

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – May 6, 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:

### [US Department of Health and Human Services @HHSGov](#)

"Today, four [@ncats nih gov](#)-supported [#TissueChip](#) systems with direct clinical applications to health conditions on Earth have been sent into orbit on the [#SpaceX](#) CRS 17/Falcon 9 rocket! Learn more about [#TissueChipsInSpace](#) at <http://go.usa.gov/xmKYg> . [#WednesdayWisdom](#)"

### 1. House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Approves Draft FY 2020 Spending Bill

The House Labor-HHS Subcommittee April 30 approved by voice vote its draft FY 2020 spending bill. The Subcommittee April 29 released text of its [draft FY 2020 spending bill](#) as well as an accompanying [press release and summary](#) prepared by committee staff. The draft bill appears to provide a total of \$41.084 billion for NIH in FY 2020, including the full \$492 million provided in FY 2020 through the Innovation Account established in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act for specific initiatives. This total funding level would represent a \$2 billion or 5.12 percent increase over the comparable FY 2019 funding level, and would reflect an increase of at least 4.89 percent for each institute and center. Read the Ad Hoc Group's full press statement [here](#).

The full House Appropriations Committee is expected to [mark up](#) the Labor-HHS bill on Wednesday, May 8, at 10:30am in 2359 Rayburn House Office Building. Full details of the FY 2020 Labor-HHS bill should be released in conjunction with the mark up, and 302(b) allocations for all spending bills should also be approved during the mark up.

### 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 Names New NIDCD Director

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, May 2 [announced](#) Debara Tucci, MD, MS, MBA, as the new director of the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). Dr. Tucci currently serves as professor of surgery and director of the cochlear implant program in the Division of Head and Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences at Duke University. Dr. Collins noted that "Dr. Tucci's rich experience melds basic and clinical research in communication disorders with an impressive clinical and surgical practice in otology and neurotology." Dr. Tucci is expected to assume her new role on September 3, 2019.

### 4. Diagnostic Criteria Proposed for Newly Defined Alzheimer's-like Disorder

An April 30 NIH [press release](#) details a newly defined brain disorder mimicking Alzheimer's disease, as well as proposed diagnostic criteria that were developed through an NIH workshop. Criteria for the disease, Limbic-predominant Age-related TDP-43 Encephalopathy, or LATE, were established through research funded by multiple NIH institutes. NIA Director Richard

Hodes, MD, stated, “The guidance provided in this report, including the definition of LATE, is a crucial step toward increasing awareness and advancing research for both this disease and Alzheimer’s as well.”

## **5. NIH Research Uncovers Suicide Trends, Identifies Need to Support Suicide Prevention Services**

NIH the week of April 29 published two press releases regarding increasing suicide rates in the U.S. An [April 29](#) story reviewed recent NIH-funded findings showing “the Netflix show ‘13 Reasons Why’ was associated with a 28.9% increase in suicide rates among U.S. youth ages 10-17 in the month (April 2017) following the shows release.” The results add to additional evidence that adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the portrayal of suicide in the media.

A second study published [April 30](#), also funded by NIMH, studied the use of crisis mental health services, determining that these services require a greater capacity to handle increased demand following celebrity suicide. NIHM Division of Services and Intervention Research Jane Pearson, PhD, commented, “Crisis mental health services, such as suicide prevention hotlines and websites, provide effective counseling and vital resources for people in suicide distress. We need to ensure these services have sufficient resources to serve the public 24/7, especially in times of increased demand.”

## **6. NIGMS *Feedback Loop*: FOAs on Technology Research and Development**

The NIH’s National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) May 2 wrote a *Feedback Loop* [blog post](#) about two newly re-issued Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) on technology development. The Exploratory Research for Technology Development (R21) is a two-year grant that supports innovative, high-risk concepts for developing a new technology or radically improving an existing one that has not yet been tested. The Focused Technology Research and Development (R01) is a four-year grant that supports development projects to validate and optimize new technologies that already have been shown to be feasible but need further technical work to produce a useful prototype. The next application receipt dates are June 16 and June 5, respectively

## **Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events**

### **7. 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](#).

### **8. 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](mailto:dinabeau@aol.com).

#### **9. 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](#).

#### **10. Congressional Briefing on Hypoglycemia in Diabetes – May 16**

Please join the diabetes advocacy community for a briefing titled, “New Innovations to Address Hypoglycemia in Diabetes.” The briefing will take place Thursday, May 16, from 1:30-2:30pm in 122 Cannon House Office Building. See attached for additional details and RSVP to Amanda Vitale at [avitale@conafaygroup.com](mailto:avitale@conafaygroup.com).

#### **11. Congressional Briefing on Diagnostics in Outbreak Response – May 17**

Please join AdvamedDx, the American Society for Microbiology, the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Infectious Diseases Society of America at a lunch briefing on how health care stakeholders and political decisionmakers can collaboratively advance the essential role of diagnostics in pandemic preparedness in the U.S. and around the world. The briefing will take place on Friday, May 17, at 12:00pm in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see attached for additional detail and RSVP by Tuesday, May 14 to [cpaul@advamed.org](mailto:cpaul@advamed.org).

#### **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, Building 1, Wilson Hall, 1 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](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).