



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

February 10, 2020

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:

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network @PanCAN February 6

[@ASCO](#) released a report highlighting advancements in the research field that can make surgery an option for [#pancreaticcancer](#) patients who may not have otherwise been eligible. Click to get the facts on ASCO's "Clinical Cancer Advances 2020" report.

President's FY 2021 Budget Request Released; Administration to Testify

The president's [FY 2021 budget request](#) has been released, including a \$3 billion, or more than 7% cut, to NIH. HHS also released its [Budget in Brief](#), and NIH released its FY 2021 [Congressional Justification](#). The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research [released a press statement](#), urging Congress to reject the proposal which would "would devastate the agency's ability to pursue promising new science to improve and save lives."

Representatives from the administration are expected to testify before Congress later in the week regarding the budget request. Acting [Director of the Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) Russell Vought](#) is expected to testify before the House Budget Committee on Wednesday, February 12, at 10:00am. [Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin](#) is expected to testify before the Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday, February 12, at 1:00pm. [Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar](#) is expected to testify before the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, February 13, at 9:30am.

House Appropriators Set Member Deadlines for FY 2021 Budget Requests

The House Appropriations Committee has [set deadlines for member submissions](#) for FY 2021 budget requests. The deadline for the Members of the House of Representatives to submit requests for the FY 2021 Labor-HHS spending bill is March 13.

Lowey, DeLauro Urge HHS to Seek Emergency Supplemental Funds for Coronavirus

House Appropriations Chair Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) and House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) [sent a letter on February 4 urging HHS Secretary Alex Azar](#) to ask Congress for emergency supplemental appropriations to combat coronavirus, if needed, “instead of transferring funds from other important HHS activities, including NIH research...”

Open Mike: What's Happening With "At-Risk Investigators?"

In a [February 7 Open Mike blog post](#), NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, described NIH's recent progress in supporting principal investigators who are at risk of losing substantial NIH support for the next fiscal year. Consistent with the Next Generation Researchers Initiative (NGRI), the funding rate for "at-risk" investigators improved from 21% in FY 2017 to 27% in FYs 2018 and 2019. The comparable rate for established investigators remained relatively stable at 29% in FY 2017, 33% in FY 2018, and 31% in FY 2019. By helping direct funding across the career stage of investigators, the NGRI seeks to ensure a competitive, viable future research workforce.

NIH Posts Guidance for FY 2020 Legislative Mandates, Salary Limit Increase

The [NIH's Extramural Nexus](#) summarizes a [February 5 guide notice](#) on NIH Fiscal Operations for FY 2020. The guidance explains that the [salary limit for Executive Level II has increased](#) to \$197,300, non-competing awards made in FY 2020 will be issued at the commitment level indicated on the Notice of Award, the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) will increase by 2% for predoctoral students and 4-5% for postdoctoral researchers, and meritorious R01-equivalent applications from early stage investigators will be prioritized.

Brink News: More People Are Surviving Cancer. What's Next?

Ross McKinney Jr, MD, AAMC chief scientific officer, authored an [opinion piece in Brink News](#) on February 4, World Cancer Day, discussing the state of cancer care and the future of cancer treatments. Dr. McKinney highlighted that continued advances in medical research have revolutionized cancer treatments in the last few decades, improving treatment outcomes, and that further progress will depend on sustained funding and collaboration.

Global Health Technologies Coalition Releases R&D Factsheets

[The Global Health Technologies Coalition launched a new factsheet series](#) that examines the role of research and development (R&D) — including R&D funded by NIH—in driving progress across different global health areas. The factsheets focus on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, emerging infectious diseases, and maternal, newborn, and child health.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

Thank You and More Ways to View Jim Allison: Breakthrough

Thank you to those who attended the reception and screening of "*Jim Allison: Breakthrough*" on January 30 at the Library of Congress. The film is an acclaimed documentary that follows the true story of the Nobel winning scientist who pioneered cancer immunotherapy. If you were unable to stay to watch the documentary, there are two other ways to enjoy the film: "[Breakthrough](#)" will be aired on PBS on April 27, 2020. You can stream "*Breakthrough*" any time on Amazon Prime, YouTube and Vimeo. For more information, you can contact Debbie Forrest at debbie@actfornihfoundation.org.

Registration Open: NIH Workshop on NHP Models and Charting the Path Forward – February 18-19

The [NIH is convening 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." Additional details regarding the meeting agenda, location, transportation, and lodging options are available on the [travel logistics page](#).

Reeve Summit 2020 – February 26-28

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is hosting its first national conference in Washington, DC, February 26-28. Reeve Summit 2020 will bring together those who have had an extraordinary impact on the lives of people with paralysis and related disabilities, including 300 community members, health professionals and caregivers, and will include powerful keynotes, educational sessions, and opportunities to connect with those who are changing the culture and reality of spinal cord injury. Please contact Kim Beer at kbeer@christopherreeve.org with any questions about the conference. Registration and more information can be found on [the event website](#).

Workshop on Emerging Bioethical Issues in Biomedical Research – February 26

On February 26, NIH will be sponsoring a workshop conducted by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to examine emerging bioethical issues related to biomedical research. The workshop will begin at 8:30am and take place at 500 Fifth St. NW, or can be viewed via webcast. Please visit [the workshop website](#) for additional details and to register.

Congressional Briefing on Glaucoma Research and Practice – February 26

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research as they co-host a congressional briefing titled, "The Impact of Federal Funding on Glaucoma Research and Clinical Practice." The briefing will take place on Wednesday, February 26, from 12:00-1:15pm in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see [attached flyer](#) for additional details, and RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com.

Request for Public Comment on Characteristics of Data Repositories – March 6

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has issued a request for information (RFI) on characteristics of data repositories, on behalf of the multi-agency Subcommittee on Open Science of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Science. The proposed set of desirable characteristics for data repositories is part of the Subcommittee's efforts to improve the consistency of information that Federal agencies provide to the scientific community about the long-term preservation of data resulting from Federally funded research. Please visit the [Federal Register post](#) for more information and to submit comments by the March 6 deadline.

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.

Social Science Advocacy Day – March 30-31

Please join the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) as they hold their annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. Social Science Advocacy Day brings together social scientists and other science advocates from across the country to engage with policymakers in Washington, DC. The two-day event includes in-depth training and logistical support (including scheduling meetings with Congressional offices and providing an on-call expert to answer your day-of policy questions), as well as polished, up-to-date materials to help you bring your message to Capitol Hill. [Visit the event website](#) for more information and to register.

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

NEW March of Dimes Seeks Associate Director, Maternal Health Coalition

March of Dimes is seeking an [Associate Director, Maternal Health Coalition](#) to manage March of Dimes' efforts in serving as the "backbone organization" for the Coalition for Optimal and Equitable Maternal Health, a multi-stakeholder coalition to advance maternal health. The Project Director will lead efforts to ensure the Coalition's governance through strong coalition management and support of its policy development and advocacy, data and research, and communications and outreach efforts.

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.