

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 3, 2019

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](#)

"26 million Americans have [#Asthma](#). A device developed to help astronauts perform space walks is now used in hospitals around the country to quickly diagnose this life-threatening condition. Advances in health come from broad science partnerships [#RaiseTheCaps](#)"

1. FY 2020 Public Witness Testimony Deadline – Today!

The Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee posted [instructions](#) for submitting outside witness testimony ahead of its work on FY 2020 appropriations. According to the instructions, testimony should be no longer than four pages and sent to the Subcommittee no later than close of business June 3.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research May 30 submitted [testimony](#) to the Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee, recommending \$41.6 billion for the NIH in FY 2020.

2. Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Foreign Influences in Research – June 5

The Senate Finance Committee will hold a June 5 [hearing](#) titled, "Foreign Threats to Taxpayer – Funded Research: Oversight Opportunities and Policy Solutions." Witnesses include NIH Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD. The hearing will take place at 9:45am in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Relatedly, Rep. Mikey Sherrill (D-N.J.) and several bipartisan sponsors May 30 introduced the Securing American Science and Technology Act (SASTA, [H.R. 3038](#)). According to Rep. Sherrill's [press release](#), the bill would "[promote] standardization of federal agency approaches to academic espionage while maintaining collaboration and a welcoming environment for foreign talent at our institutions of higher education."

3. Annual Report Shows Cancer Death Rates Continue to Decline

The NCI, in partnership with several public health and cancer agencies and organizations, May 30 [released](#) the latest [Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer](#). The press release highlights, "for all cancer sites combined, cancer death rates continued to decline in men, women, and children in the United States from 1999 to 2016. Overall cancer incidence rates, or rates of new cancers, decreased in men from 2008 to 2015, after increasing from 1999 to 2008, and were stable in women from 1999 to 2015." The report also focused on the 20-49 age group, finding "a greater cancer burden among women" in that cohort, likely due to "the high burden of breast cancer" in women.

4. NIH Shares Update on Human Microbiome Project

In a May 29 [news release](#), the NIH shared updates to the Human Microbiome Project (HMP), through three recent publications from NIH grantees. Launched in 2007, the HMP had two parts: first to "characterize the microbiome in healthy adults" and the second "emphasized human and

microbiome interactions and analyzed the temporal trends in many biological properties of them both.” These updates, and the importance of basic research, are highlighted in a May 29 [Director’s Blog](#) from NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

5. Documentary Screening Hosted by the Jeffrey Modell Foundation – June 3

Please join the Jeffrey Modell Foundation for the premier screening of the documentary, “Do Something: The Jeffrey Modell Story.” The screening will take place from 6-8pm in 2168 Rayburn House Office Building. See attached for additional information, and please RSVP to crdfellow1@dc-crd.com.

6. Congressional Briefing on National Science Foundation-Supported Research – June 4

Please join the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) for a Congressional briefing on research supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The briefing will take place June 4 from 12-1:30pm in the Capitol Visitors Center room 268. Please see attached for additional information and RSVP to Benjamin Krinsky at bkrinsky@faseb.org.

7. Congressional Briefing on E-Cigarettes – June 12

Please join the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) for a Congressional briefing titled, “E-Cigarettes and Nicotine Addiction: A Potential Public Health Crisis for Youth and Young Adults.” The briefing will take place on Wednesday, June 12 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in the Kennedy Caucus Room, Russell Senate Office Building Room 325. Please see the [event flyer](#) for additional detail, and [RSVP here](#).

8. Parkinson’s Disease Educational Briefing – June 12

Please join the Alliance for Aging Research for a Congressional briefing titled “Silver Book: Parkinson’s Disease Educational Briefing.” The event will take place June 12 from 12-1:30pm in Room HC-8 of the United States Capitol. Please visit the event [website](#) to learn more and to register.

9. Hopkins on the Hill Research Showcase – June 12

Please join Johns Hopkins University for a showcase of the range, value, and impact of federally funded research and programming at the university. The event will take place on Wednesday, June 12 from 5:30-7:30pm in the Rayburn Cafeteria, Rayburn House Office Building. See attached for additional information, and RSVP [here](#).

10. Bayh-Dole Briefing – June 13

Please join several academic, scientific, and research societies at an education briefing titled, “Scientific Progress and the Bayh-Dole Act: Exploring the Role and Significance of a Landmark Law.” The briefing will be held Thursday, June 13, at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Auditorium at 1200 New York Avenue NW from 10-11:30am with a networking coffee break from 9:30-10am. Please see attached flyer for additional details, and register to attend [in person](#), or view the [livestream](#).

11. NIH ACD Meeting: June 13-14

In a [Federal Register notice](#), the NIH announced the next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting will be held June 13-14 at the National Institutes of Health, Building 1, Wilson Hall, 1 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892. Preliminary agenda items include: the NIH Director's Report, ACD Working Group Reports, and Other Business of the Committee.

12. Congressional Briefing on the Biosensor Revolution – June 14

Please join the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) for a Congressional briefing titled, "Biosensor Revolution, Protecting our Health. Keeping our Land, Water, and Air Safe." The briefing will take place Friday, June 14 from 12-1pm in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see the [event flyer](#) for additional detail, and RSVP to smandell@aimbe.org.

13. Congressional Life Science Fair and Reception – June 20

Please join the Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) for the second annual Life Science Fair and Reception on Capitol Hill. The event will take place Thursday, June 20 from 5-7pm in 2043, 2044, and 2045 Rayburn House Office Building. You can register [here](#) and see attached flyer for sponsorship information.

14. Congressional Briefing on Dry Eye and "Test Your Tears" Screening – July 10

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research as they co-host a Congressional briefing during Dry Eye Awareness Month. The briefing, "Ongoing Impact of the TFOS DEWS II™ Dry Eye Clinical Practice and Research," will be held on Wednesday, July 10 from 12-1:15pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. A simultaneous screening for eye health will occur from 11:30am-2pm. Please see attached for additional detail, and RSVP to Dina Beaumont at dinabeau@aol.com.

15. Rally for Medical Research – September 18-19

Join a broad coalition of stakeholders representing millions of patients and other advocates from the medical research advocacy community on September 18-19, 2019, for the next Rally for Medical Research Hill Day and help raise awareness of the urgent need for continued investment in the NIH to improve health, spur more progress, inspire more hope, and save more lives. Please visit the [event website](#) for more information and to register. Registration closes August 30.

Job Postings

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Seeks Chief of Public Information and Liaison Branch

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is seeking to fill the position for Chief of the Public Information and Liaison Branch. Part of NIDA's Office of Science Policy and Communications, this branch is responsible for overseeing all information dissemination and public outreach activities to ensure NIDA is the trusted source of information on drug use, misuse, and addiction.

A detailed job description and information on how to apply can be found [here](#) for members of the public and [here](#) for current federal employees, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

University of Florida Seeks Assistant Director of Federal Relations

The University of Florida Seeks an Assistant Director of Federal Relations for the Washington, D.C. office. Essential job functions include: manage and execute the government relations program for a portfolio of the University's federal interests; anticipate, monitor and analyze federal policy; and more. Details and application instructions are available on the [job posting site](#).

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.