

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – April 24, 2017

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:

Mary Lee Watts (AACR) - @mlwatts

#NIH needs a budget trajectory that advances sustainable, predictable growth. #FundNIH robustly in FY17 [bit.ly/NIHFY17](#)

1. Reminder of Upcoming Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee Deadline

The Subcommittee deadline to submit outside witness testimony related to FY 2018 appropriations is close of business on June 2. All testimony must be in accordance with the [guidelines](#) set out by the subcommittee.

2. NIH Holds Council of Councils Meeting in May

The NIH [published](#) a Federal Register Notice regarding a May 26 Council of Councils meeting. The meeting will begin at 8:15 am at the NIH in Building 21, C Wing, 6th floor, Conference Room 10. Among other topics queued up for the meeting, agenda items for the open sessions include a discussion of the history of the Knockout Mouse Program (KOMP), background on the NIH and federal budget process, progress and plans at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the Common Fund Diversity Program. The open session will be videocast and can be accessed from the NIH Videocasting and Podcasting Web site <http://videocast.nih.gov>.

3. St. Louis Post-Dispatch Opinion: Increase Funding for Medical Research

On April 21, Washington University School of Medicine researchers Timothy Eberlein, MD, Victoria Fraser, MD, and David Holtzman, MD, [wrote](#) an opinion article in support of a budget that increases funding for the NIH in fiscal year 2018. The authors point out, “Most new medical treatments get their start in NIH-funded labs, including ours at Washington University School of Medicine. And most scientists — whether in private industry or academic settings — can trace funding for their training and research to the NIH. Quite simply, the NIH has been an invaluable force in advancing biomedical research and human health.” In a [tweet](#), Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) gave credit to the authors, tweeting that they “highlight incredible advances in medical research, underscore need for sustained #NIH investment.”

4. Letter to the Editor Asks for Support for the NIH

On April 22 in the Springfield News-Leader, Jerry Neville, of Springfield, Missouri, and volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, [penned](#) a letter to the editor sharing how the investment of biomedical research and drug development has helped saved his life. Mr. Neville states, “Retuxin was a new drug in 2000 when I was diagnosed the second time. It saved me then, and it saved me a third time in 2005. I don't think I'd be here without the funding that helped develop Retuxin.” Mr. Neville also gave credit to Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) saying the senator “has long championed medical research,” and that Chairman Blunt has “soundly disagreed with the proposed plan to slash NIH funding in the new budget.”

5. Denver Post Opinion: Everybody Loses in the War on Science

In an April 22 [opinion piece](#), *Denver Post* columnist Diane Carman wrote an article that highlights breakthroughs in science thanks to support for research funding. Nicole Garneau, PhD, curator of human health at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and the principal investigator at the museum's

Genetics of Taste Lab, makes the case for investing in science saying, “We don’t know what challenges are going to come up in the future. The big discoveries come on the shoulders of decades, centuries really, of basic research.” The article also cites concerns about a potential cut to research. University of Colorado School of Medicine Dean John Reilly, Jr., says, “These proposals reflect a lack of understanding of the value of biomedical research and fail to acknowledge the significant co-investment that our university and others across the country make to support this critical aspect of our mission.”

6. NIH Support Voiced at March for Science

Press coverage of the April 22 March for Science included outlets like the [New York Times](#) and [Wall Street Journal](#), and cited support in NIH investments in addition to concerns with the 18 percent cut proposed in the administration’s [budget blueprint](#). House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Chair Lamar Smith (R-Texas) put out a [statement](#) on the march saying he will “continue to support scientific research that furthers our national interest and is of the highest intellectual merit.” The Committee Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) also released a [statement](#) saying she supported the mission of the march which “champions robustly funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity.”

7. Federal Researchers, Biotech Executives Expected to Meet at White House Convening

An article in [Bloomberg](#) reports that officials from the Trump Administration plan to convene a meeting with government researchers and drug companies. The article states that the purpose of the meeting is for “private sector and thought leaders to describe their institution and its connection to federal funding.” Vice President Mike Pence is expected to attend.

8. NIH Director’s Blog Showcases Awardee’s Quest for Pandemic Treatments

In a [blog](#) posted on April 20, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, writes about the aspirations of Jonathan Abraham, MD, PhD, physician-scientist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and an NIH Director’s 2016 Early Independence Award recipient. The post highlights Dr. Abraham’s goal to “help design the next generation of treatments to enable more people to survive future outbreaks of viral hemorrhagic fever.” After discussing the early success of Dr. Abraham’s work, Dr. Collins writes, “In the coming years, we can be certain that viral pandemics will continue to occur. Preparation remains vital, and Abraham and other scientists here in the United States and around the globe continue to work tirelessly to have the needed resources ready to fight the next viral pandemic.”

9. NIH Image Gallery Available Online for Use

The NIH [sponsors](#) a centralized image service for the dissemination of primarily scientific, biomedical, and disease related imagery. Photos of NIH leadership, labs, buildings, and major historical events are also available. Images posted to the NIH Image Gallery are considered free-to-use with credit. This portal is provided for use by the science and health community, the press that covers health and science, teachers and other educators in health and science and non-profit organizations that produce health and science information. It is not intended for commercial use.

10. Society for Pediatric Research Hosts Briefing on Capitol Hill

The Society for Pediatric Research cordially invites you to attend a briefing on “Pediatric Research: The Role of the NIH in Supporting Life-Saving Science” on April 25 from noon – 1 pm in 2255 Rayburn House Office Building. Speakers include federally funded researchers and patients who have benefited from the investment in pediatric research funded by the National Institutes of Health. Lunch will be provided. This is a widely-attended event. Please feel free to share this invitation with others who may also be interested. RSVP to info@aps-spr.org.

11. AIMBE BioMedical Technology Exhibition on Capitol Hill

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), in cooperation with the Robotics and Research and Development Caucuses, is hosting a BioMedical Technology Exhibition on May 5 in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. The event will take place from noon to 2 pm. Please RSVP for the exhibition by contacting Sarah Mandell at smandell@aimbe.org. Flyer attached.

12. ASM Congressional Briefing on Vaccines

On Tuesday, May 16, at 9 am in 562 Dirksen Senate Office Building, the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) will host a congressional briefing titled, Vaccines: Healthcare's First Line of Defense. Speakers include Nancy Messonnier, MD, director for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Bruce G. Gellin, MD, MPH, president, Global Immunization, Sabin Vaccine Institute; and Paul A. Offit, MD, Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology, Professor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Division of Infectious Diseases, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/congressional-briefing-tickets-33623890963>

13. Applications Open for the 2017 NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) will host the Health Disparities Research Institute (HDRI) from August 14 - 18. The HDRI aims to support the research career development of promising minority health/health disparities research scientists early in their careers and stimulate research in the disciplines supported by health disparities science. The due date for submitting an application is May 12 at 11:59 pm EST. Visit the NIMHD [website](#) for more information.

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 or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.