Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
March 22, 2021

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 we welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here is this week’s featured tweet:

**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology**
* @FASEBorg – March 19

In a recent interview, FASEB’s Public Affairs Director Jennifer Zeitzer tells @scibus how President Biden’s relief bill is expected to benefit researchers hit by the pandemic. Read the full story: [https://sciencebusiness.net/news/bidens-19t-bill-includes-key-pandemic-research-funding](https://sciencebusiness.net/news/bidens-19t-bill-includes-key-pandemic-research-funding)

**House Appropriations Committee Adjusts Member Deadlines for FY22 Requests**
The House Appropriations Committee has extended its deadline for member submissions for FY 2022 to April 28. Submissions will be accepted beginning on March 29.

**NIH’s Fauci Testifies on COVID-19 Response**
NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, MD, testified on the COVID-19 response before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on March 17 and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on March 18. Fauci noted the importance of historic investments in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the impact to non-COVID-19 research during the pandemic. “Perhaps the most important success story in this terrible outbreak that we’ve been experiencing has been a success with vaccines. But this did not start in January when the virus was recognized. It began with research decades earlier, particularly within the NIH and particularly within the vaccine research center, where basic preclinical and clinical research to develop vaccine platforms like mRNA and vector borne expression of protein,” Fauci said in his opening statement.

**BGOV: Pandemic Cost NIH $16 Billion in Delayed, Lost Medical Research**
A March 19 BGOV news article reported that the NIH has lost approximately $16 billion of research as a result of coronavirus impacts to the biomedical research enterprise (subscription required). While the NIH has not officially released an estimate of impacts since NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, cited an approximately $10 billion loss during a May 2020 hearing, NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD, referred to the impacts during his March 18 testimony before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. “I think I would not be totally frank with you if I told you that things are just exactly the way they were prior to COVID, Senator. There has been a diminution of activity in some areas … [in] the same way that other areas of our society have been dampened down a bit by this outbreak.”

Rep. Lucas: Now is the Time to Restart and Reinvest in American Research
House Science, Space, and Technology Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) authored an op-ed on reinvesting in research in The Ripon Forum. Rep. Lucas highlighted the efforts researchers took to pivot to COVID-19 research, cited an estimated research output loss of 20% to 40% across the entire research enterprise, and highlighted the potential long-term impact to the research workforce pipeline as a result of COVID-19 impacts. “Unfortunately, we can’t just flip a switch and restart the research work that’s been halted by the pandemic. There’s a cost involved in getting it back up and running, which is why COVID relief is so badly needed,” Lucas said.

NIH News: NIH Leaders on The Future of Precision Medicine, Healthcare Transformation
NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and Joshua Denny, MS, MS, chief executive officer of the All of Us Research program co-authored a commentary in Cell highlighting opportunities to accelerate equitable precision medicine efforts, also summarized in a March 18 NIH news release. The authors highlighted seven areas of growth for precision medicine: including huge cohorts; artificial intelligence; routine inclusion of genomics as part of clinical testing; deeper investigation of the role of phenomics and environment in health and disease; and returning value across diverse populations. “Implementation of a bold plan to collaborate internationally, to engage diverse populations of participants and scientists, to deeply measure our populations, to make clinical and research data broadly available, and to implement this knowledge in clinical practice—in a true learning healthcare system—will allow us to achieve the vision of precision medicine for all populations,” the authors said.

Upcoming Events

NEW Picture a Scientist Film Screening – March 22
The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) is sponsoring a one-week screening of Picture a Scientist from March 22 to March 26. Picture a Scientist, a film by Sharon Shattuck and Ian Cheney is a feature-length documentary film chronicling the groundswell of researchers who are writing a new chapter for women scientists. A biologist, a chemist, and a geologist lead viewers on a journey deep into their own experiences in the sciences,
overcoming brutal harassment, institutional discrimination, and years of subtle slights to revolutionize the culture of science. Register here.

World TB Day Congressional Briefings – March 22 and 24, 2021

The TB Roundtable is co-hosting a series of virtual congressional briefings with the House TB Elimination Caucus and Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) to commemorate World Tuberculosis Day. The first briefing, Ending Tuberculosis: How to Save Lives at Home and Abroad, is March 22 from 11:30am – 12:45pm EST. Please see attached for additional information and register to attend. The second briefing, COVID-19: How the Pandemic Has Impacted TB Elimination Efforts, is March 24 from 12:30 – 1:30pm EST. Please see attached for more information and to register.

NEW Virtual Briefing: The Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Screening – March 24

Please join the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) for a panel discussion about the impacts of COVID-19 on cancer screening with a focus on how health disparities may be exacerbating the pandemic’s effects. Panelists will outline current issues, discuss the U.S. response to the pandemic, and provide lessons learned for the future. The briefing will take place on Wednesday, March 24, at 11am. Please register by March 22, 2021. Once you register, a link to this virtual event will be emailed to you.

Diversity in Research: Benefits for All – March 24

The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation is hosting a conversation led by Junelle Speller, Vice President, PFF Registry, about the importance of including people from a wide range of backgrounds in medical research, and the impact it has on developing treatments and achieving better health outcomes for all patients. Anna María Nápoles, PhD, MPH, scientific director at NIH’s National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The event will take place on March 24 at 1pm EST. Please register here.

NEW Virtual Briefing: Clinical Trials in a Pandemic – March 29

COVID-19 has devasted our country over the past year, but Emory University has found sustainable solutions to perform efficient, successful, and diverse clinical trials. Please join Emory University in a discussion with Emory’s top researchers on March 29 at 1pm EST, “Clinical Trials in a Pandemic.” Please see attached flyer for more details, and RSVP here.

NEW Medical Imaging and Data Resource Center (MIDRC) Virtual Briefing – March 31

The Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research invites you to a virtual Congressional Briefing to highlight MIDRC’s current progress while providing detailed examples of how the combination of machine learning and large imaging databases
can lead to innovations that transform health care and improve public health. The hour-long session on March 31 from 1:30-2:30pm EST will include remarks from NIH’s National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering Director Bruce Tromberg, PhD, and will also give attendees an opportunity to ask questions about future applications of this technology. Please register here.

**NEW** NASEM to Host Workshop on Strategies for Effective Data Management and Sharing – April 28-29

On April 28-29, 2021, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) is hosting Changing the Culture of Data Management and Sharing, a virtual public workshop to examine strategies for effective data management and sharing. The workshop will discuss challenges to and potential solutions for data management and sharing across scientific disciplines and ways researchers can integrate data management and sharing practices into their routine research conduct. The workshop aims to inform implementation strategies for the new [NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing](https://www.nih.gov/policies/data-management-and-sharing). Additional information, including the workshop agenda and registration portal, is available on the [workshop website](https).

**Apply for the Childhood Eczema Challenge Grant – Deadline May 4**

Applications for the 2021 National Eczema Association/Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance Childhood Eczema Grant in the amount of $50,000 are due May 4. Additional details and a link to apply are on the [NEA website](https).

**Requests for Public Comment**

**NIH Seeks Comments on Efforts to Strengthen Equity in Biomedical Research – April 9**

As a part of the UNITE initiative, the NIH issued a [Request for Information (RFI)](https) seeking public input on approaches to improve and strengthen racial equity, diversity, and inclusion across all facets of the biomedical research workforce, both within NIH and the external community. The RFI also seeks feedback on ways to expand research to eliminate or lessen health disparities and inequities. The NIH invites stakeholders throughout the scientific research, advocacy, clinical practice, and non-scientific communities, including the general public, to [provide feedback by April 9, 2021](https).

**NIH COVID-19 Resources**

[NIH COVID-19 resource for applicants and grantees](https) including guidance for various aspects of research and grant application processes, as well as FAQs and COVID-19 funding opportunities.

[COVID-19 “Updates History” webpage](https) that details relevant updates for applicants and grantees by date.
FAQ document on COVID-19 flexibilities related to policies and programs affecting the grants process.

Funding opportunities specific to COVID-19 lists active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research.

NIH COVID-19 Research Website provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about NIH research and our strategic role in COVID-19 research.

HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.

Combat COVID website including information for those who have never had COVID-19, have been infected, have recovered, and for health care providers.

Job Postings

NEW ARVO Foundation for Eye Research Seeks Director of Foundation Operations

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) seeks a Director of Foundation Operations. This position reports to the Executive Director and is responsible for developing, managing, and implementing operating processes and procedures, establishing documentation, and maintaining internal and external stakeholder relationships. More information can be found here.

NHLBI Seeks Science Policy Analyst

NIH’s National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) seeks a Science Policy Analyst to assist in the institute’s engagement with Congress. The analyst’s role will include reviewing proposed legislation, responding to Congressional inquiries, preparing public outreach materials, and more. Additional information and instructions for applying can be found here.

AAI Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) seeks a Science Policy Analyst to research, analyze, and respond to relevant issues involving biomedical research, NIH, and other federal agencies, and to assist with AAI science policy programs and advocacy activities. For further information or to apply, click here.

AACR Seeks Associate Director, Science and Health Policy

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) seeks an Associate Director, Science and Health Policy. The Associate Director, Science and Health Policy, will work to strengthen the dialogue between policymakers, scientists, and advocates, as well as support policies to advance cancer research and improve patient care and public health. This individual will provide specialized expertise on science and health policy.
issues that are important to AACR leadership, with a primary focus on tobacco control policy and a secondary science or health policy focus to be determined, depending on the candidate’s experience. More information on the opening can be found here.

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 Christa Wagner at chwagner@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.