

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – May 22, 2017

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 welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here's this week's featured tweet:

The American Physiological Society Science Policy Office (@SciPolAPS)

Do you know a good medical breakthrough story? Share it with @ResearchHope #FundNIH #NIH #scicomm bit.ly/2rnQeL6

1. White House FY 2018 Budget Proposal Expected This Week

The Trump Administration is expected to release its first full budget proposal on Tuesday, May 23. The Administration's [Budget Blueprint](#), released in March, proposed \$25.9 billion for NIH in fiscal year (FY) 2018, which would be an \$8.2 billion cut below the comparable FY 2017 level and the lowest level for the agency since FY 2002. White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney is [scheduled](#) to testify before the House Budget Committee on Wednesday, May 24 at 9:30 am to discuss the president's FY 2018 budget. The hearing will take place in 1334 Longworth House Office Building. Director Mulvaney is also [scheduled](#) to testify before the Senate Budget Committee. The Senate hearing will take place on Thursday, May 25 at 9:45 am in 608 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

2. Recap of House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Holds Hearing on NIH

On May 19, the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee [convened](#) an oversight hearing to discuss the impact of the NIH. Subcommittee Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) opened the hearing by celebrating the success of the NIH. "Investment in NIH has been the key driver in making the United States the world leader in biomedical research and has led to vast improvements in life expectancy and quality of life," he said, noting that NIH funds medical research throughout the country. Chairman Cole also highlighted the \$2 billion increase Congress provided the NIH in FY 2017 and expressed his dismay with the proposed FY 2018 NIH cuts put forward by the Trump Administration in its preliminary budget. NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, testified on behalf of the agency and was joined by five NIH institute directors. In his opening testimony, Dr. Collins thanked the subcommittee for the FY 2017 budget increase, saying it will "ensure that our nation remains the global leader in the life sciences and advances in human health." The discussion also covered the economic impact, in which Dr. Collins explained that, thanks to research, the cancer death rate has been dropping one percent per year and, "Each one percent drop is worth \$500 billion to our economy." He added that the NIH supports 379,000 jobs in the U.S. directly, but the broader research ecosystem that depends on NIH as its foundation sums up to about 7 million jobs nationwide.

3. House Science Committee Hearing on "Overhead Costs of Research"

On May 24, the House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology will [convene](#) a joint Research and Technology Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee hearing on "Examining the Overhead Cost of Research." The hearing will take place at 10:00 am in 2318 Rayburn House Office Building. Witnesses include: Dale Bell, division director for institution and award support at National Science Foundation; John Neumann, JD, director of natural resources and environment at the U.S. Government Accountability Office; James Luther, associate vice president of finance & compliance officer at Duke University and chairman of the Council on Governmental Relations; and Richard Vedder, professor at Ohio University and director for the Center for College Affordability and Productivity.

4. Senate Democrats Express Concern with Proposed Budget Cuts to HHS

On May 16, Senate Democrats sent a letter to the president voicing “extreme concern” with proposed cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The letter urges President Trump to “listen to both sides of the aisle and drop any attempts to implement the damaging proposed cuts at HHS.” The senators highlight the impact of biomedical research and the advances put forward by the 21st Century Cures Act. However, the senators argue that in order for the tools provided in 21st Century Cures to be used, the “NIH must have the resources to implement them.”

5. NIH Council of Councils Meeting This Week

The NIH will hold a Council of Councils meeting on Friday, May 26. The meeting will begin at 8:15 am at the NIH in Building 21, C Wing, 6th floor, Conference Room 10. Among other topics queued up for the meeting, agenda items for the open sessions include a discussion of the history of the Knockout Mouse Program (KOMP), background on the NIH and federal budget process, progress and plans at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the Common Fund Diversity Program. The open session will be videocast and can be accessed from the NIH Videocasting and Podcasting Web site <http://videocast.nih.gov>.

6. House Republicans Write to President Trump Regarding NIH Director

News outlets are reporting on a House Republican letter sent to President Trump expressing concerns that NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD supports human embryonic stem cell research. The letter asks the president to “appoint an NIH Director who aligns with your own priorities to make American Biomedicine a global light, one who prioritizes successful, ethical stem cell research, eliminates funding for human embryo-destructive stem cell projects, and shifts fetal tissue research away from controversial abortion-specific tissue.”

7. Opinion: NIH funding increase will benefit Wisconsin, the Nation

On May 21, Joseph Kerschner, MD, executive vice president and dean of the school of medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, wrote an opinion piece on the \$2 billion increase provided to NIH in the FY 2017 spending bill. Dr. Kerschner writes, “This funding sends a strong signal of support to the young scientists who dedicate decades of their lives to developing the knowledge and skills to uncover the next great cure for disease.” He also says the increase “sends a clear message to everyone in our communities that science matters.”

8. FASEB Webinar: How Scientists Can Fight Proposed Cuts to NIH

FASEB is hosting a special webinar about the administration’s budget on Tuesday, May 23 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST. Jennifer Zeitzer and Benjamin Krinsky will provide an overview of the recommended cuts, the timeline and key steps involved in the federal budget process, and guidance on what individual scientists can do to urge lawmakers to reject the president’s plan. You must RSVP by Monday, May 22 to participate. More information is in the attached flier. The webinar will be recorded and an archived version will be available on the FASEB website for those who cannot participate on May 23. Please RSVP HERE.

9. Webinar on the Fogarty International Center

Research!America, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene invite you to attend a webinar, entitled, “The Fogarty International Center: How Americans Benefit from Global Health Research.” The webinar will take place on May 25, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm EST. Diseases know no borders, as we’ve seen with Ebola, Zika, bird flu, SARS and other infectious disease outbreaks. The Fogarty Center plays a critical role in global health security and emergency preparedness, and Fogarty grants support research in every state in a wide array of disease areas including HIV, tuberculosis, brain and nervous system disorders, cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke, diabetes, mental illness, and substance abuse. As the FY2018 appropriations process continues, please join this timely webinar to get the facts on Fogarty. Speakers will include Roger Glass, MD, PhD, director of the Fogarty International Center at NIH, Johns Hopkins University scientists and longtime Fogarty grantees: Chris Beyrer, MD and Bob Bollinger, MD, MPH. To RSVP for the webinar, please click [here](#).

10. Reminder of Upcoming Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee Deadline

The Senate Subcommittee deadline to submit outside witness testimony related to FY 2018 appropriations is close of business on June 2. All testimony must be in accordance with the [guidelines](#) set out by the subcommittee.

11. NIH to Hold Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting in June

Through a [Federal Register Notice](#), the NIH announced an Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) meeting, scheduled for June 8 from 9 am to 5:30 pm and June 9 from 9 am to 1 pm. The agenda includes the NIH Director’s report and the ACD working group reports, among other business. The meeting will take place at National Institutes of Health, Porter Neuroscience Research Center, Building 35, Room 640, 35 Convent Drive in Bethesda, MD. More information will be made available on the ACD website: <https://acd.od.nih.gov/>

12. Research!America Congressional Briefing: Innovation Intersection

On June 12, Research!America will [host](#) a congressional briefing titled, “Innovation Intersection” from noon to 1:00 pm. Experts from across the medical research continuum will focus on the development phase of the discovery, development and delivery continuum, exploring who, what, why and how of clinical research that is pivotal to delivering safe and effective medical innovations to patients. Panelists include John Hubbard, Ph.D., FCP, chairman of Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO), and president and CEO, Bioclinica; Victor J. Dzau, M.D., president of National Academy of Medicine; Patty Fritz, MS, vice president of US Corporate Affairs, UCB Inc.; Sudip S. Parikh, Ph.D., senior vice president and managing director, DIA. The panel will be moderated by Eleanor Perfetto, Ph.D., MS, senior vice president of Strategic Initiatives at the National Health Council. The briefing will take place in SVC 201. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by filling out this [form](#).

13. Research!America Congressional Briefing on Migraine

On June 15, Research!America will [host](#) a congressional briefing titled, “The Value of Research and Prevention in Addressing the Societal Burden of Migraine.” During this Capitol Hill briefing, a moderated panel will discuss the debilitating impact of migraines on health, the economy and society. Speakers include: Walter Koroshetz, M.D., director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders

and Stroke (NINDS); Mary Franklin, executive director, National Headache Foundation; Brian Gifford, Ph.D., director, research and measurement, Integrated Benefits Institute; Jaime Sanders, The Migraine Diva; and Amaal J. Starling, M.D., assistant professor of neurology, Mayo Clinic. The briefing will be held from noon to 1 pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by filling out this [form](#).

14. Golden Goose Awards

The [Golden Goose Awards](#) celebrate the stories of how basic research delivers major societal impacts – from NIH-funded [massages for baby rats](#) that changed how we treat premature babies (and saved billions in health care costs) to the once canceled NIH-funded [adolescent health study](#) that informs everything from school curricula to public health programs. Each year, three teams of researchers are showcased through written stories and documentary videos, and honored with an award ceremony in Washington, DC each fall. The award depends on the support of partners in the science community, and more than twenty different organizations in our community and beyond contribute each year. Attached are the 2017 Golden Goose Award Sponsorship opportunities (also on the Golden Goose Awards [website](#)). The deadline for sponsoring is Sept 6, 2017.

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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.