

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – January 14, 2019

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:

[Senator Roy Blunt @RoyBlunt](#)

I'll remain a strong advocate for maintaining a pattern of sustained investments in NIH medical research, which has raised life expectancy, touched the lives of all Americans, and lowered health care costs: <http://bit.ly/2M8bXBy>

1. Bruce Tromberg, PhD, Sworn in as NIBIB Director

Bruce J. Tromberg, PhD, Jan. 7 was [sworn in](#) to assume the post of Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. Dr. Tromberg is a pioneering leader in the field of biophotonics who previously held dual appointments as professor in the Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Surgery at the University of California at Irvine (UCI). He also directed UCI's Beckman Laser Institute and Medical Clinic, an interdisciplinary research, teaching and clinical center for optics and photonics in biology and medicine.

2. NDD United Sign-On Opportunity

Sequestration will again become a part of the appropriations discussion as the temporary and partial relief of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 expires at the end of FY 2019. In the 116th Congress, threats to nondefense discretionary programs face a steep, \$55 billion funding cliff that would reverse many of the funding gains made in the last few years.

In an effort to protect NDD programs from further cuts and to end sequestration, NDD United is circulating a sign-on letter urging lawmakers to negotiate a new budget agreement providing relief from the discretionary spending caps in FYs 2020 and 2021. The Ad Hoc Group has signed on to the letter, and we encourage individual organizations to do so as well. You can review the letter [here](#) and [complete the sign on form here](#). Deadline to sign on is Jan. 31.

3. House, Senate Committee Membership Announced for 116th Congress

New Democratic members of the House Appropriations, Energy & Commerce, and Ways & Means Committees were announced [Jan. 9](#), followed by full Committee Chairs on [Jan. 11](#). Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) will serve as the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) will serve as Labor-HHS Subcommittee [Chair](#), alongside [Ranking Member Tom Cole](#) (R-Okla.). Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Leadership was [announced Jan. 9](#), with a continuation of Labor-HHS Subcommittee leadership with Chair Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.).

4. NIH Responds to Senator's Questions On Foreign Threats to Grant Process

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) Jan. 8 [released a statement](#) following his receipt of a [letter](#) from NIH detailing responses to his October 2018 inquiry regarding foreign threats to the research grant process. Sen. Grassley commented, "I appreciate the National Institutes of Health's response to my letter ... however it left many of my initial questions unanswered, including how much taxpayer money is dedicated to oversight functions within NIH and critical reporting

mechanisms that would root out and stop waste, fraud and abuse and protect the integrity of taxpayer-funded research.” The letter, authored by NIH Principal Deputy Director Larry Tabak, DDS, PhD, details NIH’s work to address a variety of security issues related to foreign influences in U.S. biomedical research.

5. *NYTimes*: US Continues Concern over Foreign Threats to Biomedical Research

The *New York Times* Jan. 6 published an [article](#), “U.S. Officials Warn Health Researchers: China May Be Trying to Steal Your Data,” reporting on the Trump administration and NIH’s concerns over foreign influences in medical research. This follows the December 2018 NIH ACD meeting on the same topic. In the article, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and FBI Director Christopher Wray note that “‘nontraditional collectors of information’ [or] data thieves, have shared intellectual property with Beijing, run ‘shadow laboratories’ in China and even pilfered biomedical secrets from confidential grant applications.” A follow-up [article](#) in *Inside Higher Ed* discusses the closing of Confucius Institutes in American universities in response to concern surrounding foreign influence in research.

6. NINDS Director's Message: Advancing the Effective Management of Pain

The NIH’s National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Director Walter Koroshetz, MD, Dec. 19, 2018 wrote an NINDS [Director's Message](#) on the more than 30 [new funding opportunities](#) totaling over \$850 million for addiction, pain, complementary medicine, and other research under its HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative. Dr. Koroshetz writes, “The funding opportunity announcements will catalyze a broad, multi-disciplinary response from a research community eager to take advantage of emerging scientific opportunities to address this rising public health need.” For a HEAL Initiative program update, [watch a recording](#) of an November 2018 AAMC-hosted webinar featuring Dr. Koroshetz.

7. OHRP Releases Draft Guidance on Upcoming Revised Common Rule Compliance Dates and Transitions

The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) Jan. 10 announced the release of a [draft guidance document](#) entitled “The Revised Common Rule Compliance Dates and Transition Provision (45 CFR 46.101(l)).” This document proposes guidance on how to apply the [revised Common Rule](#) to research that was initiated before the compliance date of January 21, 2019, and discusses how to transition to the new requirements or retain the previous Common Rule requirements. Comments can be submitted online or mailed and are due Feb. 11.

8. NCATS Advisory Council Discusses Programs Combatting Opioid Crisis, START Program

The NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Advisory Council met Jan. 10 and provided several project updates, including on the NIH HEAL Initiative and the [ASPIRE Challenge](#), the [Tissue Chips in Space](#), and the upcoming symposium on [The Opioid Crisis and the Future of Addiction and Pain Therapeutics: Opportunities, Tools, and Technologies](#). A presentation on the NCATS Triennial Inclusions Report to Congress explained that minority participation in NCATS research has increased within the last three years and provided future plans to continue to improve the diversity of participants in clinical research and address the needs of underserved populations, such as rural communities

9. NIH Extramural Nexus News Announcements

The NIH Jan. 7 and 8 posted several extramural research announcements on Extramural Nexus. [A Jan. 8 post](#) reminds researchers of several recent and upcoming policy changes impacting grant application submission for due dates on or after Jan. 25, including reminders on the inclusion of individuals across the lifespan, review criteria updates, changes to the R15 program, harassment and discrimination protections in NIH training applications, and others. [Another Jan. 8 post](#) highlights new resources available for Basic Experimental Studies with Humans (BESH) [Funding Opportunities](#). Two shorter posts answer the questions "[How Do I Determine if My Institution is Eligible For an R15 Research Enhancement Award?](#)" and "[Is My Ancillary Study Considered a Clinical Trial?](#)".

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

10. 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](#).

11. '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

NIH OSP Now Seeks Director of Science Policy, Coordination, Collaboration, and Reporting Division

The [NIH Office of Science Policy](#) is announcing a vacancy for the Director of its Science Policy, Coordination, Collaboration, and Reporting Division. This vacancy represents an exceptional opportunity for a multi-talented individual to: establish a policy portfolio that cuts across the biomedical research enterprise, including issues such as rigor and reproducibility, public-private partnerships, and other emerging priorities; lead projects to develop the evidence base for proactive policies shaping the conduct of biomedical research; manage high profile collaborations on behalf of the NIH Director; facilitate key partnerships within NIH to ensure seamless coordination on policy issues; and build and manage a high-performing team of science policy professionals and analysts.

Please visit the links for [external](#) or [internal](#) candidates to apply.

ALS Seeks Associate Director, Grassroots Advocacy

Bring your passion and leadership to join the fight against ALS! The Associate Director, Grassroots Advocacy will report to the Vice President, Public Policy and work as part of a team with the Associate Director for Government Affairs and the Public Policy Manager. The successful candidate will design and direct nonpartisan grassroots activities, including managing an annual Fly-In and the National ALS Advocacy Conference and working with ALS chapters and volunteer leaders. While federal level advocacy is the main focus, the candidate will also develop a new program to support chapters on state level advocacy. [Apply here](#).

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 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 Regulatory Affairs Manager

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.