Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
May 10, 2021

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 Cancer Society Cancer Action Network @ACSCAN – May 3

The pandemic’s impact on cancer research has been severe & expensive. Without add'l resources, costs of these disruptions could be felt for years. Congress needs to include $10bil in emergency funding for NIH trials so med research can keep moving ahead.

House Labor-HHS FY 2022 Outside Witness Testimony Deadlines
The House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee has issued its deadlines and instructions for submitting outside witness testimony for FY 2022. The deadline to request to testify before the House Labor-HHS Subcommittee is Monday, May 10 at 8pm. The deadline to submit written testimony to the subcommittee is Wednesday, May 19, at 10am. The House Labor-HHS Subcommittee public witness hearing will also be hosted on May 19. Additional details and instructions are posted on the House Appropriations Committee website.

Fauci to Testify at Senate HELP Committee on COVID-19 Response
NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, MD, will testify before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee on May 11 at 10am EST. The hearing titled, “An Update from Federal Officials on Efforts to Combat COVID-19” is expected to include testimony from Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Chief Science Officer for COVID Response David Kessler, MD; Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Director Peter Marks, MD, PhD; and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH.

Becerra to Testify on FY 2022 Budget Before House Energy & Commerce
Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, JD, is expected to testify before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health on
USA Today: Ending cancer as we know it? National Cancer Institute Director Ned Sharpless lays out his vision.

National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director Ned Sharpless, MD, discussed how the institute is reaping the benefits of past investments in biomedical research, and opportunities for more progress against cancer in a May 9 interview with USA Today. The interview followed up on President Biden’s recent call to “end cancer as we know it,” to which Sharpless replied, “What I believe the president meant by that is changing cancer from what it is, what we know today, to more of a disease where the age-adjusted mortality is much lower, and where cancer death is largely occurring in the old and frail. So the idea is reduction of mortality and incidence in otherwise healthy individuals.” Sharpless also discussed advances in immunotherapy, data collection, cancer screening, and other areas where NCI can have the biggest impact.

Cancer Research Groups Push Emergency Funding to Restart Clinical Trials in Infrastructure Package

More than 50 organizations that make up the coalition One Voice Against Cancer sent a May 3 letter to Congressional leadership urging Congress to provide at least $10 billion in supplemental funding for the NIH to restore research impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. “The cost of these disruptions will likely come at the expense of research grants in current and future fiscal years and has the potential to be catastrophic for the medical research workforce,” the letter states. “This impact has been felt most acutely by early-stage researchers, whose careers have been thrown into uncertainty. Without emergency funding allocated to the NIH to address the impacts on the research ecosystem, significant federal investments in medical research and the research workforce could be lost,” the letter concludes.

NINDS Director Discusses Medical Research and COVID-19

National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Director Walter Koroshetz, MD, discussed the institute’s research efforts to address COVID-19 and neurological symptoms, including new research opportunities to study post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC) or long COVID. This was the ninth event in the briefing series “Medical Research & COVID-19: Updates from NIH’s Institutes & Centers” designed for congressional staff and coalition members. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research and the Coalition for Health Funding are co-hosting the briefing series. Recordings from all briefings are available on the Ad Hoc Group website.

Open Mike: Enhancing Data Access and Analysis in the Cloud Advances NIH-Supported Discovery

NIH leaders in extramural research, information technology, and data science co-authored a May 10 Open Mike blog post to outline ways in which the NIH is assisting grantees to foster open access, interoperability, and collaborative analyses of large data sets. The blog post describes the STRIDES Initiative, launched in 2018, “is a vehicle for NIH and NIH-funded researchers to access cloud resources through partnerships with commercial cloud providers—making it easier and more cost-effective to access large datasets and computing power.”

New Leadership in NIH’s Office of Science Policy
Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, NIH Acting Chief of Staff and Associate Director for Science Policy has joined the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy on detail. Lyric Jorgenson, PhD, who has served as Deputy Director for the NIH Office of Science Policy, will step in as the Acting Associate Director for Science Policy and Jessica Tucker, PhD, Director of the Division of Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Emerging Biotechnology Policy, will step in as the Acting Deputy Director for the Office of Science Policy.

Upcoming Events

**Symposium on Integrating Sex and Gender into Biomedical Research as a Path for Better Science and Innovation – May 11-12**
The NIH Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) is convening the fifth annual Vivian Pinn Symposium (VPS) to communicate broadly about sex and gender influences on health and diseases, to disseminate research on the health of women, and to highlight pressing issues in women’s health. The topic for the 2021 Symposium is “Integrating Sex and Gender into Biomedical Research as a Path for Better Science and Innovation.” Registration information will be here when available for this public, virtual symposium.

**NEW Research!America Advocacy Awards – May 13**
Please join Research!America for the 2021 virtual Advocacy Awards program honoring outstanding individuals and organizations in advocacy for medical, health, and scientific research. Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Award, will be joined by Oprah Winfrey for an exclusive conversation. The event is Thursday, May 13, 2021 from 4-6 p.m. ET. Register here.

**NEW House LHHS FY 2022 Outside Witness Testimony Deadline – May 19**
The House Labor-HHS Subcommittee has posted a deadline of May 19 for outside witness testimony for FY 2022. Additional details on the format and submission instructions are on the subcommittee website.

**NEW Virtual Briefing on the Economic and Health Impacts of Human Genetics and Genomics – May 19**
A forthcoming report from the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) and TEConomy Partners LLC, ‘Economic Impact and Functional Applications of Human Genetics and Genomics,’ will examine how genetics research supports the U.S. economy, public health, and innovation. Nearly two decades after the end of the federally funded Human Genome Project, there has been widespread expansion of human genetics and genomics technology in research and clinical care, with the U.S. achieving early leadership in the industry. Human genetics and genomics have become foundational for understanding health and disease, including enabling our rapid response to COVID-19 and vaccine development. Join leading experts including National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) Director Eric Green, MD, PhD, on Wednesday, May 19 at 1pm EST for a conversation on the economic impact derived from human genetics and genomics and advances in research and clinical care. Registration is available here.
Support the 2021 Golden Goose Award – May 31
Last year the Golden Goose Award highlighted scientists working to understand and respond to the pandemic; the virtual ceremony was the most-watched ever, and the stories of those highlighted have continued to receive national attention. The Golden Goose Award plans to recognize 2021 awardees during a virtual ceremony in September. We are reaching out to Ad Hoc Group member organizations to ask for your support of the 2021 Golden Goose Award. There has perhaps never been a more important time to recognize those who have dedicated themselves to scientific research that has become critical to our health and wellbeing. Information on sponsoring the Golden Goose Award can be found on our website. The deadline for pledging support for this year's award is May 31, 2021.

Senate LHHS FY 2022 Outside Witness Testimony Deadline - June 24
The Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee has posted a deadline of June 24 for outside witness testimony for FY 2022. Additional details on the format and submission instructions are on the subcommittee website.

NEW Apply for National Eczema Association Research Grants – Deadline August 31
Applications are being accepted for the 2021 National Eczema Association (NEA) research grant cycle. Grants for junior and senior investigators ranging from $5,000-$150,000 are available. Applications are due August 31. Additional details are on the NEA website.

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.

Funding opportunities specific to COVID-19 lists active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research.

NIH COVID-19 Research Website provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about NIH research and our strategic role in COVID-19 research.

HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.
Combat COVID website including information for those who have never had COVID-19, have been infected, have recovered, and for health care providers.

Job Postings

American Urological Association Seeks Payment Policy Manager
The American Urological Association (AUA), the premier urologic association providing support to the urologic community, is currently searching for a Payment Policy Manager located primarily in our Linthicum, Maryland office. This position partners with the Director of Policy & Advocacy on the alignment of the AUA, AUAER, and Urology Care Foundation’s policy strategies and advocacy messaging in conjunction with medical societies, federal agencies, and coalitions. Liaises with a core team of advocacy partners and a consultant to promote the AUA’s policy priorities around physician payment. More information can be found here.

NHLBI Seeks Science Policy Analyst
NIH’s National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) seeks a Science Policy Analyst to assist in the institute’s engagement with Congress. The analyst’s role will include reviewing proposed legislation, responding to Congressional inquiries, preparing public outreach materials, and more. Additional information and instructions for applying can be found here.

AACR Seeks Associate Director, Science and Health Policy
The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) seeks an Associate Director, Science and Health Policy. The Associate Director, Science and Health Policy, will work to strengthen the dialogue between policymakers, scientists, and advocates, as well as support policies to advance cancer research and improve patient care and public health. This individual will provide specialized expertise on science and health policy issues that are important to AACR leadership, with a primary focus on tobacco control policy and a secondary science or health policy focus to be determined, depending on the candidate’s experience. More information on the opening can be found here.

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.