Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
May 24, 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:

Association of American Universities @AAUniversities – May 23

A new @NorthwesternMed study of placentas from patients who received the #COVID19 vaccine during pregnancy found no evidence of injury, adding to the growing literature that COVID-19 vaccines are safe in pregnancy: https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2021/05/covid-19-vaccine-does-not-damage-the-placenta/

President’s Budget Request Expected May 28
President Biden’s full budget request for FY 2022 is expected on May 28, updated Politico on May 19 (subscription required). The detailed request is expected to cover both mandatory and discretionary funding requests, and additional details on individual NIH institutes and centers and related proposals through the Office of the Director.

NIH Leadership to Testify on FY 2022 Budget Before House, Senate
NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, will be joined by several other leaders of NIH’s institutes and centers to testify on NIH’s FY 2022 budget before both House and Senate Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee members the week of May 24. The House hearing will take place on May 25 at 10am, followed by the Senate hearing on May 26 at 10am.

House FY 2022 Spending Bill Markups Expected in June, July
House appropriators are working toward a schedule to pass all 12 FY 2022 spending bills before August recess, reported CQ on May 20 (subscription required). The tentative schedule indicates that subcommittee markups would begin June 24 and be conducted over four of the six working days before the chamber is in recess for the July Fourth holiday. Full committee markups would be conducted June 29 – July 1, and continue July 13 – July 16.

Senate Committee Approves Biden OSTP Nominee
The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation approved the nomination of Eric Lander, PhD, to be director of the White House Office of Science and
Technology Policy (OSTP) by voice vote on May 20, with five Republicans recording their opposition to the confirmation. Lander’s nomination will now move to the Senate floor for a final vote. If confirmed, he would be the first life scientist to serve as OSTP director and the first OSTP director to serve in a Cabinet-level position.

Ad Hoc Group Urges Congress to Invest in Medical Research Infrastructure
229 members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research signed a May 19 letter to congressional leaders that urged them to provide supplemental investments in the medical research enterprise, noting the importance of the NIH to the overall health of the nation. “Like the physical roads and bridges that we traditionally consider infrastructure, our nation’s medical research facilities and research personnel are critical infrastructure that are essential to improve our health and prosperity," the letter stated.

Citing the disruptions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic on the medical research workforce, the Ad Hoc Group members urged Congress to provide one-time emergency funding for federal research agencies at levels recommended in the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act (H.R. 869/S. 289), including $10 billion for the NIH.

The Ad Hoc Group also highlighted the needed support for research infrastructure, as well as continued robust funding growth for the NIH, in a written statement delivered to the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee in advance of its May 19 fiscal year 2022 public witness hearing.

AAMCNews: Pandemic Impacts on Basic Medical Research
First-hand accounts of the COVID-19-related shutdowns and restrictions that halted studies for countless diseases, threatening scientific progress are documented in a May 6 AAMCNews piece titled, “Basic Medical Research Took a Hit During the Pandemic. It Might Take Years to Recover." The article includes interviews with researchers, administrators, and NIH managers about the scope of the disruption and whether labs and clinics can catch up.

NIGMS Feedback Loop: Strategic Plan 2021-2025 Now Available
NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Director Jon Lorsch, PhD, described the new NIGMS 2021-2025 Strategic Plan in the Institute’s Feedback Loop blog. The plan’s goals include sustaining strong, investigator-initiated research; investing in a skilled, diverse workforce; and enhancing capacity and access to critical research resources. As stewards of public resources, the plan also provides a roadmap for improving the public’s understanding of NIGMS research and training programs and enhancing the institute’s own workforce and operations. Cross-cutting themes across programs are highlighted.

ASHG Releases Genomics Economic Impact Report
A new report commissioned by the American Society of Human Genetics examines how human genetics and genomics is growing the U.S. economy and becoming increasingly integrated in healthcare and society. The new report, titled “The Economic Impact and Functional Applications of Human Genetics and Genomics," indicates that the human genetics and genomics sector contributes $265 billion to the U.S. economy
annually. The report shows that human genetics and genomics research enabled and supported a total of 850,000 jobs in 2019 and yielded a nearly $5 return on every federal dollar invested in it. Read the full report and related materials here.

**Friends of NIH ORWH Coalition Launching this Month**
The first-ever Friends of the NIH Office of Research on Women’s Health (FORWH) coalition invites new members to join in celebration of National Women's Health Month. The NIH Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) was established in response to advocacy concerns regarding a lack of consistent inclusion of women in NIH-supported clinical research. The FORWH coalition will be composed of groups committed to advancing women’s health, with primary goals of advocating for federal support of ORWH’s mission, ensuring stable resources for the ORWH, and to improving awareness of ORWH’s ongoing work. For more information, please check out the FORWH website. If you’d like to join, please have a representative from your organization fill out this form, or contact policy@swhr.org for questions.

**Upcoming Events**

**NEW** House Labor-HHS Appropriations FY 2022 NIH Budget Hearing – May 25
The House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) will hold a hearing, “FY 2022 Budget Request for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)” on May 25 at 10am.

**NEW** ASCO Hosts Equity in Precision Cancer Care Roundtable - May 25
As part of the leadup to the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) Annual Meeting and the culmination of Dr. Lori Pierce’s term as ASCO president, ASCO is hosting a virtual roundtable moderated by Dr. Pierce, “From Diagnosis to Treatment: Ensuring Equity in Precision Cancer Care.” It will take place on **Tuesday, May 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (ET)**. This event will convene an expert panel to discuss the challenges to achieving equity in precision cancer care and the actions needed to ensure equitable access to precision medicine advances. The webinar is comprised of an opening conversation between Dr. Pierce with Otis Brawley, MD, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor, Johns Hopkins University, and then two panel discussions: “Leaving No Patient Behind in the Era of Genomic Testing” and “Achieving Equal Access to Precision Cancer Therapies.” You can register and see the full speaker lineup here.

**NEW** Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations FY 2022 NIH Budget Hearing – May 26
The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS will hold a hearing, “National Institutes of Health’s FY22 Budget and the State of Medical Research” on May 26 at 10am. Francis Collins, MD, PhD, director of the National Institutes of Health will be joined by NAIAD Director and Anthony Fauci, MD, NICHD Director Diana Bianchi, MD, NCI Director Ned Sharpless, MD, NHLBI Director Gary Gibbons, MD, NIMHD Director Eliseo Perez-Stable, and NIBIB Director Bruce Tromberg, PhD.

**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.

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.

Requests for Public Comment

USPSTF Seeks Public Comment on Vitamin, Mineral, and Multivitamin Supplementation to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease and Cancer – June 1
The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) seeks comments on a draft recommendation statement and draft evidence review on vitamin, mineral, and multivitamin supplementation to prevent cardiovascular disease and cancer. The drafts are available for review and public comment until June 1.

NEI Seeks Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan – June 7
The National Eye Institute has released a Request for Information seeking feedback from the public on the draft of its new strategic plan. Written responses can be submitted to NEIPlan@mail.nih.gov by June 7, 2021.

NCI: Seeking Stakeholder Input on Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion in the Cancer Research Workforce – July 15
The NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) issued an RFI “on how to enhance diversity and inclusion in the cancer research workforce, including enhancing the participation of individuals who are underrepresented in cancer research, such as underrepresented minorities (URM).” This RFI is part of NCI’s Equity and Inclusion Program convened to identify opportunities and priorities that will promote equity and social justice in three areas: 1) Enhancing Cancer Health Disparities Research; 2) Diversifying the Cancer
Research Workforce; and 3) Ensuring an Inclusive and Diverse Community at NCI. The response deadline is July 15, 2021.

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

**IADR/AADR Seek Assistant Director of Government Affairs**
The International and American Associations for Dental Research are seeking an Assistant Director of Government Affairs to recommend and implement the Associations’ policy priorities related to dental, oral and craniofacial research; the federal research enterprise, including the scientific workforce; scholarly publishing; international collaboration and more. Additional information and application instructions can be found here.

**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.