

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – April 29, 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:

[Francis S. Collins @NIHDirector](#)

“Apparently my morning workouts are well timed. [@UCIrvine](#) study finds timing is a critical variable for metabolic benefits from exercise. Using mice, they found AM exercise results in more oxygen in cells & more rejuvenating effects on the body. [#NIH-funded](#) <https://bit.ly/2VziSLi>”

1. House Labor-HHS FY 2020 Markup April 30, Full Committee Planned for May 8

The House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee is scheduled to [mark up](#) its FY 2020 spending bill April 30 at 4pm in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building. 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 Publishes Final Guidelines for Gene Therapy, Emerging Technology Oversight

The NIH April 25 [issued a notice](#) of publication of “Revised NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules,” following the August 2018 release of proposed changes. The [revised NIH guidelines](#) have been updated to eliminate human gene transfer protocol submission and reporting requirements and to modify the roles and responsibilities of investigators, institutions, Institutional Biosafety Committees, the NIH, and the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC, which has been renamed the Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee [NExTRAC]). The changes are described in a [blog post](#) by NIH Associate Director for Science Policy, Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, and in a Director's Blog [post](#) by NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD.

4. NIH Issues RFI on Options for Generating Human Immune System Mice

NIAID and the Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (OIRP) in the NIH Office of the Director April 23 released a [request for information](#) (RFI) on ways to develop human immune system (HIS) mouse models using alternatives to human fetal tissue. Responses are due May 29. Additional detail and a form to submit a response is on the OIRP [website](#).

5. BRAIN Initiative Study Translates Brain Signals Into Speech Sounds

The NIH April 24 issued a [news release](#) describing new research funded by the BRAIN Initiative that was able to translate brain waves from research participants into computerized speech sounds. Co-first author Gopala K. Anumanchipalli, PhD, shared the rationale for the research, stating, "Current technology limits users to, at best, 10 words per minute, while natural human speech occurs at roughly 150 words/minute. This discrepancy is what motivated us to test whether we could record speech directly from the human brain."

6. NCATS Director's Corner: Applying Translational Science to Address Rural Health Disparities

NCATS Director Christopher Austin, MD, describes the Center's efforts to reduce "the burden of disease among rural populations and promote health equity" in an April 9 Director's Corner [blog post](#). NCATS's translational science approach includes an expansion of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program with project areas on "improving access to clinical trials for rural communities, harnessing technology to deliver effective care that obviates the need for travel to a major medical center to access specialists and specialized equipment, and enhancing rural community outreach."

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

7. 10th Annual Medical Imaging Technology Congressional Showcase – April 30

Please join the Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research for the 10th annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase featuring 36 early career investigators from universities across the country showcasing various medical imaging technologies and research. The showcase will take place April 30 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in G50 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Please RSVP to: crdfellow1@dc-crd.com and see attached for additional information.

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](#).

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.