

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – May 13, 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:

### [One Voice Against Cancer @OVACInfo](#)

"We're getting excited to see all the advocates coming to Washington, DC Monday and Tuesday to advocate for increased funding for cancer research & prevention! [#CancerVoice @OVACInfo](#)"

### 1. House Appropriations Committee Approves Draft FY 2020 Spending Bill

The House Appropriations Committee May 8 amended and approved its FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill, [30-23](#). The committee adopted 6 of 17 [amendments](#) considered, including two amendments offered by Subcommittee Chair DeLauro, which were both approved by voice vote. A Committee [press statement](#) summarizes all approved amendments.

The amended bill provides a program level of \$41.084 billion for NIH (a \$2 billion or 5.12 percent increase over the comparable FY 19 level), the same level of funding as approved by the subcommittee on April 30. Of note and according to the [report](#) language, the bill provides an "across-the-board increase of approximately five percent for all Institutes and Centers." The Ad Hoc Group released an April 30 [statement](#) following the Labor-HHS Subcommittee markup of the bill, thanking Subcommittee members for their efforts "to continue the exceptional commitment to medical research supported by the NIH."

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Acting Director Russell Vought sent a May 7 [letter](#) to House Appropriations Committee Chair Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) expressing the Trump Administration's concern over the "budgetary framework that underlies this and other appropriations bills" as well as over specific language regarding funding for the NIH citing an "unsustainable" increase in the proposed NIH budget for FY 2020.

### 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.

The Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee may begin its markup of the FY 2020 spending bill the week of June 3.

### 3. CRS Report on the NIH

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) April 19 published a [report](#) titled "The National Institutes of Health (NIH): Background and Congressional Issues." The report covers a variety of topics including: NIH funding and organizational structure; types of research activities funded by the agency; setting research priorities; the medical research workforce; and global competitiveness.

### 4. *Open Mike*: NIH Inclusion Data by Research and Disease Category

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, Mike Lauer, MD, writes in a May 6 [Open Mike blog post](#) that while NIH has required inclusion of diverse research participants for over two decades, selected inclusion data on sex/gender and race/ethnicity are being made publicly available for the first time. Dr. Lauer notes, “public reporting by NIH Research, Condition, and Disease Classification (RCDC) category helps ensure that women and minorities are appropriately included in biomedical research across a diverse array of diseases and conditions” as a part of NIH’s implementation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act.

#### **5. Senate Committee Hearing to Review Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendment**

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs [will hold](#) a May 15 business meeting to consider various nominations and pieces of legislation, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019 ([H.R. 1608](#)). This bill aims to “increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees,” including increasing ethics requirements for committee participants, as well as requiring agencies to provide more information on committee members to the public. The business meeting will take place at 9:30am in 342 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

#### **6. White House Announces Joint Committee to Invigorate US Research**

The White House National Science and Technology Council May 6 [announced](#) the formation of a joint committee to be co-chaired by White House Office of Science and Technology Policy director Kevin Droegemeier, PhD, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and directors from other three other agencies. According to the press release, the joint committee will “examine: administrative burdens on federally-funded research; rigor and integrity in research; safe, inclusive, and equitable research settings; and protecting American research assets.”

#### **7. Sign Up to Receive NIBIB Updates Delivered Straight to Your Inbox**

Interested in keeping up to date with the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering? [Sign up](#) for updates from the institute on topics ranging from news updates, education, science policy, and more! Check out your favorite institute’s webpage for similar newsletter.

#### **8. STAT: NCATS’s Tissue Chips Sent to Space**

NCATS Scientific Program Manager and NIH-NASA Liaison Point of Contact Lucie Low, PhD, was [interviewed](#) for a May 6 *STAT* report to share an update on the NCATS collaboration with NASA to conduct research on tissue chips in space. The latest Space X mission includes tissue chips for the kidney, knee joint, blood-brain barrier, and lung. Dr. Low noted the importance of studying biological systems in space because microgravity “accelerates these disease-like mechanisms ... You lose muscle mass; it affects your eyes, kidneys, and immune system.”

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

##### **9. 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).

#### **10. 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](#).

#### **11. 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).

#### **12. Congressional Briefing on the National Academies and Gene Editing – May 17**

Please join the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus at a lunch briefing titled “The National Academy of Sciences’ Principles for Governing the Promise of Human Genome Editing.” The briefing will take place Friday, May 17, from 12-1pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see attached for additional detail, and RSVP to [cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org](mailto:cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org).

#### **13. 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).

#### **14. 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

### **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. Essentials 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).