

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – April 30, 2018

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:

American Association for Cancer Research (@AACR)

"Thank you Sen. @RoyBlunt for being a strong @NIH champion in the Senate! Because of your leadership, NIH has seen robust and sustained funding for the past 3 years, which is critical for fueling progress and innovations that will save millions of lives. #AACRontheHill #FundNIH"

1. Senators Send Bipartisan Letter in Support of NIH to Appropriations Committee

On April 13, Senators Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Richard Burr (R-N.C.) sent a "[Dear Colleague](#)" letter, signed by [59 senators](#), urging leaders on the Senate Appropriations Committee to "maintain a strong commitment to funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)" in FY 2019. The letter, along with past House and Senate "Dear Colleague" letters, is available on the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's new [website](#).

2. Ad Hoc Group Submits Testimony to the House Labor-HHS Subcommittee

The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Subcommittee [held](#) its fiscal year (FY) 2019 public witness hearing on April 26. The Ad Hoc Group submitted testimony expressing gratitude to the subcommittee for its "long-standing and bipartisan leadership in support of NIH, as demonstrated by the consecutive above-inflation increases." For FY 2019, the testimony requests "at least \$39.3 billion for the NIH, including funds provided to the agency through the 21st Century Cures Act for targeted initiatives," a recommendation [endorsed](#) by over 200 organizations.

3. Advocates Send Letters to Local Papers in Support of NIH

A number of local media outlets published letters to the editor from NIH Advocates across the country. For example, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch [shared](#) a letter from Mark Runyan, a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, which praised the leadership of Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) for providing an increase to the NIH in FY 2018. Mr. Runyan wrote that the increase will "allow researchers to continue their groundbreaking work in fighting a disease that will take the lives of more than 600,000 Americans this year." A group of advocates also [wrote](#) a letter praising Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), ranking member of the House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee, for her "leadership and uncompromising commitment."

4. NIH Council of Councils Meeting – May 18

Through a Federal Register [notice](#), the NIH announced a meeting of the Council of Councils, scheduled for May 18. Agenda items include announcements and updates, evaluating the “Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST)” Awards, National Institute on Drug Abuse update, an introduction to the use of Non-Human Primates (NHP) in addiction research, and NHP models of drug addiction. The meeting will take place at NIH campus, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, C Wing, 6th Floor, Conference Room 10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

5. Deadline Posted for Senate Labor-HHS FY 2019 Outside Witness Testimony

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee [posted](#) instructions for submitting outside witness testimony ahead of its work on FY 2019 appropriations. According to the instructions, testimony should be no longer than four pages and sent to the subcommittee no later than close of business Friday, June 1.

6. Congressional Mental Health Caucus Briefing – POSTPONED

The Congressional Mental Health Caucus postpone its May 3 lunch briefing on depression, which featured the leaders of the UCLA Depression Grand Challenge. The caucus has not announced a new date for the briefing.

7. Fogarty’s 50th Anniversary Symposium – May 1

On May 1, the Fogarty International Center (FIC) will host an event to celebrate the center’s 50th anniversary. The event will include a day-long symposium at Natcher Auditorium on the NIH campus (Building 45). It will review the accomplishments of global health research and training, as well as look to the future to consider where the gaps and greatest opportunities are, as the FIC plans its activities for the years to come. The symposium agenda is posted at <http://bit.ly/Fogarty50agenda>. The Foundation for NIH is sponsoring a reception on the Natcher lawn on the NIH Campus following the end of the symposium. There is no fee to attend, but seating is limited, so be sure to register for both the symposium and reception: <http://bit.ly/Fogarty50register>.

8. Senate NIH Caucus Briefing on a Universal Flu Vaccine – May 23

On May 23, from noon to 1pm in 385 Russell Senate Office building, the Senate NIH Caucus will host a briefing entitled, “A Universal Flu Vaccine: Making a Better Vaccine to Protect Against Seasonal and Pandemic Flu.” Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, will address the factors that made this past flu season so severe, the ever-present threat of an influenza pandemic, and the research underway to develop “universal” vaccines to provide durable protection against multiple influenza strains. This briefing also will address how Congress can most effectively support this work. Co-Chairs Sens. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), NIH Caucus co-chairs, will give opening remarks. To RSVP, email RSVP@ACTforNIHFoundation.org. For more information, please contact Nick Myers in Sen. Graham’s office (Nick_Myers@lgraham.senate.gov) or Jessica McNiece in Sen. Durbin’s office (Jessica_McNiece@durbin.senate.gov).

9. Celebrate Life Science Fair and Reception on Capitol Hill – July 18

The Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS) and Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) will host the first Celebrate Life Science Fair and reception on Capitol Hill. The Life Science Fair will be held July 18, from 5pm – 7pm, in House Rayburn Building rooms 2043 and 2044. The Life Science Fair is an opportunity for the biomedical research community to engage Members of Congress and their staff about how scientific progress advances public health. Scientists will showcase their work, and attendees will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on experiments that bridge the gap between science and the society it serves. This event is open to the public; participation is not limited to CLS or FASEB members. Opportunities are limited due to room space. Please contact either Lynn Marquis (lmарquis@coalitionforlifesciences.org) or Jennifer Zeitzer (jzeitzer@faseb.org) for additional information. Please see the attached flyer for details and sponsorship opportunities.

10. Call for Golden Goose Award Nominations

The [Golden Goose Award](#) team is accepting nominations for the 2018 year. The Golden Goose Awards honor federally funded research that may be odd, obscure, or serendipitous but ends up having a major impact on society. To submit a nomination, follow [this link](#), or visit goldengooseaward.org and click on “nominate” in the top right corner. If submitting a nomination, be prepared to talk about who you are nominating, what unexpected impact the research has had, and which U.S. federal agency funded the work. Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

11. Job Opportunity: Director of Public Affairs and Outreach, Biophysical Society

The Biophysical Society, which has a membership of nearly 9,000 research scientists worldwide, seeks a director of public affairs and outreach to oversee the Society’s policy and advocacy programs and efforts. In collaboration with Society leadership and staff, s/he will develop and execute strategies that educate and engage Society members and the public to advocate for the field of biophysics and for support of science in general. For more information and to apply for the position, please use the following link: <https://www.biophysics.org/about-bps/contact-bps/jobs-at-bps>

12. Job Opportunity: Public Policy Specialist, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) seeks a [Public Policy Specialist](#). The position reports to the Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy, to play a key role in developing and advancing the Foundation’s research, drug discovery and development policy agenda. The public policy specialist will serve as a subject matter expert on R&D policy issues, track and analyze relevant legislation and regulations, help shape the foundation’s policy positions on these issues, and advocate for CFF’s policy priorities on Capitol Hill and with federal 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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.