



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up

April 16, 2020

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. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the publication!

Congressional and Agency News and Updates

NIH Begins Study to Quantify Undetected Cases of Coronavirus Infection

On April 10, [NIH issued a news release](#) detailing a new study to determine how many adults in the U.S. have antibodies against the coronavirus but have not received a COVID-19 diagnosis. National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, MD, noted, "This study will give us a clearer picture of the true magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States by telling us how many people in different communities have been infected without knowing it," which will inform ongoing public health response efforts.

NIH Researchers Show Evidence of N95 Mask Reusability

An [April 15 NIH media advisory](#) describes new data indicating that four methods of decontaminating N95 respirators allow for limited re-use to protect against the novel coronavirus. The preprint article shows that vaporized hydrogen peroxide, ultraviolet light exposure, and 70 degree Celsius dry heat are most effective in decontaminating masks previously exposed to coronavirus.

Recent Updates for NIH Applicants and Grantees

On April 13, NIH staff [posted an overview](#) of recent COVID-19 resource updates for the extramural research community. The post on the Extramural Nexus links to various existing COVID-19-related activities and resources including webinars, virtual activities, and contingency plans for animal care and use programs.

Open Mike: COVID-19 Funding and Funding Opportunities

NIH Director of Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, published an [April 13 Open Mike blog post](#) summarizing the current state of funding and funding opportunities for COVID-19-related research. The post included information on supplemental appropriations provided to NIH institutes, as well as details on the types of applications NIH is utilizing to quickly deploy the supplemental funding to the research community.

Open Mike: New Resource to Analyze COVID-19 Literature

George Santangelo, PhD, director of the NIH Office of Portfolio Analysis (OPA), authored an [April 15 Open Mike blog post](#) about a new NIH resource to analyze COVID-19 literature. The [COVID-19 portfolio](#), curated by OPA staff, is a searchable database of publicly available research on SARS CoV 2/COVID-19 including peer-reviewed and preprint publications.

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.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations provided through the first three COVID-19 supplemental packages (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; Families First Coronavirus Response Act; and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act).

Ad Hoc Group Community COVID-19 Resources

ASM COVID-19 Research Registry

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is excited to announce the launch of the [COVID-19 Research Registry](#), a platform curated and vetted by experts in the field of virology and related disciplines to provide immediate access to top COVID-19 research. In the eye of a pandemic, a trusted, up-to-date resource of coronavirus research can play a crucial role in supporting the scientific community on the frontlines fighting the virus. Questions and feedback can be sent to covid19registry@asmusa.org.

ASM also has a [COVID-19 resource page](#) with important updates and current information on the coronavirus. ASM journals also are providing free access to more than [50 research articles published](#) over the last year in our [16 scholarly journals](#) and expediting review for submitted papers related to coronavirus, ensuring that new research is quickly made available to the scientific community.

Upcoming Events

NIH OITE Hosts Webinar Series on Trainee Wellness – Week of April 13

The NIH’s Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) is hosting a webinar series on trainee wellness and other career development topics, while trainees and researchers are working from home during the coronavirus pandemic. Upcoming webinars are April 16

from 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET on “[Job Search Strategies- \(Non-faculty Jobs\)](#),” and April 17 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET on “[Social Media for Scientists](#).” Recordings are available with registration for past webinars.

Webinar: The Need for Science Advocacy and How to Get Started – May 6

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) is hosting the first in a series of advocacy-themed webinars on Wednesday, May 6 at 12:00 pm EST titled, “Becoming an ASHG Advocate.” This initial webinar will highlight why advocating for genetics and genomics research is important, and present several examples of how one can get involved in advocacy. Visit the [event website](#) for more information and to register.

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.*