

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – March 19, 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:

Senator Roy Blunt (@RoyBlunt)

“Investments in medical research lead to new breakthroughs & life-saving treatments that will lower costs in the long term. I expect to see the govt funding bill for this year reflect the importance of maintaining a sustained federal commitment to @NIH bit.ly/2FYMyts”

1. Omnibus Government Funding Bill Expected This Week

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are expected to release an omnibus bill to fund the federal government for fiscal year (FY) 2018. The federal government is currently operating on a continuing resolution that expires Friday, March 23. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have touted potential increases in NIH funding. Notably, through a March 16 floor speech, Senate Labor-HHS Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) [highlighted](#) NIH funding as one of his priorities for the FY 2018 omnibus, stating, “we're on track to increase the third straight year of significant increases for the National Institutes of Health.” He reaffirmed this point through a [tweet](#) that said, “I expect to see the [government] funding bill for this year reflect the importance of maintaining a sustained federal commitment to [NIH].”

2. House Appropriators Voice Support for NIH in FY19 HHS Budget Hearing

On March 15, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies [held](#) a hearing on the administration's FY 2019 budget request to Congress. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar testified in front of the committee for the first time since his confirmation. Among the comments from House lawmakers, chair of the full House Appropriations Committee, Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) emphasized the widespread interest in the NIH, saying, “All of us are supporters of the National Institutes of Health” and noted that “Dr. Collins is doing an incredible job.”

3. Senate Finance Committee Will Hold Hearing on HHS Nominees

On March 20, the Senate Finance Committee [will hold](#) a hearing to consider the nominations of John Bartrum to be assistant secretary for financial resources for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Lynn Johnson to be assistant secretary for family support for HHS. The hearing According to the committee website, the hearing will begin at 10am and will be livestreamed.

4. Senate Appropriations Committee Will Name New Chair on April 9

According to press reports, the Senate Appropriations Committee is aiming to nominate a new chairman the week of April 9, after Congress returns from its Easter recess. The current Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) [announced](#) his intent to resign, effective April 1, citing that his health “has become an ongoing challenge.” Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) is expected to take the reins of the committee just as the Senate’s fiscal year 2019 appropriations process begins.

5. 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.

6. 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 a 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 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.

7. 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 will 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>.

8. 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.

9. 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](#).

10. 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>.

11. 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.

12. 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.