

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – April 1, 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:

[Francis S. Collins @NIHDirector](#)

"New research by [@theNCI](#) scientists discovered a mechanism by which tumors continue to grow despite the presence of cancer-killing T-cells. The work could help increase understanding of why immunotherapy works so well in some patients, but not others. [#NIH](#)"

1. House Members Send Letter to Appropriators Requesting \$41.6 Billion for NIH in FY 2020

Representatives Susan Davis (D-Calif.), David McKinley (R-W.Va.), Andre Carson (D-Ind.), Peter King (R-N.Y.) and 218 bipartisan Members of the House of Representatives March 28 sent a [letter](#) to Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-Okla.) of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies requesting that the NIH program level for FY 2020 be "at least \$41.6 billion."

2. NIH Leadership to Testify Before House Appropriations Subcommittee – April 2

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, will be joined by five NIH Institute Directors to [testify](#) on the FY 2020 budget request before the House Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) on April 2 at 10:30am in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building. Dr. Collins is also scheduled to testify before the Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee on April 11.

3. HHS Secretary to Testify on FY 2020 Labor-HHS Budget Request – April 4

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar April 4 [will testify](#) on the FY 2020 budget request before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS. The hearing will take place at 10am in 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

4. House FY 2020 Public Witness Testimony Deadline – April 8

The House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee will host a Public Witness Hearing on Tuesday, April 9. The deadline to submit written testimony for the record is Monday, April 8. The complete notice and instructions are posted on the subcommittee [website](#).

5. Senate FY 2020 Outside Witness Testimony Deadline – June 3

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee posted [instructions](#) for submitting outside witness testimony ahead of its work on FY 2020 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 3.

6. ITIF Releases Report on Critical Role of Investing in NIH

The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation March 25 released a [report](#) titled, “Healthy Funding: The Critical Role of Investing in NIH to Boost Health and Lower Costs.” Key takeaways include: the importance of public funding for NIH in discovering new treatments and cures; NIH funding still lags behind 2003 levels when adjusted for inflation; and a recommendation that Congress increase the NIH budget by an average of \$8 billion per year for two years.

7. NIH Releases Protocol Template for Behavioral and Social Sciences Clinical Trials

An *Under the Poliscope* [blog post](#) authored by NIH Associate Director for Science Policy Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, and NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Director William Riley, MD, explain the usefulness of the [new NIH protocol template for behavioral and social sciences clinical trials](#). The new template was adapted from the [NIH-FDA Phase 2/3 IND-IDE Clinical Trial Template](#) to include terminology and approaches used by behavioral and social scientists. The authors note that “the template is an effective resource for communicating the science, methods, and operations of a clinical trial thus allowing for standardization of procedures and guiding replication studies.”

8. *Open Mike*: CMS Seeks Input on Interoperability and Patient Access Proposed Rule

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, reports in a March 25 *Open Mike* [blog post](#) that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [released a proposed rule](#) Feb. 11 to advance interoperability and patient access to health data. This data from CMS is a “uniquely valuable, rich source of health information available to the NIH research community for observational and interventional research.” Dr. Lauer also points to two CMS Requests for Information on “1) interoperability and health IT adoption in post-acute care settings, and 2) the role of patient matching in interoperability and improved patient care.” CMS is [accepting comments](#) on all three documents through May 3.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

9. Congressional Briefing on the Microbiome– April 8

The Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus is hosting a briefing titled, “Soaps, Vitamins, and the Microbiome: What’s the Real Truth Behind the Microbiome?” The briefing will take place Monday, April 8, from Noon-1pm in 2075 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see attached for additional details, and RSVP to cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org.

10. Bipartisan Policy Center Briefing on Comparative Effectiveness Research – April 9

The Bipartisan Policy Center is hosting a briefing titled “Comparative Effectiveness Research: Recent Applications and Future Investments.” The briefing will take place Tuesday, April 9, from 9:30am – noon at the Bipartisan Policy Center (1225 Eye St. NW, Suite 1000). Additional details and a link to register are on the [event website](#).

11. ITIF Policy Roundtable on “Healthy Funding” Report – April 9

The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF) March 25 released a report on the value of NIH funding (see related story above). ITIF will host a policy roundtable discussion on this report Tuesday, April 9, from 2-3:30pm in 216 Hart Senate Office Building. Additional details are available on the [registration site](#).

12. 50th Anniversary Celebration of NHLBI's Division of Lung Disease – April 9

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Constituency Group is hosting and will be celebrating the 50th year of the NHLBI's Division of Lung Disease at a congressional reception on April 9th at 5:30 PM in 2060 Rayburn House Office Building. Featured attendees include Dr. Louis Sullivan, former HHS Secretary; Dr. Gary Gibbons, NHLBI Director. Featured congressional sponsors include House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), and Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah). See attached invitation and RSVP to griffin@hmcw.org.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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](#).

16. 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

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.

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 or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.