

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – May 14, 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:

Francis Collins, MD, PhD (@NIHDirector)

“Americans come from many different walks of life, but we are all one. Find out how [@AllofUsResearch](#) will draw upon our nation's diversity to build the future of [#precisionmedicine](#). [#NIH](#) bit.ly/2rz6v0J”

1. Senate Appropriations Labor-H Subcommittee Hearing on NIH – May 17

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-H) [will hold](#) a hearing on the FY 2019 NIH budget on May 17 at 10 a.m. in 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building. NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and five institute directors are scheduled to testify.

2. NIH Announces Retirement of Director of Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, May 10 issued a statement on the June 1 retirement of James F. Battey, Jr., MD, PhD, who serves as the director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). Dr. Collins highlighted Dr. Battey's 20 years as the institute's director, where he “helped carry NIH through historic challenges and opportunities over the years. Most notably, under Jim's leadership, NIDCD-supported researchers developed tools and programs for newborn hearing screening.” NIH will conduct a national search for Dr. Battey's successor, and Dr. Judith Cooper, NIDCD's Deputy Director, will serve as acting director in the interim.

3. *Roll Call* and *STAT*: Stronger Commitment to Life Sciences Needed to Preserve America's Competitiveness

Two recent opinion pieces argue that American global competitiveness in the biological sciences is declining. Michele Stockwell of the Bipartisan Policy Center [wrote](#) in *Roll Call* about the value of basic research and urged Congress to renew its commitment for funding science. She cited recent reports from the National Science Foundation's Science and Engineering Indicators and the 2018 Bloomberg Innovation Index warning of declining U.S. dominance in scientific innovation, noting that “the U.S. did not even rank among the top ten most innovative countries in the world.” She further noted the value of basic research through The Science Coalition's report showing that “thousands of [American businesses] can trace their roots back to federally funded university research.”

A second [article](#) published in *STAT* was authored by Joe Kennedy, a former official with the Department of Commerce and author of a March 26 [report](#) in *Innovation Technology & Innovation Foundation*. Kennedy also argues that the decline in American global competitiveness in life sciences needs to be reversed, and focuses on outward-facing policy suggestions to change the trend. His policy suggestions include: “penalize[ing] nations that engage in life-science mercantilism... ensur[ing] the existence of strong intellectual property protections for life-science products...[and] increase[ing] pressure on foreign nations to stop free riding on the United States when it comes to life science and innovation by increasing payments for drugs.”

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. Congressional Asthma Briefing and Interactive Experience – May 15

Research!America invites you to a lunch briefing at noon on May 15 in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. The briefing, titled, “From Discovery to Delivery: The Role of Research in Addressing Asthma,” will explore the individual importance of, and crucial interactions between, multiple research disciplines as scientists seek to prevent, treat and ultimately cure, severe asthma. Following the briefing at 1pm, attendees can participate in a “Walk in My Shoes Challenge,” which is a short interactive activity that enables participants to gain an understanding of what it is like to experience asthma. To RSVP, fill out this [form](#) or email James Taylor at jtaylor@researchamerica.org. For more info, see the event [flyer](#).

6. Congressional Briefing on Non-Opioid Pain Management Therapies – May 16

Venn Strategies invites you to a briefing at 2:30pm on May 16 in 2203 Rayburn House Office Building. The briefing, titled, “Increasing Patient Access to Non-Opioid Pain Management Therapies,” will feature a state certified peer support specialist, orthopaedic surgeon, and the CEO of Shatterproof: Stronger than Addiction. The panel will discuss ways to reduce the number of people who become addicted to opioids. To RSVP, please email Bridget Anshus at banshus@vennstrategies.com. For more information, please see attached flyer.

7. 2018 Moynihan Lecture on Social Science and Public Policy – May 17

On May 17, the American Academy of Political and Social Science will host John Holdren, PhD, for the 2018 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Lecture on Social Science and Public Policy. Dr. Holdren will reflect on his experience as a former science advisor to President Barack Obama, including an assessment of the ways in which science-based approaches support national goals, how science can improve government, and the gulf between the Obama and Trump administrations in

their use of science to inform policymaking and governance. Visit [this website](#) to RSVP. For questions, contact Jessica Erfer at jessica.erfer@asc.upenn.edu.

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 titled, “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. 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. Deadline 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 on June 1.

10. NIH Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting – June 14-15

Through a Federal Register [notice](#), the NIH announced a meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Director, National Institutes of Health, scheduled for June 14 and 15. Agenda items include NIH Director’s Report, IC Director Report, and ACD Working Group Reports. The meeting will take place at National Institutes of Health, Building 31, 6th Floor Conference Room 6C, 31 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

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

The Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS) and 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 2043 and 2044 Rayburn House Office Building. 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 (lmrquis@coalitionforlifesciences.org) or Jennifer Zeitzer (jzeitzer@faseb.org) for additional information. Please see the attached flyer for details and sponsorship opportunities.

12. 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.

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.