

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – May 29, 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:

### **Act for NIH (@ACTforNIH) at last week's Universal Flu Vaccine briefing**

“The 2017-18 [#flu](#) vaccine was only 36% effective. ‘36% is better than 0%, but we need to do better,’ says Fauci, explaining the need for increased [#NIH](#) funding. [#FundNIH](#)”

### **1. House and Senate Set FY 2019 Funding Allocations**

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees May 23 and May 24, respectively, met to formally set funding levels, or 302(b) allocations, for all 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2019. The House committee [approved](#) the allocations including the Labor-Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) spending bill on a 29-22 party line vote, leaving overall funding available to the subcommittee unchanged from FY 2018, at \$177.1 billion. In the Senate, the committee [adopted](#) its allocations unanimously, 31-0, the following day. For the L-HHS spending bill, the committee provides a total of \$179.3 billion for FY 2019, approximately \$2 billion more than both the FY 2018 enacted level and the House FY 2019 allocation.

### **2. 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.

### **3. Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer Shows Death Rates Declining**

The Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer [published](#) May 22 finds a continuing decline in cancer death rates in men, women, and children in the United States. This report is a joint publication between the National Cancer Institute (NCI); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the American Cancer Society; and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). NCI Director Ned Sharpless, MD, stated that “this year’s report is an encouraging indicator of progress we’re making in cancer research.” NAACCR executive director Betsy Kohler added that “death rates from several cancers are still on the rise [which] means we need to keep working to find strategies to encourage prevention and continue to make improvements in screening and treatment.”

### **4. National Academies Graduate Education Report to be Released**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (National Academies) May 29 will release a [report](#) titled “Graduate STEM Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” The goals of the

study include conducting analysis of graduate education and career needs, improving alignment of training with prospective employment, providing information around career paths, looking at new training models, and creating national goals for graduate STEM education.

#### **5. *STAT* Interview: NCI Director Discusses AI, Precision Medicine**

National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director Ned Sharpless, MD, recently [spoke](#) with *STAT* writer Lev Facher to reflect on his first six months at NCI. Dr. Sharpless reflects on the transition from running his own lab for decades, to taking control of the \$5.5 billion NCI, as well as thoughts on the future of cancer research following his first listening tour.

#### **6. 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.

#### **7. NIH RFI on Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and Related Research**

Through a Federal Register [notice](#), the NIH May 21 announced a request for information (RFI) for the development of the fiscal year 2021-2023 trans-NIH strategic plan for HIV and HIV-related research. The public comment period is open until June 20.

#### **8. 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 ([lmarquis@coalitionforlifesciences.org](mailto:lmarquis@coalitionforlifesciences.org)) or Jennifer Zeitzer ([jzeitzer@faseb.org](mailto:jzeitzer@faseb.org)) for additional information. Please see the attached flyer for details and sponsorship opportunities.

#### **9. NIGMS RFI on Enhancing Postdoctoral Career Transitions**

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) May 24 released a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) on strategies for enhancing postdoctoral career transitions to promote faculty diversity. Responses are due on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

## 10. 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](http://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](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).*