

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – Feb. 20, 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:

### Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research (@FundNIH)

*Thank you, [@RepDelBene](#), for highlighting the need to ensure that funding for [#medicalresearch](#) supported by [#NIH](#) remains a high national priority!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vLPaHIIWfw&sns=tw>

### 1. House Appropriations Committee Announces FY 2019 Submission Instructions

On Feb. 15, the House Appropriations Committee [posted](#) instructions for members of Congress to submit their programmatic appropriations requests, including submission deadlines for all 12 subcommittees. The “Dear Colleague” [letter](#) from Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) states that congressional offices can start submitting fiscal year (FY) 2019 requests as soon as Feb. 16 and that the deadline for submissions is close of business March 19.

### 2. White House FY 2019 Budget Proposes NIH Funding Below What Congress Proposed for FY 2018

On Feb. 12, the White House [released](#) its second budget request. The document, which traditionally reflects the administration's priorities, proposes to effectively freeze funding for the NIH at FY 2017 levels, with some additional funds for three new institutes currently funded elsewhere at HHS, and some funding to address the opioid epidemic. In response to the president's budget request, the Ad Hoc Group [released](#) a statement urging Congress to “provide steady, meaningful funding increases above inflation within the base NIH budget.”

### 3. Ad Hoc Group Sends Letter to Congress on FY 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act

On Feb. 20, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research [sent](#) House and Senate leadership and appropriators a letter thanking them for working together on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The letter also urges Congress to “ensure an appropriation of at least \$36.1 billion for the NIH, in addition to dedicated funding through the 21st Century Cures Act and any other funding devoted to specific priorities” for FY 2018.

### 4. STAT: NIH Funding Contributed to 210 Approved Drugs in Recent Years, Study Says

On Feb. 12, STAT [published](#) an article highlighting a [study](#) from researchers at Bentley University that points to the importance of federal support for basic research. The article states, “More than \$100 billion in NIH funding went toward research that contributed, either directly or

indirectly, to the 210 drugs approved between 2010 and 2016.” Fred Ledley, MD, one of the authors of the study says, “Knowing the scale of the investment in the basic science leading to new medicines is critical to ensuring that there is adequate funding for a robust pipeline of new cures in the future.”

#### **5. Hill Briefing on Asthma & COPD: How Research is Improving Patient Outcomes – Feb. 27**

On Feb. 27 from noon to 1:30pm, the American Thoracic Society and AstraZeneca will host a congressional briefing titled, “Innovations in Asthma & COPD: How Research is Improving Patient Outcomes.” This briefing will cover how research at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at NIH is transforming the lives of people with asthma and COPD and how current efforts are paving the way for better treatments and long-term outcomes for patients. Speakers for the event include James Kiley, PhD, director of the lung division for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Tonya Winders, president and CEO of the Asthma & Allergy Network; Robert Paine, MD, chief of the pulmonary division at University of Utah School of Medicine; and Greg Keenan, MD, vice president of medical affairs and U.S. head medical officer at AstraZeneca. The event will take place in Capitol Visitors Center, SVC - 210-212 and lunch will be available. Please RSVP by emailing Folasade Pyne at [Fpyne@thoracic.org](mailto:Fpyne@thoracic.org). More information attached.

#### **6. Hill Briefing for World Glaucoma Week– March 6**

On March 6, Research to Prevent Blindness, the American Glaucoma Society, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, Glaucoma Research Foundation, and the Optometric Glaucoma Society will host a briefing for World Glaucoma Week 2018 titled, “Toward Customized Glaucoma Care.” Featured speaker Alex Huang, MD, PhD, from the University of California, Los Angeles and Doheny Eye Institute, will describe how he develops customized glaucoma surgeries based on knowledge from his clinical practice and findings from NEI-funded research into fluid drainage in the eye that can cause elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) that results in optic nerve damage. The briefing will take place from noon to 1:15 pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. To RSVP, email Dina Beaumont at [dinabeau@aol.com](mailto:dinabeau@aol.com) or call 202-407-8325. More info at [www.eyersearch.org/pdf/AEVR\\_World\\_Glaucoma\\_Week\\_Briefing\\_2018.pdf](http://www.eyersearch.org/pdf/AEVR_World_Glaucoma_Week_Briefing_2018.pdf)

#### **7. Fogarty’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium – May 1**

On May 1, the Fogarty International Center will host an event to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The event includes a day-long symposium at Natcher Auditorium on the NIH campus (Building 45). The event will review the accomplishments of global health research and training, as well as look to the future to consider where the gaps and greatest opportunities are, as we plan our activities for the years to come. The symposium agenda is posted at <http://bit.ly/Fogarty50agenda>. The Foundation for NIH is sponsoring a reception immediately following in the Stone House. There is no fee to attend but seating is limited, so be sure to register for both the symposium and reception: <http://bit.ly/Fogarty50register>.

## **8. Call for Golden Goose Award Nominations**

The [Golden Goose Award](#) team is accepting nominations for the 2018 year. The Golden Goose Awards honor 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](http://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.

## **9. 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](#).

## **10. Job Opportunity: Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator, Infectious Diseases 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](mailto:jbanez@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).*