

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – March 13, 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:

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) (@FASEBopa)

Proposed increases for @NIH vanish under a #CR. Call your reps to urge them to pass the 2017 budget
<http://buff.ly/2mk1yHm> #FASEBHillDay

1. Senate Appropriations L-HHS Hearing on Medical Research Recap

On Mar. 8, the Senate Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee held a hearing entitled, [Saving Lives Through Medical Research](#). In a [press release](#) shared after the hearing, Senate Appropriations L-HHS Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) stated, “In the next few years, as we continue to confront difficult spending choices, we must continue to firmly establish our federal commitment to the National Institutes of Health ... We must remain focused on establishing a pattern of responsible investment through the appropriations process. We do not know the scientific advances that will be made in the next ten years, but we do know that if we keep investing in NIH, they will keep making life-saving breakthroughs.” A list of additional statements in support of NIH can be found [here](#).

Other senators in attendance included Subcommittee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.), the chair and ranking member of the full committee, Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Sen. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.), Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee with jurisdiction over the NIH authorization, Democratic Whip Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Ct.), and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.). Witnesses included Timothy J. Eberlein, M.D., director of Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and Surgeon-in-Chief at Barnes-Jewish Hospital; Thomas J. Grabowski Jr., M.D., director of Memory and Brain Wellness Center, Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Integrated Brain Imaging Center, University of Washington, Seattle; Stacey Schultz-Cherry, Ph.D., member of the Department of Infectious Diseases at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee; and Jennifer M. Sasser, Ph.D., assistant professor at University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi.

2. President Trump Expected to Release Budget This Week

The Trump Administration is expected to release a preliminary FY 2018 budget request during the week of March 13. Early details revealed by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Mick Mulvaney state that the president intends to propose a \$54 billion increase in defense spending offset by cuts to non-defense discretionary funding. It is unclear whether the “skinny” budget will include details beyond the department level. The full budget request is expected in May.

3. National Science & Technology Medals Foundation Nominations

The National Science & Technology Medals Foundation announced that nominations for the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation are open. Medal of Science nominations can be submitted via [NSF's FastLane system](#) and Medal of Technology and Innovation recommendations can be submitted via [this webform](#). Please note you will need to create an account to submit a nomination for the Medal of Technology and Innovation. Nominations will be accepted until April 7.

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

On Mar. 14 from 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 Purdue President Mitch Daniels; Former Senate Leader Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD); Congresswoman Susan Brooks (R-IN); Dr. Richard Kuhn, Director, Purdue Institute of Inflammation, Immunology, and Infectious Disease. The meeting is being held at the Gallup World Headquarters, 901 F Street, NW (see attached flyer). Please RSVP to Christie.Johnson@HowardBakerForum.org.

5. 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.

6. Using Nanotechnology to Target Disease

On Friday, April 7, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) will host a luncheon briefing highlighting what's possible with nanomedicine, such as new cancer treatments, next-gen vaccines, and therapeutics for treating cystic fibrosis and asthma. Speakers include Daniel S. Kohane, M.D., Ph.D., at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital, and Warren Chan, Ph.D., at the University of Toronto. This briefing will take place in 2204 Rayburn House Office Building from 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing Sarah Mandell at smandell@aimbe.org. 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.