

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – March 26, 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:

Rep. Susan Davis (@RepSusanDavis)

“Medical research saves lives. I'm fighting for an increase in funding for NIH, of which San Diego gets a significant amount - supporting our economy and thousands of jobs. We must keep America as a leader in innovation and life-saving research.

<https://susandavis.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=392837> ”

1. Omnibus Government Funding Bill Gives NIH \$3 Billion Boost in FY 2018

Both the House, [256-167](#), on March 22, and the Senate, [67-30](#), early on March 23, approved with broad bipartisan support, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, the omnibus spending bill to fund federal discretionary spending programs through FY 2018, including a \$3 billion increase for NIH. The president announced that he signed the bill during an afternoon press conference on March 23. Upon release of the omnibus, the Ad Hoc Group released a [statement](#), noting, in part: “For every patient awaiting a cure, for every researcher working toward the next breakthrough, and for every aspiring scientist considering a career in the lab, today marks a day of real hope and opportunity. On behalf of all these groups, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research praises appropriators for the bold and visionary investment included in the omnibus for biomedical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).”

2. House Lawmakers Urge NIH Increase in FY 2019

Reps. David McKinley (R-W.Va.), Andre Carson (D-Ind.), Peter King (R-N.Y.), and Susan Davis (D-Calif.) led a [letter](#) to House appropriators requesting an increase in funding for the NIH to boost research into lifesaving cures. In a joint [press release](#), Rep. McKinley stated, “It’s critical that we continue making investments in scientific and medical research,” while Rep. Davis added that NIH “supports our economy and thousands of jobs.” Rep. King expressed his support for the NIH and “the vital work they are doing to save lives.” Rep. Carson said he hopes the letter would spur Congress to make this “critical investment” in medical research. The letter was [signed](#) by 209 Members of Congress.

3. 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.

4. American Academy of Arts & Sciences Report on Perceptions of Science in America

On March 16, the Wall Street Journal [highlighted](#) the “[Perceptions of Science in America](#)” report, published by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The report, [released](#) Feb. 12, is a first of a series of reports to help understand and address the relationship between the public and their views of science. Among the key takeaways, the report states that “confidence in scientific leaders has remained relatively stable over the last thirty years” and that “Americans express strong support for public investment in research.”

5. 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.

6. Hill Briefing on Behavioral and Health Related Animal Research – March 29

On March 29 from noon to 1:30pm in the Capitol Visitors Center North, room 268, the American Psychological Association will host a congressional briefing titled, “Animal Research Matters Understanding Behavior and Improving Health.” This briefing will discuss basic research in three areas: how learning occurs and why behavioral training works, how the brain develops and is affected by environmental toxins, and how memory operates and why that matters for understanding the aging brain. Lunch will be provided. More information is available on the [briefing flyer](#). Please RSVP using [this form](#).

7. Senate NIH Caucus Briefing on a Universal Flu Vaccine – April 18

On April 18 from noon to 1pm in 385 Russell Senate Office building, the Senate NIH Caucus will host a briefing titled, “A Universal Flu Vaccine: Making a Better Vaccine to Protect Against Seasonal and Pandemic Flu.” Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, will address the factors that made this past flu season so severe, the ever-present threat of an influenza pandemic, and the research underway to develop “universal” vaccines to provide durable protection against multiple influenza strains. This briefing also will address how Congress can most effectively support this work. Co-Chairs of the NIH Caucus, Sens. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) will give opening remarks. To RSVP, email RSVP@ACTforNIHFoundation.org. For more information, please contact Nick Myers in Sen. Graham’s office (Nick_Myers@lgraham.senate.gov) or Jessica McNiece in Sen. Durbin’s office (Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov).

8. 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](#).

9. Fogarty's 50th Anniversary Symposium – May 1

On May 1, the Fogarty International Center (FIC) 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 the FIC plans its 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>.

10. 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.

11. 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.