. Lauer presents [a case study](#) in peer review integrity in a separate January 10 Open Mike blog post. In this case study, a reviewer receives an email from an old colleague requesting a favorable review of their grant. Dr. Lauer explains what action the reviewer took, and how the NIH and the colleague's institution responded.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

Congressional Briefing on the Future of Women's Health Care – January 14

Please join the Endocrine Society and Northwestern University as they host a briefing titled, "Rock Stars of Research: Scientists Who are Shaping the Future of Women's Health Care." The briefing will be held on Tuesday, January 14 from 12:00-1:00pm in Senate Visitors Center 202. Please [see the event flyer](#) for additional details, and RSVP to Grace Kranstover at gkranstover@endocrine.org.

NIH NSABB Meeting – January 23-24

The National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB), a federal advisory committee, will meet January 23-24 to discuss sharing information about research involving enhanced potential pandemic pathogens and other items. The meeting in Bethesda, MD, is open to the public and will be webcast. A link to pre-register and view draft agendas is on [the meeting website](#).

OSTP Extends Deadline for Comments on the American Research Environment – January 28

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [recently extended](#) the deadline for a [request for information \(RFI\) on the American Research Environment](#) originally published in the Federal Register. On behalf of the Joint Committee on the Research Environment (JCORE), OSTP seeks comments on "actions that Federal agencies can take, working in partnership with private industry, academic institutions, and non-profit/philanthropic organizations, to maximize the quality and effectiveness of the American research environment." Comments are due by January 28 via email to the National Science and Technology Council Executive Director, Chloe Kontos at JCORE@ostp.eop.gov.

NIH to Host Workshop on NHP Models and Charting the Path Forward – February 18-19

The [NIH plans to convene a workshop](#) on the "unique challenges and important generalizable lessons in terms of science, welfare, and ethics" of research on non-human primates (NHPs) on February 18-19. The workshop will "identify emergent challenges facing the conduct, reproducibility, and translation of rigorous research when working with NHP models and discuss strategies for addressing these challenges, including building on or augmenting current best practices." Logistical details will be forthcoming, and the workshop will be available by videocast.

NLM Requesting Information on ClinicalTrials.gov Modernization – March 14

The NIH's [National Library of Medicine \(NLM\)](#) is requesting comments on its multi-year plans to modernize [ClinicalTrials.gov](#), which "enhances transparency across the clinical research enterprise" and "helps enhance public trust in clinical research." The modernization initiative aims to "update the technological infrastructure underlying ClinicalTrials.gov, enhance its public-facing components, and deliver a modern user experience with a platform and services that continue to accommodate growth and enhance efficiency." Comments must be submitted electronically by March 14. Additionally, NLM will host a public meeting on April 30 to elicit further comments.

NIH Regional Seminar in Baltimore, MD: April 20-22, 2020

The NIH is hosting the Spring 2020 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Baltimore, MD, from April 20-22. [Visit the meeting website](#) to learn more about the program and to register; early bird registration rates apply through December 31.

Job Postings

The Myositis Association Seeks Director, Communications & Research

The Myositis Association is seeking a new Director of Communications & Research's to raise the visibility of TMA and myositis diseases among key audiences and to position TMA as the "go to" organization/source for information, research and clinical trial updates, and support resources and services for the myositis patient, care partner, and medical community. [Please visit the job posting](#) to learn more and to apply.

APS Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The American Physiological Society seeks a Science Policy Analyst to develop and implement advocacy strategies on issues related to animal research, research funding, and other policy issues. Please review the [position description](#) carefully. You may apply by visiting <https://www.faseb.org/About-FASEB/Careers.aspx> or by emailing a cover letter, resume, and policy-oriented writing sample to resumes@faseb.org.

ASBMB Seeks Federal Affairs Manager

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) seeks a Manager, Federal Affairs to join the Public Affairs team. The federal manager will assist in the development and execution of ASBMB public affairs programs with respect to federal science funding agencies; help manage Public Affairs Advisory Committee operations, and work closely with ASBMB public affairs leadership in developing, articulating, communicating and implementing public policy positions on behalf of ASBMB. Visit the [posting of the full job description](#) to learn more and review application instructions.

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.*