



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

March 30, 2020

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:

#### **American Heart Advocacy @AmHeartAdvocacy March 21**

We know you know to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds. But do you know why? [This video explains](#) how soap can destroy viruses like the coronavirus.

#### **Third COVID-19 Supplemental Includes Additional Funding for NIH**

President Trump signed a \$2 trillion economic stimulus bill on March 27, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([P.L. 116-136](#)) in response to the COVID-19 outbreak – the largest such package in U.S. history. The Senate passed the measure in a late night [96-0](#) vote on March 25, and the House followed on March 27 in a voice vote. Included in the bill is an additional \$945 million for NIH, targeted to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), National Library of Medicine (NLM), and National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).

#### **Senate Members Send Letter to Appropriators Requesting Strong Investment for NIH in FY 2021**

Senators Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and [62 bipartisan](#) Members of the Senate March 27 [sent a letter](#) to Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) requesting that appropriators maintain a strong commitment to funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the FY 2021 Labor-HHS spending bill.

#### **FY 2021 Labor-HHS Outside Witness Testimony**

The House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee accepted FY 2021 outside witness testimony through March 23. The Ad Hoc Group testimony is [posted on the coalition website](#).

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee has also posted instructions for submitting outside witness testimony for FY 2021. [According to the instructions](#), testimony should be no longer than four pages and sent to the Subcommittee no later than close of business May 22.

### **NIH Launches Website to Protect Workers at Risk of Contracting COVID-19**

The NIH issued a [March 23 news release](#) detailing a new educational resource established with funding from the March 6 Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020 supplemental spending bill for safety training for health care staff and other workers at risk of contracting COVID-19. Hosted by NIEHS, [the website](#) includes links to resources and a Training Tool for workers.

### **NIH ICs Publish NOSIs on Coronavirus Research**

The NIH's National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) posted a *Feedback Loop* [blog entry](#) on its [Notice of Special Interest](#) (NOSI) to address the urgent need for coronavirus research through competitive revisions to NIGMS grants. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until February 5, 2021. NCATS and NIAID have released similar NOSIs on [Clinical and Translational Science Award \(CTSA\) program applications](#) to address COVID-19 public health needs and the [availability of emergency competitive revisions](#) for research on coronavirus and COVID-19, respectively.

### **NLM Expands Access to Coronavirus Literature Through PubMed Central**

On March 25, NLM [announced](#) that it is expanding access to scientific papers on coronavirus for researchers, care providers, and the public, and for text-mining research. The NLM is adapting its standard procedures for depositing articles into PubMed Central to provide greater flexibility that will ensure coronavirus research is readily available.

### **NIH Publishes New Notice on Late Application Policy**

The NIH on March 26 published a new [notice](#) on a late application policy as researchers cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the notice, all grant applications submitted late for due dates between March 9, 2020, and May 1, 2020, will be accepted through May 1, 2020. Applications received after May 1 may need to be deferred for a later review cycle. The announcement is described in an *Open Mike* [blog post](#) by NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, and also included on the NIH Extramural Research [coronavirus webpage](#).

## **Requests for Public Comment**

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### **NIH Seeks Feedback on NIH-Wide Strategic Plan – April 1**

NIH has extended a [Request for Information](#) seeking public input on a framework for the 2021-2025 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan. The new plan will build on the [previous NIH-wide Strategic Plan](#) to guide NIH's research efforts over the next five years. NIH is encouraging stakeholder organizations (e.g., patient advocacy groups, professional societies, etc.) to submit a single response reflective of the views of the organization/membership as a whole. NIH will be hosting two webinars in March to describe the planning process and answer questions. Information about these webinars will be posted on the [NIH-Wide](#)

[Strategic Plan webpage](#) as soon as information is available. Please provide your feedback via the [RFI submission site](#). The RFI will remain open through April 1.

### **OSTP Requests Information on Public Access to Publications, Data – April 6**

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is [requesting information](#) on public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications, data, and code resulting from federally funded research. This request is part of the OSTP and the National Science and Technology Council's efforts to facilitate implementation and compliance with the 2013 [memorandum](#) on Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research and to address recommended actions made by the Government Accountability Office in a 2019 report. Comments must be submitted by the new date of April 6.

### **NIDDK Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – May 18**

NIH's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) issued a March 16 [request for information](#) on the institute's five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, "The goal of the process is to develop a broad vision for accelerating research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions within the Institute's mission," and focuses on five broad themes for community input. [Comments are due](#) by May 18.

### **NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process**

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is embarking on an institute-wide strategic planning process, and published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so [through this form](#).

## **Job Postings**

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### **ASM Seeks Senior Grassroots Manager**

The American Society for Microbiology is seeking a Senior Grassroots Manager. This newly created position is responsible for developing and implementing an organizational grassroots strategy to engage ASM members on public policy issues that affect the microbial sciences. [Learn more and apply here](#).

### **AAI Seeks Science Policy Analyst**

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), a non-profit professional biomedical research association, seeks a motivated and intellectually inquisitive individual to provide scientific expertise to the AAI public affairs program. This position supports the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, the members of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs, and other AAI staff in developing scientific and policy positions that convey the views, concerns, and interests of the AAI membership. Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with resume, including publications, and salary requirements, to FASEB

Human Resources at [resumes@faseb.org](mailto:resumes@faseb.org), or visit the [FASEB employment website](#) to apply. [See attached](#) and the [FASEB job site](#) to view a detailed job description.

### **March of Dimes Seeks Associate Director, Maternal Health Coalition**

March of Dimes is seeking an [Associate Director, Maternal Health Coalition](#) to manage March of Dimes' efforts in serving as the "backbone organization" for the Coalition for Optimal and Equitable Maternal Health, a multi-stakeholder coalition to advance maternal health. The Project Director will lead efforts to ensure the Coalition's governance through strong coalition management and support of its policy development and advocacy, data and research, and communications and outreach efforts.

### **ASBMB Seeks Federal Affairs Manager**

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) seeks a Manager, Federal Affairs to join the Public Affairs team. The federal manager will assist in the development and execution of ASBMB public affairs programs with respect to federal science funding agencies; help manage Public Affairs Advisory Committee operations, and work closely with ASBMB public affairs leadership in developing, articulating, communicating and implementing public policy positions on behalf of ASBMB. Visit the [posting of the full job description](#) to learn more and review application instructions.

***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).*