Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up
March 25, 2021

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community and general updates. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the publication!

Congressional and NIH News

**President to Release Top Line FY22 Budget Proposal Next Week**
President Biden is expected to release an initial FY 2022 budget request the week of March 29, with a more complete budget expected later this spring, reported *Politico on March 23*. Office of Management and Budget spokesperson Rob Friedlander said in a statement, “Our priority is to provide Congress with early information about the President’s discretionary funding priorities, which is what they need to begin the appropriations process.”

**Senate Confirms Young as OMB Deputy Director**
The Senate confirmed Shalanda Young to be deputy director of the Office of Management Budget by a vote of 63-37 on March 23. Young previously served as committee clerk and staff director for the House Appropriations Committee.

**NIH Releases Results of COVID-19 Impacts Survey of Extramural Researchers**
The NIH Office of Extramural Research on March 25 released results from two surveys of extramural researchers seeking information on the impacts of COVID-19 to the research enterprise. Initial survey results show respondents indicated concerns about career trajectories and the ability to apply for grants; mental health impacts including from external stressors, isolation, and caregiving duties; and decreased productivity in part due to decreased access to labs and facilities. “The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been far-reaching. Our survey findings show that the scientific workforce has not been immune to its effects. It is clear the NIH-funded community of extramural researchers has experienced inequities in several domains, with early-career researchers and those with caregiving responsibilities most affected,” Marie Bernard, MD, acting chief officer for scientific workforce diversity, and Michael Lauer, deputy director for extramural research, said in their summary of the survey results.
NIH: Scientists Find Evidence That Novel Coronavirus Infects the Mouth’s Cells

New NIH research findings indicate that SARS-CoV-2 is capable of infecting cells of the mouth, stated a March 25 NIH news release. “The potential of the virus to infect multiple areas of the body might help explain the wide-ranging symptoms experienced by COVID-19 patients, including oral symptoms such as taste loss, dry mouth and blistering,” the news release states. The research was funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

Upcoming Events

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

COVID-19 has devastated 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.

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.

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. Additional information, including the workshop agenda and registration portal, is available on the workshop website.

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.

**NEW Support the 2021 Golden Goose Award – May 31**

Last year the Golden Goose Award highlighted scientists working to understand and respond to the pandemic; the virtual ceremony was the most-watched ever, and the stories of those highlighted have continued to receive national attention. The Golden Goose Award plans to recognize 2021 awardees during a virtual ceremony in September. **We are reaching out to Ad Hoc Group member organizations to ask for your support of the 2021 Golden Goose Award.** There has perhaps never been a more important time to recognize those who have dedicated themselves to scientific research that has become critical to our health and wellbeing. Information on sponsoring the Golden Goose Award can be found on our website. The deadline for pledging support for this year's award is May 31, 2021.

**NIH COVID-19 Resources**

- **NIH COVID-19 resource for applicants and grantees** 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** 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.
- **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.