Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up  
April 15, 2021

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community and general updates. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the publication!

Congressional and NIH News

President to Address Joint Session of Congress April 28  
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) on April 13 sent a formal invitation to President Biden to address a Joint Session of Congress on April 28. The letter invited President Biden to “share your vision for addressing the challenges and opportunities of this historic moment.”

Fauci Testifies Before House COVID-19 Select Subcommittee  
NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, MD, testified before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis on April 15. Fauci described the decades of NIH-funded research that went into the development of COVID-19 vaccines, and the preexisting infrastructure for flu vaccine clinical trials that has been utilized for COVID-19 trials. The hearing, “Reaching the Light at the End of the Tunnel: A Science-Driven Approach to Ending the Pandemic,” also featured Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky, MD, and HHS Chief Science Officer fo the COVID Response David Kessler, MD.

NIH Experts Discuss Post-Acute COVID-19  
An April 13 NIH news release summarized a recent publication outlining NIH’s December 2020 virtual “Workshop on Post-acute Sequelae of COVID-19,” also known as PASC or long-haul COVID. More than 1,000 researchers, clinicians, and patients joined together in the workshop to discuss what is known about the lasting COVID-19 symptoms and outline knowledge gaps to be addressed by future interdisciplinary research efforts.

NIH Trial of Anti-CD14 Antibody to Treat COVID-19 Respiratory Disease Begins  
An April 13 NIH news release announced the start of the Phase 2 Covid-19 anti-CD14 Treatment Trial (CaTT), which will investigate the safety and efficacy of a new monoclonal antibody to treat SARS-CoV-2-associated respiratory disease. The antibody targets the CD14 protein found on the surface of immune cells, which assists in generating an immune response. Previous research shows that overproduction of CD14 may be
generating a hyperactive immune response called a cytokine storm, which has been associated with tissue damage in the lungs of COVID-19 patients. “By blocking a protein called CD14 during the early stages of COVID-19 respiratory disease, the monoclonal antibody IC14 could potentially temper the immune system’s harmful inflammatory responses to SARS-CoV-2, thereby limiting associated tissue damage and improving patients’ health outcomes,” said NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, MD.

Upcoming Events

Virtual Briefing on Demographic Insights into COVID-19 – April 23
The Population Association of America invites you to a virtual congressional briefing, “Living, Working, Dying: Demographic Insights into COVID-19,” on Friday, April 23, 12:00 to 1:00 pm EST. The event will feature presentations by prominent population scientists who will present findings on the disparate impacts of COVID, especially as they relate to mortality, education, food insecurity, and family dynamics, and what additional research and data are needed to understand and address its far-reaching effects. To register, please go to: Webinar Registration - Zoom.

HHS Virtual Small Business Program Conference – April 26-30
The NIH is sponsoring the 2021 HHS Small Business Program Conference titled, “Diverse Perspectives SEEDing Impactful Innovations,” from April 26-30. The free virtual conference will discuss how to apply for seed funding to support early-stage biomedical research and grow small businesses. Please visit the conference website for additional information and to register. NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, discusses the upcoming event in his March 31 blog post.

Virtual Social Science Advocacy Day – April 27
Join COSSA (Consortium of Social Science Associations) on April 27, 2021 to be part of the only annual, coordinated advocacy day in support of all of the social and behavioral sciences. Social Science Advocacy Day brings together social scientists and other science advocates from across the country to engage with policymakers. Last year, Advocacy Day went virtual and we will build on that for 2021 to give participants the ability to safely engage with their elected officials from home. Register here for the April 27 advocacy day.

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. Additional information, including the workshop agenda and registration portal, is available on the workshop website.

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.

**Symposium on Integrating Sex and Gender into Biomedical Research as a Path for Better Science and Innovation – May 11-12**
The NIH Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) is convening the fifth annual Vivian Pinn Symposium (VPS) to communicate broadly about sex and gender influences on health and diseases, to disseminate research on the health of women, and to highlight pressing issues in women's health. The topic for the 2021 Symposium is “Integrating Sex and Gender into Biomedical Research as a Path for Better Science and Innovation.” Registration information will be here when available for this public, virtual symposium.

**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. 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. The deadline for pledging support for this year’s award is May 31, 2021.

**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.
- [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.

**Job Postings**
SfN Seeks Advocacy Assistant
The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) seeks an advocacy assistant to provide support to federal and grassroots advocacy efforts of the SfN Advocacy and Training department, support committee activities, provide administrative support to SfN programming such as correspondence and scheduling, and support communication about advocacy, and policy positions. The full job description and applications details are available here.

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.