



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

April 6, 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:

University of Pittsburgh [@PittTweet](#) March 21

Inspired by the original scratch method used to deliver the smallpox vaccine, the potential [#COVID19](#) vaccine from Pitt scientists uses a microneedle array to deliver the treatment. [Learn more.](#)

Chairwoman Lowey Discusses Supplemental Funding on NPR

House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) [was interviewed](#) on NPR's *Weekend Edition* on April 5, where she discussed Congress's ongoing work on providing supplemental funding to combat COVID-19. Chairwoman Lowey discussed the March 27 passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, and looked to additional future funding in a fourth supplemental spending bill.

FY 2021 Labor-HHS Outside Witness Testimony

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee has 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 ICs Post Additional Funding Opportunities for COVID-19 Research

The NIH's National Institute on Aging (NIA) and National Institute of Mental Health issued a [Notice of Special Interest](#) (NOSI) on the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through May 1.

NCI COVID-19 Guidance for Researchers

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) [published](#) resources and guidance for cancer researchers related to COVID-19. The webpage includes information on extramural funding, clinical trials, and intramural research, as well as links to related resources.

AACR Letter Recommending Support for Patients and Researchers During Pandemic

Last week the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) sent a [letter to Congress](#) recommending several actions to alleviate the current COVID-19 public health emergency while protecting patients with cancer and sustaining investment in vital medical research. The AACR also sent a similar [letter](#) to President Trump, Vice President Pence, and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

302(b) Sign On Letter

The Coalition for Health Funding, Committee for Education Funding, Coalition on Human Needs, and Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce, are circulating their annual 302(b) sign-on letter, a joint effort with the open for organizations to join. This sign on letter has been updated to reflect recent congressional action on the COVID emergency appropriations.

The letter requests Congress to increase the Labor HHS 302(b) allocation and gives examples how under funding has led to negative impacts on Americans' lives. To read the full letter [click here](#), and to sign on fill out [this Google form](#) by April 13th.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

NASEM Conferences on Postsecondary Response to COVID-19 – April 9

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) will hold a series of conferences on Zoom titled “Postsecondary Response to COVID-19: National Hubs of Knowledge and Resources.” The [first conference](#) will consider “How can researchers help the national response efforts?” on Thursday, April 9 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm ET.

Requests for Public Comment

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

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, or visit the [FASEB employment website](#) to apply. [See attached](#) and the [FASEB job site](#) to view a detailed job description.

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.*