

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – March 25, 2019

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:

### [Association of Public and Land-grant Universities @APLU News](#)

"The [#FY2020](#) budget proposal turns its back on key programs & initiatives. We urge Congress to build off its recent work to boost education & research by rejecting this proposal, lifting the budget caps, & continuing to grow investments in these key areas. [http://www.aplu.org/news-and-media/News/aplu-statement-on-president-trumps-fy2020-budget-proposal ...](http://www.aplu.org/news-and-media/News/aplu-statement-on-president-trumps-fy2020-budget-proposal...)"

#### **1. President's Budget Proposes Cuts to Salary, Administrative Costs, on NIH Grants**

The White House March 18 released more details of its [FY 2020 budget proposal](#). The [Major Savings and Reforms](#) document calls for, as in previous years, reducing the salary cap on NIH grants from \$189,600 (executive level II) to \$154,300 (executive level V). In the accompanying [congressional justification](#) document, NIH proposes capping the percentage of an investigator's salary that can be paid with NIH grant funds at 90%. The president's FY 2020 request also notes that, "For the past two years, NIH has been prohibited by law from reducing grantee administrative costs" and proposes eliminating the prohibition.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) also [posted its annual memo](#) updating projections for the Biomedical Research and Development Price Index (BRDPI) as of January 2, 2019. BRDPI is projected to grow at 2.7% annually from FY 2019 through FY 2024.

#### **2. Senate Budget Chairman Releases Draft FY 2020 Budget Resolution**

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) [March 22 released](#) a draft FY 2020 budget resolution "which would reduce deficits by more than half a trillion dollars over five years." The proposal includes a nine percent cut to non-defense discretionary spending, and caps defense spending at levels established in the Budget Control Act of 2011 but "includes a mechanism to adjust these [defense] levels" if a budget caps deal can be reached for FY 2020. The Senate Budget Committee will hold a two-day hearing and markup of this resolution [March 27](#) at 2:30pm in 608 Dirksen Senate Office Building, and [March 28](#) at 10:30am in 216 Hart Senate Office Building.

#### **3. Ad Hoc Sends Letter Urging Robust Allocation for Labor-HHS Spending Bill in FY 2020**

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research sent a [March 19 letter](#) to Appropriations Committee leadership urging Congress to "significantly boost the FY 2020 allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill to ensure the subcommittee is able to invest fully in NIH and the entire network of health agencies and programs that work together to improve the health of all Americans."

#### **4. House FY 2020 Public Witness Testimony, Member Submissions**

The House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee will host a Public Witness Hearing on Tuesday, April 9. The deadline to submit requests to testify is Tuesday, March 19, while the

deadline to submit written testimony for the record is Monday, April 8. The complete notice and instructions are posted on the subcommittee [website](#).

In addition, the Labor-HHS Subcommittee [has announced](#) a March 28 deadline for Members of Congress to submit their FY 2020 appropriations requests to the Labor-HHS spending bill, in addition to a [Dear Colleague letter](#) from Chair Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) noting that earmarks will not be considered for FY 2020 spending bills.

#### **5. House Committee Hearings on FY 2020 Labor-HHS Budget Week of March 25**

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies [will hold](#) a Member Day hearing March 27 at 10:00 am in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building.

The House Budget Committee [will hold](#) a hearing titled "Department of Health and Human Services FY 2020 Budget" on March 26 at 10:00 am in 210 Cannon House Office Building. HHS Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan will testify.

#### **6. NIH Director to Testify Before Appropriations Subcommittees**

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD is currently [scheduled](#) to testify on the FY 2020 budget request before the Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies on April 2 in the House and April 11 in the Senate.

#### **7. *Under the Poliscope*: Crossing the Data Sharing Bridge, One Regulation at a Time**

An *Under the Poliscope* [blog post](#) by NIH Associate Director for Science Policy Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, discusses the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which "mandates a high level of personal data protection and autonomy for people in the European Economic Area (EEA)." The post discusses how the GDPR has affected biomedical data sharing, explaining that the pathways under GDPR to share data outside of the EEA are confusing and "the costs for non-compliance are high." The post concludes that the NIH is working to resolve these issues, but investigators should "begin the time-consuming but necessary data privacy and data sharing discussion with potential collaborators in the EEA" as early as possible.

#### **8. NIGMS Post on Updates for MIRA Program**

NIGMS Director Jon Lorsch, PhD, in a March 13 *Feedback Loop* [blog post](#) discusses how the Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) Program strives to provide stability to investigators, including a longer award time for established investigators, a high success rate for early investigators, flexible support levels for renewals, and potential bridge funding after unsuccessful renewals. This follows the Dec. 19, 2018 NIGMS [notice](#) of intent to publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to continue funding the Program. The FOA is intended for new applications from eligible NIGMS-supported investigators and renewal applications from both current NIGMS established and early stage investigator R35 recipients.

#### **Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events**

#### **9. BPS Congressional Briefing on Cryo-EM – March 26**

The Biophysical Society is hosting a Congressional Briefing: "The Cryo-EM Revolution Reaping the Benefits of a Nobel Prize-Winning Molecular Imaging Breakthrough and What the Future

Holds.” The briefing will take place March 26 from 4-6pm in 2060 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see attached flyer for additional details, and RSVP [here](#).

#### **10. American Thoracic Society Briefing on TB – March 27**

Please join the American Thoracic Society at a World TB Day Congressional Briefing: “Tuberculosis: New Momentum to Combat the Top Global Infectious Killer.” The briefing will take place on Wednesday, March 27, from 12-1:30 pm in 2255 Rayburn House Office Building. See attached for additional information, and RSVP [here](#).

#### **11. The Myositis Association Grants Webinar – April 9**

The Myositis Association (TMA) is hosting a [webinar](#) titled, “Position Your Myositis Grant for Success” to outline TMA’s grant process, describe a strong grant application, and answer questions. This webinar takes place **Tuesday, April 9 at 12 noon ET**. [Registration](#) in advance is required.

#### **12. AAMC/FASEB Hosting Webinar on NAS Sexual Harassment of Women in Science – April 22**

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) are hosting the sixth and final webinar in their 2018 National Academies reports [webinar series](#). Study Frzier Benya, PhD, of the National Academies, will unpack the key findings of the report "[Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#)". The webinar is being held on April 22, 1:00-2:00 PM ET and free [registration](#) is required.

#### **13. NIH Regional Seminar in Baltimore, MD: May 15-17**

The NIH is hosting the Spring 2019 NIH Regional Seminar on Program funding and Grants Administration in Baltimore, MD, from Wed. May 15- Fri. May 17. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about the [program](#) and to [register](#).

#### **14. NIH ACD Meeting: June 13-14**

In a [Federal Register notice](#), the NIH announced the next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting will be held June 13-14 at the National Institutes of Health, Natcher Building, Conference Room D, 45 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892. Preliminary agenda items include: the NIH Director’s Report, ACD Working Group Reports, and Other Business of the Committee.

### **Job Postings**

#### **NIH Office of Science Policy Seeks Director, Scientific Data Sharing Policy**

The [NIH Office of Science Policy](#) is seeking an innovative policy leader to direct its Scientific Data Sharing Policy Division. As director of this division, we seek an experienced policy professional to oversee programs in data sharing and genomic health who can lead the division in: developing and shaping policies to promote effective data sharing and research stewardship; promoting open science by partnering with Federal agencies, the academic research community, and the public; and more. For more information, and to apply, current federal employees should [click here](#), and external candidates should [click here](#).

#### **PCORI Seeks Advisor, Public Policy**

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute seeks an Advisor, Public Policy. Position responsibilities include: supporting outreach efforts to Congressional staff and external policymakers; supporting and coordinating messaging initiatives; supporting and coordinating projects for the Engagement Department; and more. Please visit the [job posting](#) to apply.

### **March of Dimes Seeks Director of Public Policy Research**

March of Dimes seeks a Director of Public Policy Research. This individual would be responsible for generating policy analysis and documents, supporting the Advocacy and Government Affairs team by providing data and information, maintaining March of Dimes' profile in the policy research and academic community, and serving as an integral member of cross-departmental work and teams. Additional details and application information can be found [here](#).

### **AACR Seeks Director, Congressional Relations**

The American Association for Cancer Research seeks a [Director of Congressional Relations](#) to provide specialized expertise and support to AACR leaders, including the Science Policy and Government Affairs Committee, its relevant subcommittees, and broader partners in the community to further the goals of the AACR's Strategic Plan and policy priorities. To apply, please submit your cover letter and resume [humanresources@aacr.org](mailto:humanresources@aacr.org).

### **ASHG Seeks Policy and Advocacy Manager**

ASHG also seeks a Policy & Advocacy Manager help fulfill the Society's policy and advocacy functions by tracking, analyzing and drafting material on policy issues; staffing volunteer bodies to develop policy material and advocacy programming; helping to build and then manage advocacy activity of Society's leadership and membership; and strengthening relations with Congress. Please visit FASEB's [employment opportunities](#) site to learn more and to apply.

### **University of Florida Seeks Assistant Director of Federal Relations**

The University of Florida Seeks an Assistant Director of Federal Relations for the Washington, D.C. office. Essential job functions include: manage and execute the government relations program for a portfolio of the University's federal interests; anticipate, monitor and analyze federal policy; and more. Details and application instructions are available on the [job posting site](#).

### **American Heart Association Seeks Regulatory Affairs Manager**

Under the direction of the Vice President of Federal Advocacy, the [Regulatory Affairs Manager](#) would be responsible for monitoring, analyzing, and drafting responses to a prescribed set of federal regulatory and reimbursement-related issues that impact the association's public policy agenda. The primary focus of the AHA's regulatory work is with the Department of Health and Human Services and its key agencies.

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](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).