



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

May 26, 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:

[American Association for Cancer Research @AACR May 19](#)

May is [#BrainCancerAwareness](#) Month. Read our latest blog post to learn about three studies recently reported in AACR journals that focus on targeted treatment strategies for patients with brain [#cancers](#). <https://bit.ly/3q4uRYx> [#cancerresearch](#)

Possibility of FY 2021 Progress Following Sen. Shelby Meeting at White House

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) expressed optimism about the White House's receptiveness to exempting VA MISSION Act funding from FY 2021 discretionary budget cap following a May 20 meeting with President Donald Trump. [CQ reported](#) on May 21 that Shelby told reporters that the president "understood the problem. He'd be neutral on it." Shelby added that appropriators would try to "work the process" of moving forward on FY 2021 with exemptions for the MISSION Act.

\$11 billion is needed to fund the VA MISSION Act program in FY 2021, in contrast to a \$5 billion increase in the discretionary spending cap from FY 2020. If MISSION Act spending is not exempt from the cap, Congress would face cutting funding to other nondefense discretionary programs, including health care and medical research funded through the Labor-HHS bill.

Ad Hoc Group Submits Outside Witness Testimony to Senate Labor-HHS

The [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research submitted Outside Witness Testimony](#) to the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on May 22. The testimony thanks Congress for supplemental appropriations provided to date to combat COVID-19 and states, "To maximize our country's ability to develop countermeasures against COVID-19 and sustain the research momentum across all NIH research, the Ad Hoc Group recommends \$44.7 billion for the NIH in FY 2021, a \$3 billion increase over the NIH's program level funding in FY 2020."

NCI Blog: Cancer Research in the Era of COVID-19

National Cancer Institute (NCI) Deputy Director Dinah Singer, PhD, outlined several ways the cancer research community is continuing to move research forward during the COVID-19 pandemic in a [May 14 Bottom Line blog post](#). Dr. Singer discussed NCI's COVID-19 contributions, including compassionate use of an immune response modifying drug, the launch of a longitudinal cohort study of cancer patients with COVID-19, and funding notices for cancer researchers to support COVID-19 efforts. Dr. Singer also describes how cancer research can and still is progressing despite restrictions on lab access and the ability to continue clinical trials.

Open Mike: Case Study in Review Integrity

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, shared a case study in peer review integrity in his [May 21 Open Mike blog](#). The case study describes an NIH-funded investigator who falsified data on a curriculum vitae and NIH biosketch. While the actions are not classified as research misconduct and therefore may not be investigated by the HHS Office of Research Integrity, Dr. Lauer notes that "NIH may pursue such allegations in NIH grant applications as possible, deliberate attempts to violate peer review integrity."

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

NIH ACD Meeting on RADx – May 26

The NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) [will meet via teleconference on May 26](#) at 1:00pm EST to review and approve concept clearances for the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program to develop COVID-19 testing technologies.

ASM Virtual Briefing Series on COVID-19 – May 27

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is launching a three-part virtual briefing series to showcase the latest science behind COVID-19 diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics. We invite you to join us for Part 1 of this series ([flyer attached](#)) on Wednesday, May 27, at 2:00 pm EST, “Diagnostics and Surveillance: Moving Beyond the Pandemic with Accurate, Reliable, and Meaningful Tests.” Join Rep. Ami Bera (D-Calif.), ASM president Robin Patel, and ASM clinical microbiology experts to learn more about the science of diagnostic tests, the promise and pitfalls of serology testing, and what is needed from Congress and the Administration to move these efforts forward in both the short and long term. Register [here](#).

ASM’s COVID-19 briefing series Part 2 will focus on vaccine development on June 4 at 2:00 pm EST. Register now for this webinar [here](#). Part 3 will focus on therapeutics and is scheduled for June 18. Registration and more details to come.

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.*