

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – February 6, 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

1. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Provides Guidelines for Outside Testimony

The Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee announced its June 2 deadline for outside witness testimony for FY 2018 Appropriations. More information available [here](#).

2. Senate Votes to Advance Trump Nominees

On Feb. 2, the Senate [Finance Committee](#) advanced the nomination of Rep. Tom Price, MD (R-Ga.) under suspension of the rules. The majority used a procedural maneuver when the minority boycotted the vote after concerns with Dr. Price's testimony. Following the committee vote, the full Senate voted, 52-47, to end debate and move one step closer to a final vote.

Also on Feb. 2, the Senate [Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee](#) and the Senate [Budget Committee](#) voted to advance Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.) to the full Senate. Both committee votes occurred along party-lines.

Votes on the final confirmation of Dr. Price and Rep. Mulvaney could come as soon as the week of Feb. 6.

3. Opinion: Funding for Basic Scientific Research Remains Critical Bipartisan Priority

On Jan. 31, Eric Nestler, MD, PhD, dean for academic and scientific affairs and director of the Friedman Brain Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, as well as president of the Society for Neuroscience, wrote an [opinion](#) piece in *The Hill* on the importance of providing resources for the NIH. He said, "As the new Congress and administration seek wise investments that make the American people and economy stronger, they should start with basic biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health."

4. ASCO requests \$34.1 billion in federal funding for NIH

During a press conference on Feb. 1, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) [requested](#) \$34.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2017. ASCO Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Richard Schilsky, MD, FACP, FASCO, stated, "We urge Congress to provide robust funding for the federal research enterprise ... ASCO is calling on you to finish the work of the appropriations committee and pass a budget to finish out this fiscal year. We understand that may be difficult and may be complicated, but we think it's absolutely essential."

5. Letter Supporting NDD Programs – Deadline Extended to Feb. 10

NDD United invites all national, state, and local organizations to join the list of attached organizations in signing [this letter](#) urging Congress to protect nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs from further cuts and to end sequestration. To sign, click [here](#) and complete the form. The deadline to sign on has been extended to Feb. 10.

6. All of Us Research Program Announced

On Feb. 1, the National Institutes of Health announced a new [funding opportunity](#) for organizations interested in helping engage volunteers in the [All of Us Research Program](#). This funding opportunity, open to national and regional organizations, as well as local community groups, will support activities to promote enrollment and retention in the *All of Us* Research Program across diverse communities.

NIH is designating up to \$5 million per year over the next three years to support community-led outreach efforts, to complement the program's current efforts. *All of Us* is an ambitious effort to gather data over time from 1 million or more people living in the United States, with the ultimate goal of accelerating research and improving health.

Eligible organizations include nonprofits, other community- and faith-based organizations, minority-serving institutions and local governments, among others, who will support engagement with participant or provider communities. Applications are due on March 24, 2017, and NIH plans to issue awards in May 2017.

NIH will hold an informational webinar on February 10 at 12 pm (eastern). It will also be recorded and available for later viewing. Stay tuned for more details.

For full details about the funding opportunity, including eligibility requirements and application procedures, please visit <http://go.usa.gov/x9seA>

7. Community Responses to Executive Order on Immigration

On Feb. 3, a U.S. District Court entered a nationwide temporary restraining order for the enforcement of key sections of the [executive order](#) on immigration, including the seven-country entry suspension and several relating to refugees. The order leaves in place other parts of the executive order, including Section 4, which directs the development of “uniform screening standards for all immigration programs.” The Administration has filed an appeal. Since the executive order was signed, a number of organizations sent letters to the administration expressing concern about the impact on science and medicine, including letters from 164 [scientific](#) associations organized by American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 50 [higher education](#) associations organized by the American Council on Education (ACE), and a [joint letter](#) of 58 organizations coordinated by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Additionally, a New England Journal of Medicine Perspective [article](#) highlighted the negative impact the executive order has on academic medicine, departments of medicine and the national biomedical enterprise and ecosystem.

8. Research!America and the Congressional R&D Caucus Luncheon

On Feb. 14, Research!America and the Congressional R&D Caucus will host a luncheon titled, “Medical Innovation 101.” A panel will discuss the process behind medical progress, tracing the path from bench to bedside and discussing key variables that will affect efforts to overcome deadly and disabling diseases. The briefing will be held in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building from noon to 1pm. Lunch provided. RSVP to Rachel Weissman at rweissman@researchamerica.org or 571-482-2716. See full flyer attached.

9. Congressional Reception to Celebrate American Heart Month

On Feb. 15, the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, and WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease will host a congressional reception to celebrate American Heart Month. This reception will take place 5:30 to 7:30pm in 902 Hart Senate Office Building. To RSVP, email Cindy.Salinas@heart.org or call 202-785-7947.

10. National Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day Lunch Briefing

On Feb. 22, the Alliance for Aging and Research will host an educational lunch briefing on the latest in heart valve disease research. In this briefing, you will hear about the latest in heart valve disease from Gary Gibbons, MD, director of the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, leading treatments from Joseph Bavaria, MD, former president of The Society for Thoracic Surgeons, and inspiring stories from two AHA Heart Valve Ambassadors. This briefing will take place in HC8 in the Capitol Building from noon to 1pm. Register [here](#).

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.