

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – Feb. 27, 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:

Innovation TaskForce (@InnovTaskForce)

China is on track to surpass the U.S. in R&D funding. China already has more individuals with science and... <https://eos.org/articles/china-may-soon-surpass-the-united-states-in-rd-funding>

1. Senate Appropriations Labor-H Subcommittee Posts FY 2019 Outside Witness Testimony Instructions

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies [posted](#) instructions for submitting outside witness testimony ahead of its work on fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations. According to the instructions, testimony should be no longer than four pages and sent to the Subcommittee no later than close of business June 1.

2. Op-Ed: Federal Funding Vital to Search for Treatments for Brain Disorders

On Feb. 26, Richard Haganir, PhD, professor and director of the Solomon H. Snyder Department of Neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and president of the Society for Neuroscience, [wrote](#) an op-ed in The Hill that made the case for sustained investments in basic science research. Dr. Haganir writes about breakthroughs like the Human Genome Project that has paved the way for the discovery of new treatments for brain disorders. He also highlights the fact that new discoveries “will not happen without strong and consistent federal investment in basic science research.” Dr. Haganir says that “Pharmaceutical and medical device companies depend on government-funded basic research ... to produce the therapies, devices, and treatment approaches that can slow or reverse the course of disease.”

3. Eos: China May Soon Surpass the United States in R&D Funding

On Feb. 20, Eos [published](#) an article highlighting the U.S. National Science Board report, “Science and Engineering Indicators 2018,” stating that China is on pace to catch up to the U.S. in research and development (R&D) expenditures. In this article, Eos interviewed Futao Chen, the minister counselor for science and technology at the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC. According to the article, although Chen agreed with the overall conclusions, he downplayed China's R&D growth.

4. Congressional Leaders Announce Appointments to Budget and Appropriations Reform Panel

On Feb. 22, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) [announced](#) appointments to the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform. This committee was recently

established by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 with a goal to provide recommendations and legislative language to “significantly reform the budget and appropriations process.” Speaker Ryan appointed Reps. Steve Womack (R-Ark.), Pete Sessions (R-Texas), Rob Woodall (R-Ga.), and Jodey Arrington (R-Texas). Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) also [announced](#) the appointment of Reps. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), John Yarmuth (D-Ky.), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.), and Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.) to the new budget and appropriations panel. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) [announced](#) that Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), and Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) would serve on the panel for Senate Democrats. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is expected to announce his appointments by the end of the week.

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. More information attached.

6. Hill Briefing for World Glaucoma Week– Mar. 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 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 or call 202-407-8325. More info at www.eyereseach.org/pdf/AEVR_World_Glaucoma_Week_Briefing_2018.pdf

7. Hill Briefing on Neurological Disease Across the Lifespan – Mar. 8

On Mar. 8 from 12:30 to 2pm in G-11 Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Friends of NIEHS, the Michael J Fox Foundation, Congressional Caucus on Parkinson’s Disease and the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus will sponsor a congressional briefing titled, “Neurological

Disease Across the Lifespan: Does Our Environment Play a Role?” Speakers for the event include Linda Birnbaum, PhD, director of National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; Avra Reichenberg, PhD, from the Icahn School of Medicine; and Caroline Tanner, MD, PhD, from the University of California, San Francisco. Lunch will be provided. To RSVP, email bmeyer@michaeljfox.org. More information is available on the attached flyer.

8. Hill Briefing for Biophysics Week– Mar. 16

On Mar. 16 at noon, the Biophysical Society will host a briefing for Biophysics Week 2018 titled, “Seeing Inside Human Cells with New Imaging Technologies.” This briefing will feature Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, PhD, from the Janelia Research Campus, HHMI. In this talk, Dr. Lippincott-Schwartz will discuss how powerful new ways to image the internal structures and complex dynamics of cells are revolutionizing cell biology and biomedical research. She will focus in particular on emerging fluorescent technologies. Reps. Bill Foster and Steve Cohen are hosting the briefing, which will take place in 2075 Rayburn House Office Building. Lunch will be served at this widely attended event. Please RSVP by emailing Ellen Weiss at eweiss@biophysics.org or calling 240-290-5606. More information attached.

9. NEI 50th Anniversary Event on Capitol Hill – Mar. 21

On Mar. 21 at 5:30pm in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building, the National Eye Institute (NEI) is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an event on Capitol Hill. This celebration is part of a [series of events](#) that helps highlight the progress made in diagnosing and treating eye diseases and vision impairment since NEI was established in 1968. This event is hosted by Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) and the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research. Light refreshments will be provided. To RSVP, visit <https://nei.nih.gov/content/nei-capitol-hill>.

10. Hill Briefing on Defense-related Vision Research – Mar. 29

On Mar. 29 from noon to 1:15pm in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building, the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research, in conjunction with Research to Prevent Blindness, Blinded Veterans Association, and Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, will host a congressional briefing titled, “Deployment-related Vision Trauma Research: Whole Eye Transplantation – From Experimental Model to Clinical Translation.” This briefing will feature Kia Washington, MD, from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. To RSVP, email Dina Beaumont at dinabeau@aol.com. More info available on the attached flyer.

11. 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](#).

12. Fogarty's 50th 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>.

13. 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 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.

14. 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 or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.