Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
March 29, 2021

Only the Monday Ad Hoc Round Up will be published while Congress is in recess. The Thursday edition, the Ad Hoc Group Follow Up, will resume publication after Congress returns on April 12.

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:

**United4MedResearch @UMR4NIH – March 25**

**President to Release Top Line FY22 Budget Proposal This Week**
President Biden is expected to release an initial FY 2022 budget request the week of March 29. A more complete budget expected later this spring, likely in May reported CQ on March 23 (subscription required). Office of Management and Budget spokesperson Rob Friedlander noted that without budget caps in place for FY 2022 that there is “an opportunity to look at spending on a variety of domestic priorities including public health and energy.”

**NIH Launches Study on COVID-19 Transmission After Vaccination**
NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, MD, described a new NIAID-funded study to investigate the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine’s ability to prevent future infection in vaccinated individuals, and subsequently reduce transmission from vaccinated individuals to unvaccinated contacts, reported CNBC. The PreventCOVIDU study will enroll 12,000 college students from more than 20 U.S. universities, and will administer the Moderna vaccine to 6,000 research participants. Fauci shared a hope that results from the study would be available around the time students would return to college campuses for the fall semester.
The Hill: NIH Director Francis Collins on the Battle to Improve Vaccine Acceptance

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, conducted a March 27 interview with The Hill to discuss vaccine hesitancy in the U.S. Collins noted a variety of reasons for the lack of vaccine acceptance including historic distrust in the medical system from underrepresented minorities, concerns about medical interventions from religious perspectives, and politicization of science. Collins cited the importance of trustworthy voices advocating for the use of vaccines and listening to community concerns as important activities to improve vaccine acceptance.

Ad Hoc Group, Coalition for Health Funding Host Virtual Briefing with NICHD Director

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Director Diana Bianchi, MD, presented on NICHD’s research to investigate COVID-19 impacts on children, pregnant women, COVID-19 long haulers, as well as best practices for returning to school. Dr. Bianchi’s March 19 presentation was supported by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research in collaboration with the Coalition for Health Funding as part of a series of virtual briefings with directors of NIH’s institutes and centers to discuss how research to date and ongoing work can inform our continued response to the coronavirus, as well as the impact the pandemic is having on existing research across the agency’s broad portfolio.

United for Medical Research 2021 Report on NIH’s Economic Impact

United for Medical Research published its 2021 update on NIH’s role in sustaining the U.S. economy. The report shows that in FY 2020, the NIH awarded 61,933 grants totaling $34.65 billion to researchers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This funding directly and indirectly supported 536,338 jobs nationwide and the income generated by these jobs, as well as by the purchase of research-related equipment, services and materials, when cycled through the economy, produced $91.35 billion in new economic activity in 2020. The FY 2020 update also includes state-level impact data.

Upcoming Events

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](https://www.nASEM.org/). Additional information, including the workshop agenda and registration portal, is available on the [workshop website](https://www.NASEM.org/).

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://www.NEA.org/).

**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](https://www.goldengoose.org/). 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](https://www.goldengoose.org/). The deadline for pledging support for this year’s award is May 31, 2021.

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://www.nih.gov/), 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://www.nih.gov/).

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.

**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.

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**Job Postings**

**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.