

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – Feb. 5, 2018

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 welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here's this week's featured tweet:

Research!America (@[ResearchAmerica](#))

"...Every day the budget stays flat & the caps stay in place we squander potentially life-saving progress. That's a compelling reason to keep at advocacy." - @MaryWoolleyRA
#MondayMotivation #RaiseTheCaps

1. Lawmakers Work to Keep Government Open as Feb. 8 Deadline Approaches

House lawmakers reportedly are working on a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through March 22. Their work would mark the fifth CR from lawmakers for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. Upon passage of the previous CR, which provides government funding until Feb. 8, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research released a [statement](#) highlighting that “the ongoing cycle of continuing resolutions creates uncertainty that is disruptive to the long-term endeavor of biomedical research and imposes unnecessary delays on the pathway to cures.” Further, the statement urges lawmakers to “finalize, without any further delay, a bipartisan budget deal that raises the non-defense discretionary caps and enables a final FY 2018 spending bill that provides at least a \$36.1 billion investment in the NIH.”

2. House Appropriations Chair Announces Retirement

On Jan. 29, House Appropriations Chair Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) [announced](#) that he will retire at the end of his term. In his statement, Chairman Frelinghuysen wrote, “In my remaining year as chairman, I am determined to finish the FY18 bills and pass our FY19 bills through regular order.” According to press reports, the race to replace Chairman Frelinghuysen has already gained a number of contenders, including Reps. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.), Kay Granger (R-Texas), and Tom Cole (R-Okla.). Since Chairman Frelinghuysen will finish his current term, leadership changes will not occur until the 116th Congress.

3. Bloomberg: President's Budget May Call for Steep NIH Cuts

On Feb. 2, Jeanne Baumann of Bloomberg BNA wrote an [article](#) reporting that President Trump's FY 2019 budget proposal may include a steep cut to biomedical research funding for the second year in a row. Ellie Dehoney, vice president of policy and advocacy for Research!America, was quoted in the piece saying, “I can't reveal sources, but we've heard from a pretty reliable one that we could see a 30 percent cut in NIH.” However, as Baumann notes, lawmakers in Congress would likely disregard a proposal to cut NIH and “chairmen of both the

House and the Senate appropriations subcommittees who oversee the NIH's budget have made clear that protecting biomedical research dollars is a top priority.”

4. Op-Ed: Will America yield its position as the world’s leader in science and technology?

On Jan. 29, Eric Lander, PhD, the founding director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, [published](#) an op-ed in the Boston Globe that discusses how the heavy federal investment in basic research helped revolutionize biomedicine. In his piece, Dr. Lander also questions the United States’ future standing on the scientific world stage writing, “America’s future is now up for grabs. While scientific opportunities have never been brighter, we’re facing unprecedented competition abroad and challenges at home.” Of six questions raised by Dr. Lander, he asks, “Are we prepared to make the huge investments in basic and applied research needed to solve our health crises?”

5. Op-Ed: Why U.S. Science May Seriously Suffer from Government Shutdown

On Jan 30, David Mandell, ScD, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research, [wrote](#) about the potential impact of government shutdowns on the process of conducting science. He writes, “A shutdown may delay important projects by postponing the review of proposals for funding. It may diminish incentives for young researchers to stay in science. And it may slow or halt data collection in clinical trials — an immediate impact that could have long-term consequences.”

6. Op-ed: Broken, Repetitive Funding Process Endangers Americans’ Health

On Feb. 2, Harold Wimmer, president and CEO of the American Lung Association, [detailed](#) the state of funding for federal public health programs. Mr. Wimmer begins his op-ed by stating, “Another year, another messy, delayed appropriations process that threatens public health.” He says, “Raising the budget caps and making investments in federal programs that ensure fundamental health protections — like clean air, clean water, safe food, and biomedical research — should be no-brainers,” but highlights that policymakers “are fighting to gut these agencies’ funding, or even use policy riders to further complicate the process.” Mr. Wimmer then urges Congress to “prioritize Americans’ health and raise the caps to support investment in key public health programs at EPA, CDC and NIH,” and asks them to “oppose harmful policy riders in appropriations bills, especially those that put Americans’ lungs and lives at risk.”

7. Call for Golden Goose Award Nominations

The [Golden Goose Award](#) team is accepting nominations for the 2018 year. The Golden Goose Awards honors federally funded research that may be odd, obscure or serendipitous but ends up

having a major impact on society. To submit a nomination, follow [this link](#), or visit goldengooseaward.org and click on “nominate” in the top right corner. If submitting a nomination, be prepared to talk about who you are nominating, what unexpected impact the research has had, and which U.S. federal agency funded the work. Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year, but for the best chance to be considered for the 2018 award, submit by Jan. 31.

8. Register for COSSA Science Policy Conference and Social Science Advocacy Day – Apr. 30-May 1

On Apr. 30 to May 1, the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is hosting its annual advocacy day in Washington, DC. The [COSSA Science Policy Conference](#) brings together COSSA members and other stakeholders for a day of discussion about federal policy impacting our science followed by the only annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. To register and for more information, visit the [COSSA website](#).

9. Job Opportunity: Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator, Infectious Disease Society of America

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) is seeking a Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator. IDSA is the professional home for Infectious Diseases scientists and physicians and currently has over 11,000 members. Under the guidance and supervision of the Director for Government Relations, and in collaboration with the Public Policy and Government Relations team (PPGR), the Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator will execute strategies to maximize the engagement of IDSA members in federal advocacy activities in support of the Society’s strategic priorities. For more information and to apply for the position, please use the following link <https://infectious-diseases-society-of-america.hiringthing.com/job/59575/grassroots-advocacy-coordinator>.

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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.