



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

May 18, 2020

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:

Research!America @ResearchAmerica May 13

Clues in our genes? [#Genetic](#) research may help us unlock a better understanding of [#COVID19](#) and the ways in which we can save lives and reduce suffering. Read more in a blog by Dr. Anthony Wynshaw-Boris, [@GeneticsSociety](#) President: <https://www.researchamerica.org/blog/how-genetics-helping-fight-covid-19>.

House Passes Fifth Coronavirus Supplemental Funding Bill

The House of Representatives passed [an amended version](#) of [the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions \(Heroes\) Act, \(H.R. 6800\)](#) on May 15 by a [vote of 208-199](#). Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) was the only Republican joining Democrats in voting for the measure. Introduced by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and other House Democrats on May 12, the \$3 trillion COVID-19 supplemental spending package includes \$4.7 billion for NIH allocated as \$500 million to the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease and \$200 million to the National Institute on Mental Health for COVID-19-specific responses, as well as \$4.021 billion to the Office of Director of which \$3 billion should be used "for offsetting the costs related to reductions in lab productivity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic or public health measures related to the coronavirus pandemic." The Senate is not expected to take up the measure for consideration.

USA Today: Congressional Leaders Call for Increased Research Investments

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Sen. Todd Young (R-Ind.), Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) and Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) discussed the need to reposition the U.S. as a global research leader by reinvesting in fundamental research and development in a [May 14 USA Today op-ed](#). The lawmakers describe the soon-to-be introduced *Endless Frontiers Act* which would provide near-term investments to support the COVID-19 response, longer-term investments "through investment on the frontiers of modern science and technology," including support for public-private partnerships.

“As we prepare for the post-COVID-19 future, we should draw inspiration from the past. Our own history proves that smart, targeted and substantial public investments in the infrastructure and talent necessary to produce cutting-edge scientific breakthroughs will result in higher rates of economic growth, sustained job creation and greater wealth creation,” the lawmakers conclude.

FY 2021 Labor-HHS Outside Witness Testimony Due May 22

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee has posted instructions for submitting outside witness testimony for FY 2021. [According to the instructions](#), testimony should be no longer than four pages and sent to the Subcommittee no later than close of business May 22.

NIH Begins COVID-19 Therapeutic Clinical Trial

NIH issued a [news release on May 14](#) describing a new Phase 2b clinical trial to investigate whether taking the combination of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and the antibiotic azithromycin can prevent hospitalization and death from COVID-19. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci noted, “Repurposing existing drugs is an attractive option because these medications have undergone extensive testing, allowing them to move quickly into clinical trials and accelerating their potential approval for COVID-19 treatment. Although ... we need solid data from a large randomized, controlled clinical trial to determine whether this experimental treatment is safe and can improve clinical outcomes,” Fauci added.

NIH: Vaccine Candidate Protects Monkeys from COVID-19 Pneumonia

Preliminary data from NIH’s National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease and University of Oxford researchers reports that the COVID-19 vaccine candidate ChAdOx1 protects rhesus macaques from COVID-19-induced pneumonia, according to a [May 15 NIH news release](#). The vaccine is currently undergoing a Phase 1 clinical trial in the United Kingdom.

Chicago Tribune: Paying a Price for Not Investing in Science

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Professor Marcelo Bonini, PhD, described the detriments of halting research in his lab due to COVID-19 in a [May 13 Chicago Tribune Commentary](#). Bonini estimated it will take six to 12 months to ramp research up to pre-COVID-19 levels and argued that scientists should return to work as soon as it is safe, and investments in science are necessary to ramp back up research as fast as possible.

Requests for Public Comment

NCI RFI on Strategy for SARS-CoV-2 Serology Testing – May 26

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) issued a [May 14 request for information](#) seeking suggestions and research approaches related to SARS-CoV-2 serology testing. Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to Serology_RFI@mail.nih.gov by 11:59pm on May 26.

NCCIH Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – June 30

NIH's National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) issued an April 27 [request for information](#) on the Center's five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, "The NCCIH is developing a new strategic plan to guide the Center's research efforts and priority setting for 2021 through 2026. Seeking input into the strategic planning process is critical for identification and consideration of research areas and topics to be included in the new plan. NCCIH is requesting input in any or all of 9 topic areas." [Comments are due](#) by June 30.

NIDDK Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – July 31

NIH's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) issued a March 16 [request for information](#) on the institute's five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, "The goal of the process is to develop a broad vision for accelerating research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions within the Institute's mission," and focuses on five broad themes for community input. [Comments are due](#) by July 31.

NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is embarking on an institute-wide strategic planning process, and published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so [through this form](#).

Upcoming Events

ASM Virtual Briefing on Genomics and the COVID-19 Response – May 20

Join the American Society for Microbiology for a virtual briefing: [The CDC SPHERES program: Harnessing the Power of Genomics to Bolster our COVID-19 Response](#) on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Hear from Dr. Greg Armstrong and Dr. Duncan McCannell about this unique national genomics consortium that is coordinating SARS-CoV-2 sequencing across the United States, and what it means for disease transmission, and vaccine and therapeutic development. See the [event flyer](#) for additional details and [please RSVP here](#).

Nominations Requested: 2020 Golden Goose Award to Recognize COVID-19 Research – May 22

The Golden Goose Award Steering Committee is requesting nominations for the 2020 award cycle to recognize individuals and teams whose federally funded research is contributing significantly to the response to COVID-19. The committee is seeking

nominations that highlight outstanding scientific and technological research, originally focused elsewhere, that is now being redirected to address the COVID-19 pandemic. More information, including nomination criteria and the submission form, can be found [here](#). Nominations should be submitted by May 22, 2020.

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.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations provided through the first three COVID-19 supplemental packages (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; Families First Coronavirus Response Act; and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act).

Job Postings

CRD Associates Seeks Vice President

CRD Associates, a collaborative, mid-sized, health-care focused lobbying firm is seeking a Vice President with experience and interest in federal health policy to join its team. The ideal candidate has 5 to 7 years of relevant professional experience in Capitol Hill, federal agency, or other advocacy work and demonstrated knowledge in one or more areas of public policy relevant to our clients, which include provider organizations, patient advocacy organizations, and coalitions. [See attached flyer](#) for additional information. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to the attention of the VP, Administration & Finance at info@dc-crd.com.

AAI Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), a non-profit professional biomedical research association, seeks a motivated and intellectually inquisitive individual to provide scientific expertise to the AAI public affairs program. This position supports the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, the members of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs, and other AAI staff in developing scientific and policy positions that convey the views, concerns, and interests of the AAI membership. Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with resume, including publications, and salary requirements, to FASEB Human Resources at resumes@faseb.org, or visit the [FASEB](#)

[employment website](#) to apply. [See attached](#) and the [FASEB job site](#) to view a detailed job description.

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.*