



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

April 27, 2020

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](https://twitter.com/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:

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology @FASEBorg April 24

Mice, nonhuman primates, and other animals are required to develop safe and effective [#vaccines](#). Learn more: bit.ly/3aCXsA6 [#AnimalResearchSavesLives](#) [#COVID19](#) [#coronavirus](#) [@CureDisease](#)

President Signs \$484 Billion Interim COVID-19 Relief Package

President Donald Trump signed into law the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act ([P.L. 116-139](#)), a \$484 billion interim supplemental spending package, on April 24 to provide relief and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The signing follows passage by unanimous consent in the Senate on April 21 and House passage in a 355-8 vote on April 23. The legislation includes \$25 billion for costs related to COVID-19 testing, which contains \$1.8 billion for NIH, distributed as \$306 million for the National Cancer Institute, \$500 million for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, and \$1 billion to the Office of the Director, which includes support for public-private partnerships.

NIH Director's Blog: The Challenge of Tracking COVID-19's Spread

On April 23, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, [posted on his blog](#) about "ways to use testing technologies to our best advantage" to defeat COVID-19, distinguishing between the usefulness of identifying individuals without symptoms and individuals who had already been infected but only had mild symptoms. Dr. Collins discussed research out of China on testing of moderately ill patients throughout their hospital stay to study the viral load and infectiousness of the progressing disease.

NIH FOA: Long-Term Effects of Disasters on Health Care Systems and Disparity

Four NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) have jointly issued a [funding opportunity announcement](#) to research the long term effects of disasters on health disparity populations and the health care systems that serve them. The research applies to presidentially declared emergencies or other statutory definitions of emergency and may

include COVID-19, Zika, influenza, power outages, food-disruptions and such. The participating ICs include NIMHD, NIA, NIDA, and NCI. Letters of intent are due September 4, 2020.

AAMCNews: Labs Put Research on Ice

[AAMCNews reported on April 21](#) on the unprecedented questions basic science researchers and lab directors have faced as stay-at-home orders related to COVID-19 shuttered university labs. Researchers and administrators from across the country discuss their concerns and address questions such as: What research is allowed to continue and what has stopped? What science is likely to be lost? Who will pay to resume experiments?

FY 2021 Labor-HHS Outside Witness Testimony

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee has posted instructions for submitting outside witness testimony for FY 2021. [According to the instructions](#), testimony should be no longer than four pages and sent to the Subcommittee no later than close of business May 22.

Requests for Public Comment

OBSSR Seeks Feedback on Scientific Priorities – April 30

The NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) is [seeking stakeholder feedback](#) on research directions to support OBSSR's strategic plan. Specifically, OBSSR seeks feedback on "OBSSR would like input on the most important or cutting-edge, trans-disease research directions that would accelerate progress" in the following areas: synergy in basic and applied BSSR; BSSR resources, methods, and measures; and adoption of effective BSSR in practice. Responses are due by April 30 via submission via obssr.ideascale.com.

NIDDK Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – July 31

NIH's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) issued a March 16 [request for information](#) on the institute's five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, "The goal of the process is to develop a broad vision for accelerating research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions within the Institute's mission," and focuses on five broad themes for community input. [Comments are due](#) by July 31.

NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is embarking on an institute-wide strategic planning process, and published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so [through this form](#).

Upcoming Events

AACR Virtual Annual Meeting I - April 27-28

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) will present segments of their previously terminated Annual Meeting in two AACR Virtual Annual Meetings, the first of which is taking place April 27-28. More than 30,000 have already registered, underscoring the interest in and enthusiasm for broadly sharing important and lifesaving research. [Registering](#) for the April 27-28 Virtual Annual Meeting is FREE, as the AACR recognizes the financial hardship that so many are facing during this global health crisis. Part II of the Virtual Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 22-24.

NIH OITE Hosts Webinar Series on Trainee Wellness – Week of April 27

The NIH's Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) continues to host various events focusing on trainee wellness and other career development topics, while trainees and researchers are working from home during the coronavirus pandemic. Upcoming webinars include "[Essential Leadership Skills for Scientists](#)" on April 27 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm ET, "[CVs, Resumes, and cover letters: Essential Job Search Documents](#)" on April 30 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm ET, and "[Pre-/post-publication peer review](#)" on May 1 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET. Visit the [OITE "Upcoming Events" page](#) for the full calendar.

Apply for the NCI-DOE Collaboration 2020 Ideas Lab – Deadline April 30

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Department of Energy are co-hosting a 5-day workshop July 6-10 to foster interdisciplinary collaborations toward building a cancer patient "digital twin" to improve patient care. The Ideas Lab is open to cancer researchers, clinicians, biomedical engineers and mathematicians who must be accepted to participate in the event. Applications are due on April 30 at 5pm. Visit the [event website](#) for additional details and application instructions.

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.

Nominations Requested: 2020 Golden Goose Award to Recognize COVID-19 Research – May 22

The Golden Goose Award Steering Committee is requesting nominations for the 2020 award cycle to recognize individuals and teams whose federally funded research is contributing significantly to the response to COVID-19. The committee is seeking nominations that highlight outstanding scientific and technological research, originally focused elsewhere, that is now being redirected to address the COVID-19 pandemic. More information, including nomination criteria and the submission form, can be found [here](#). Nominations should be submitted by May 22, 2020.

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).

Job Postings

ASM Seeks Senior Grassroots Manager

The American Society for Microbiology is seeking a Senior Grassroots Manager. This newly created position is responsible for developing and implementing an organizational grassroots strategy to engage ASM members on public policy issues that affect the microbial sciences. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

AAI Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), a non-profit professional biomedical research association, seeks a motivated and intellectually inquisitive individual to provide scientific expertise to the AAI public affairs program. This position supports the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, the members of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs, and other AAI staff in developing scientific and policy positions that convey the views, concerns, and interests of the AAI membership. Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with resume, including publications, and salary requirements, to FASEB Human Resources at resumes@faseb.org, or visit the [FASEB employment website](#) to apply. [See attached](#) and the [FASEB job site](#) to view a detailed job description.

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.*