

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – March 6, 2017

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. This week's featured tweet:

American Institute of Biological Sciences (@AIBS_Policy):

Are there economic benefits from federal investments in bio research? Yes, read about some here
https://www.aibs.org/public-policy/resources/AIBS_Biological_Innovation_Report.pdf #AIBS

1. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing on the NIH

The Senate Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee will hold a hearing entitled, "Saving Lives Through Medical Research." The Subcommittee will meet at 10:30a.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 8 in SD-138 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. A list of witnesses and live webcast can be found [here](#).

2. House Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee Public Witness Day Hearing

The House Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee will hold its outside and public witness day hearing on Mar. 8 at 10am in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building. This hearing is an opportunity for the public to provide their testimony to the subcommittee before it begins work on FY 2018 appropriations. All groups that have been selected to testify in person have already been notified by the subcommittee. Other groups may submit written testimony for the record, and directions on how to submit testimony for the record can be found [here](#).

3. Members Voice NIH Support at House Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee Hearing

The House Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee Members' Day hearing was [held](#) on Mar. 1. Members of Congress provided testimony in favor of NIH funding, including Reps. John Delaney (D-Md.), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), Robin Kelly (D-Ill.), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.). Chairman Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) also reiterated their support for the NIH. Responding to testimony from Rep. Delaney, Chairman Cole stated, "If we can get the '17 bill out, the good news is that we'll have another substantial increase for NIH."

4. STAT Plus: "Key Republican Warns Trump's Budget Plan Could Mean Cuts to NIH"

In a Mar. 3 article, House Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) expressed his concern regarding the impact President Trump's FY 2018 budget proposal may have on the NIH budget. The proposal is expected to seek a \$54 billion increase in defense spending, offset by nondefense discretionary spending. In the article, Chairman Cole explained, "If that happened, everybody is going to be impacted." He went on to say, "I'd be very disappointed if we're not able to continue to increase the NIH's budget ... I think that's one of our goals, to try to get back to a period where there was a predictable and sustainable increase." The full article is available [online](#), however, please note that access is limited to STAT+ subscribers.

5. Introducing the Bench to Bedside Podcast

The AAMC [posted](#) the first feature in its new Bench to Bedside Podcast series, which presents stories of patients who have benefited from medical research. The Feb. 28 post focuses on twins, Alexis and Noah Beery, and how genome sequencing helped diagnose them with a rare form of dystonia. The recurring

podcast is part of the AAMC Research Means Hope campaign, which promotes the value of medical research and advocates for sustained, predictable federal funding for the National Institutes of Health.

6. NDD Letter to Congress, the Administration, and Media

NDD United sent a [letter](#) signed by 2,000 national state, and local organizations to Congress, the President, and over 500 members of the media. The letter requests adequate funding for nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs, stating that “Congress and the President must work together to protect NDD programs from further cuts and end sequestration. Such sequestration relief must be equally balanced between nondefense and defense programs, as strong investments in both NDD and defense are necessary to keep our country competitive, safe, and secure.”

7. Letter to President Trump on the Prevention and Public Health Fund

On Mar. 3, through a community letter organized by the Trust for America's Health (TFAH), over 500 organizations [sent](#) a letter to the President opposing the repeal of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). The letter notes that because the PPHF currently supports more than 12 percent of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) budget, eliminations of the PPHF would not only affect the CDC budget, but also would present a challenge “to the LHHS bill as a whole, leaving a nearly \$1 billion budget hole which would be impossible to fill under current discretionary spending caps.”

8. Lunch Briefing on Basic Biophysics Research and Its Connections to Human Health

On Mar. 7, the Biophysical Society is hosting a lunch briefing entitled, “The Plumbing System for Cells - Understanding it and Why it Matters.” The featured speaker is Peter Agre, MD, director of the Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute and recipient of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This briefing will take place at noon in 2253 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP by emailing eweiss@biophysics.org or calling 240-290-5606 by Feb. 28. The event is part of Biophysics Week. Flyer attached.

9. Johns Hopkins Hosts On the Road to Precision Medicine Health Care Leader Series

Johns Hopkins Medicine invites you to join the conversation with leading experts about current challenges in precision medicine. This new event series will bring together thought leaders from all sectors to discuss how to improve the way we tailor health care to individuals and create better ways to engage people in the health care system. In this series, our panel of experts will discuss topics such as cost, communication, research and health care delivery. This event will take place on Wednesday, Mar. 8 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the National Press Club. Registration is free. Please RSVP by emailing JHOnTheRoad@jhmi.edu. Flyer attached.

10. Lunch Briefing to Recognize World Glaucoma Week 2017

On Mar. 9, the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) will host a lunch briefing entitled, “Translating Glaucoma Therapy from Bench to Bedside.” The featured speaker is Malik Y. Kahook, MD from the University of Colorado School of Medicine. This briefing will take place at noon in 2040 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP by emailing TaylorBeaumont1@gmail.com or calling 202-407-8320. Flyer attached.

11. Save the Date for “Facing the Zika Crisis and Other Emerging Threats”

On Mar. 14 at 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Purdue University, Gallup, and the Howard Baker Forum are hosting an event as part of the Global Challenges Roundtable Series, entitled “Facing the Zika Crisis and Other Emerging Threats.” The event features President Mitch Daniels, Purdue University; Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD); Congresswoman Susan Brooks (R-IN); Dr. Richard Kuhn, Director, Purdue Institute of Inflammation, Immunology, and Infectious Disease and is being held at the Gallup World Headquarters, 901 F Street, NW (see attached flyer). Please RSVP to Christie.Johnson@HowardBakerForum.org.

12. Lunch Briefing Focusing on Vital Defense-related Vision Research

On Mar. 21, the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) will host a briefing entitled, “Deployment-Related Vision Trauma Research: Cornea Transplant Tissue Quality and Sight Restoration.” This briefing will take place at noon in 2040 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP by emailing TaylorBeaumont1@gmail.com or calling 202-407-8320. Flyer attached.

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.