

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – April 22, 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:

[National Institutes of Health @NIH](#)

"NIAAA research shows that [#alcohol](#) misuse has led to a 47% increase in emergency room visits in the past decade – there are now about 5 million alcohol-related visits each year <https://bit.ly/2PfCtu1> [#AUD](#) [#ThisIsNIH](#)."

1. House Labor-HHS Markup Planned for April 30, Full Committee May 8

As reported April 17 in [CQ](#) (subscription required), according to a Democratic staff member, the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee is planning to mark up its FY 2020 spending bill April 30. The 302(b) allocation for the Labor-HHS bill has not been announced. It is expected that the full House Appropriations Committee will mark up the Labor-HHS bill the following week, on May 8, when the 302(b) allocations for all spending bills will be approved.

2. FY 2020 Public Witness Testimony Deadlines

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.

3. NIH Announces Four Research Awards in HEALing Communities Study

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and HHS Secretary Alex Azar April 18 [announced](#) research awards to institutions in Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio as part of the HEAL Initiative. According to the press release, "Each site is partnering with at least 15 communities to measure the impact of integrating evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery interventions across primary care, behavioral health, justice and other settings in highly affected parts of the country."

4. *NEJM*: Measles in 2019 – Going Backward

NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD, co-authored an [April 17](#) Perspective in the *New England Journal of Medicine* detailing the seriousness of the current outbreak of measles, a vaccine-preventable infectious disease that was eradicated in the U.S. in 2000. The article describes the dangers of the virus, and highlights the effectiveness of the vaccine, which "has prevented an estimated 21 million deaths worldwide since 2000." The authors worry if the current vaccine hesitancy continues, the disease will spread to new populations, creating an even larger national and global threat.

5. *Houston Chronicle*: MD Anderson Ousts 3 Scientists Over Chinese Data Theft

The [Houston Chronicle](#) and [Science](#) April 19 reported that MD Anderson Cancer Center has dismissed three senior researchers after an extended investigation conducted jointly by the NIH and FBI showed "the scientists had committed potentially 'serious' violations of [NIH] rules

involving confidentiality of peer review and the disclosure of foreign ties.” This news follows testimony from NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, April 11 before the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee where Dr. Collins noted that researchers at 55 institutions are currently under investigation for their roles in stealing intellectual property, receiving undisclosed funding from foreign countries, or divulging preliminary data from the grant review process.

6. *Open Mike*: FY 2018 Cumulative Investigator Rate

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Affairs Mike Lauer, MD, [April 22](#) published updated data on the FY 2018 cumulative investigator rate. Through analysis of awardees and applicants since FY 2003, the analysis shows that “the number of unique RPG, R01-equivalent, and R21 (but not P01) awardees rose again in FY 2018. The Cumulative Investigator Rate also rose for all RPGs, R01-equivalents, R21s, and P01s in FY 2018, due in part to the leveling-off or declines in the number of unique applicants.”

7. Guidance on Salary Limitation for NIH Grants – FY 2019

The NIH April 17 in the [Federal Register](#) published updated guidance on salary limitations for the Executive Pay scale. The guidance states, “Effective January 6, 2019, the salary limitation for Executive Level II is \$192,300.”

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

8. COSSA Celebration of Social Science – April 30

Please join the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) Board of Directors, members, advocates, staff and special guests for a Celebration of Social Science Rooftop Reception on April 30 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Please see the attached invitation for details and feel free to share with others. [RSVP](#) is required to gain access to the rooftop.

9. ASCO/ACS CAN Congressional Reception – May 7

Join the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) at a joint congressional reception on Tuesday, May 7 from 5:00-7:00pm in the Capitol Building, room HC-8. The reception will highlight legislative priorities of both the cancer patient community and of physicians treating cancer, with the goal of supporting policy that betters care. Please see attached for additional information, and [RSVP here](#).

10. Congressional Briefing on Diabetic Eye Disease – May 15

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research for a Congressional Briefing titled, “NEI’s Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network: Optimizing Treatment for Diabetic Eye Disease.” The briefing will take place Wednesday, May 15, from 12-1:15pm in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see attached flyer for additional information and RSVP to Dina Beaumont @ 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com.

11. 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](#).

12. 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](#).

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.