

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – April 9, 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:

### Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research ([@FundNIH](#))

*Mark your calendars! The House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee scheduled an @NIH FY19 budget oversight hearing for 10am on April 11. [@NIHDirector](#) is expected to testify and the hearing will be webcast.*

<https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=395185>

#### 1. House Labor-H Subcommittee Schedules Hearing on NIH FY 2019 Budget Request

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-H) [posted](#) details for an April 11 hearing titled, “FY 2019 Budget Oversight Hearing.” NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, is scheduled to testify. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building and will be webcast from the Subcommittee [webpage](#).

#### 2. NIH Is Key to Protecting Americans' Well-Being, Azar Says at Town Hall Meeting

The NIH Record [posted](#) an article that highlighted Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar's remarks at a March 20 NIH town hall meeting. Speaking to the crowd at Masur Auditorium, Secretary Azar stated, “Whatever crisis comes our way—and there will be crises—my job is not to solve it, but to harness the incredible team we have at this vast, vast organization to conquer that crisis.” The article also points out Secretary Azar's recognition that “as the premier biomedical research agency in the world, NIH plays an important role in helping HHS meet its mission of enhancing and protecting the well-being of all Americans.”

#### 3. The Gainesville Sun: NIH Director Talks Funding, Research with UF Students

The Gainesville Sun published an [article](#) on April 2 that covered a question and answer session with students and staff from University of Florida (UF) and NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD. The visit by Dr. Collins was coordinated by Rep. Ted Yoho (R-Fla.), who is a UF alumnus. The author wrote that during the visit, Dr. Collins highlighted how “funding medical research was not a cost but an investment.” He also underscored the importance of individuals carrying out research, stating, “It's great to have money; it's great to have facilities and fancy equipment and technologies, but unless we have those visionary people who are willing to get a little outside of the obvious to get to the next step, to take risks — and we want to support that — then that future won't happen.”

#### 4. NIH Announces HEAL Initiative Focused on Opioid and Pain Research

On April 4, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, [announced](#) the launch of the [HEAL \(Helping to End Addiction Long-term\) Initiative](#), aimed at research on opioid misuse/addiction and pain. The initiative is “an aggressive, trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis.” According to the NIH press release, the agency is “nearly doubling” funding for research on opioid misuse/addiction and pain research “from approximately \$600 million in fiscal year 2016 to \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 2018.”

#### **5. House Appropriations Labor-H Subcommittee Public Witness Hearing & Testimony Instructions for FY 2019**

The House Appropriations Labor-H Subcommittee [released](#) a notice for its FY 2019 public witness hearing and instructions to submit testimony for the record. The hearing will be held on April 26 at 10am in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building. Although the subcommittee’s April 6 deadline to request to testify has passed, you can submit written testimony for the record until April 26.

#### **6. House Appropriations Labor-H Subcommittee FY 2019 Members Day Hearing Scheduled**

The FY 2019 Members Day [hearing](#) for the House Appropriations Labor-H Subcommittee has been scheduled for 10am to noon on April 17. The hearing will take place in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building.

#### **7. Deadlines posted for Senate Labor-H FY 2019 Outside Witness Testimony**

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

#### **8. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase – April 10**

From 5 to 7pm on April 10 in 902 Hart Senate Office Building, the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research and the Coalition for Imaging & Bioengineering Research will host an event to showcase advances in cutting-edge medical imaging technology. The event will include hands-on displays, academic research posters, and personal interactions with researchers, patients, and industry partners. The event will also show how federally-funded research supports the development of a range of impactful innovations. Please RSVP by emailing [etownley@acadrad.org](mailto:etownley@acadrad.org). See the [event flyer](#) for more information.

#### **9. Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus Briefing – April 11**

From noon to 1pm on April 11 in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building, the Coalition for the Life Sciences, in conjunction with the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, will hold a congressional lunch briefing titled, “What Role Does Science Have in Solving the Opioid Crisis?” The briefing will feature Peter Kalivas, PhD, one of the nation’s leading addiction

researchers, as he discusses new discoveries that are leading to cures for opioid addiction. Boxed lunches will be available for attendees. RSVP by emailing Lynn Marquis at [cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org](mailto:cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org). See the attached event flyer for more info.

#### **10. Congressional Briefing on How Expanded Short-term Health Insurance Plans Could Impact People with Pre-existing Conditions**

From 9 to 10am on April 11 in Congressional Meeting Room South (CVC 217), the American Heart Association, March of Dimes, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Lung Association, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and National Multiple Sclerosis Society will host a congressional briefing titled, “The Short-Term Rule: The Impact on People with Pre-Existing Conditions.” The discussion will focus on how expanded short-term plans could impact people with pre-existing conditions and affect the cost of care for people who need adequate, affordable, accessible health insurance coverage. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Daniel Cramer at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at [dcramer@cff.org](mailto:dcramer@cff.org). Breakfast will be served. See the attached event flyer for more info.

#### **11. Senate NIH Caucus Briefing on a Universal Flu Vaccine – *Postponed***

The April 18 Senate NIH Caucus briefing titled, “A Universal Flu Vaccine: Making a Better Vaccine to Protect against Seasonal and Pandemic Flu,” has been postponed. Stay tuned for updates on additional Senate NIH Caucus events. For questions about the Senate NIH Caucus, email Debbie Forrest at [debbie.forrest@actfor.nih.gov](mailto:debbie.forrest@actfor.nih.gov).

#### **12. 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](#).

#### **13. Fogarty’s 50<sup>th</sup> 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>.

#### **14. 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](http://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.

#### **15. Job Opportunity: Director of Public Affairs and Outreach, Biophysical Society**

The Biophysical Society (BPS), which has a membership of nearly 9,000 research scientists worldwide, seeks a director of public affairs and outreach to oversee the Society’s policy and advocacy programs and efforts. In collaboration with Society leadership and staff, s/he will develop and execute strategies that educate and engage Society members and the public to advocate for the field of biophysics and for support of science in general. For more information and to apply for the position, please use the following link: <https://www.biophysics.org/about-bps/contact-bps/jobs-at-bps>

*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](mailto:jbanez@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).*