

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – March 12, 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)

ICYMI: The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies scheduled a hearing on the HHS fiscal year 2019 budget request. Mark your calendars for March 15 at 10am. @SecAzar is scheduled to testify. <https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=395125>

1. House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Holds FY19 HHS Budget Hearing

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies announced it [will hold](#) a hearing on March 15 on the Department of Health and Human Services fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget. Alex Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services, is expected to testify. The hearing will begin at 10am in 2362-C Rayburn House Office Building. According to the subcommittee's website, the hearing will be webcast.

2. Op-Ed: Scientific Breakthroughs Require U.S. Investment

On March 11, the Baltimore Sun [published](#) an op-ed by two medical school deans who wrote about the importance of investing in biomedical research. E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Paul B. Rothman, MD, dean of the medical faculty and CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine, thank Congress for “upholding our longstanding national commitment to medical progress” and express their hope that “lawmakers will continue to protect critical investments in research and innovation.” The two authors encourage continued federal funding for medical research, comparing the United States' investment to China's increased focus on research and discovery. They write, “Already, China has more researchers than we do. It now ranks second to the United States in research funding, but it is aggressively increasing how much it spends on science.” Underscoring their point they cite a recent report by the Credit Suisse Bank that says China will pull ahead of the United States in total research funding by 2020.

3. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Announces Resignation

On March 5, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) [announced](#) his intent to resign from the U.S. Senate, effective April 1, 2018. In his statement, Chairman Cochran cited that his health “has become an ongoing challenge,” and noted that he intends to remain in the Senate “through the completion of the 2018 appropriations cycle.”

4. June 1 Deadline for Senate Labor-H FY 2019 Outside Witness Testimony

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.

5. White House Releases Science and Technology Highlights Report

On March 7, the White House [released](#) a report that discussed the Trump Administration's work around science and technology issues. The summary of the report says that "President Trump demonstrated his commitment to the importance of Federal scientific exploration by requesting \$151.2 billion for Federal R&D investment in the FY 2018 budget – a 2% increase over FY 2017." Under the report's "Biomedical Innovation" section, the White House discusses its effort to streamline "biomedical grant process and research sharing," highlighting how the NIH "altered a longtime policy to allow researchers to share 'preprints,' or draft research that has not undergone peer review, in order to speed up the process of scientific dialogue and discovery."

6. Hill Briefing by UW-Madison on the Impact of Federal Research – March 14

On March 14 from noon to 1:30pm in 2325 Rayburn House Office Building, the Wisconsin Alumni Association and UW-Madison's Office of Federal Relations [will host](#) a presentation on the impact of federal research, featuring three UW-Madison researchers: Samuel Poore, MD, PhD; Barbara Bendlin, PhD; and Federico Rey, PhD. Lunch will be served and space is limited. Be sure to RSVP online through [this form](#).

7. Hill Briefing for Biophysics Week– March 16

On March 16 at noon in 2075 Rayburn House Office Building, 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. 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.

8. Hill Briefing for World TB Day – March 20

On March 20 at 12:30 to 2pm in 2255 Rayburn House Office Building, the American Thoracic Society will host an education briefing on tuberculosis (TB). TB, an airborne disease, is the leading global infectious disease, killing 1.7 million in 2016. In the United States, every state reports TB cases annually and, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention drug resistant TB is a serious antibiotic-resistant threat to the nation. Speakers for the event will discuss why TB is a global health security threat and what is needed to move the United States

towards eliminating this curable disease. To RSVP, email Please RSVP to the American Thoracic Society at dcrsvp@thoracic.org. Lunch will be served. More information attached.

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

On March 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 – March 29

On March 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 – April 30-May 1

On April 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.

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.