

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 4, 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:

Sarah Rovito, Assistant Director of Research Policy at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU): @smr32

“ ‘He [Dr. James Doroshow [@NCIResearchCtr](#) [@theNCI](#)] added that it was important that the federal government funded the study because the pharmaceutical industry has little interest in sponsoring trials that result in a reduction of treatment.’ [#ResearchMeansHope](#) [#fundNIH](#)” – linking to a recent *Washington Post* [article](#), citing that most women with an early stage of a certain breast cancer can safely skip chemo.

One Voice Against Cancer's online day of action is this Wednesday, June 6. Check out their Twitter feed ([@OCAVInfo](#)) to participate!

1. NIH Releases First Strategic Plan for Data Science

As a part of the [NIH-Wide Strategic Plan](#), the NIH developed and released a [Strategic Plan for Data Science](#). In the June 4 [media advisory](#), NIH writes that this Strategic Plan provides guidelines for “maximizing the value of data generated through NIH-funded efforts” in order to keep up with the pace of biomedical research. Under these guidelines, NIH hopes to work towards a variety of goals including better interoperability, universal data analysis tools, and finding better ways to handle the increasing costs associated with management of big data.

2. Open Mike Blog Post: Administration of NIH Grants

In a [May 29 post](#), NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Dr. Michael Lauer publishes a piece to clarify how NIH grants are administered, including a reminder that “*NIH makes awards to institutions, not people.*” The post goes on to explain the responsibilities of applicant organizations, the relationships between staff at those organizations and NIH staff in ensuring proper execution of grants administration, and ensuring ethical conduct regarding scientific research and reporting.

3. 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.

4. NASEM Releases Graduate Education Report

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) May 29 [released](#) a [report](#) titled "Graduate STEM Education for the 21st Century." The committee was charged with conducting an analysis of graduate education and career needs, identifying strategies to improve alignment of training with prospective employment, providing information around career paths, looking at new training models, and creating national goals for graduate STEM education. Along with calls for career outcome data collection and transparency, quality mentoring, creating an inclusive environment, and a focus on well-rounded professional development, the report included recommendations for graduate students, a list of core competencies for Master's and PhD education, and a description of the ideal graduate student program. [An editorial](#) by committee chair Alan Leshner in [Science](#) emphasizes a renewed focus on students, and [Inside Higher Ed](#) also takes a closer look at the report.

5. President Trump Signs 'Right to Try' Drug Bill

[An article](#) in *The Hill* reports that President Trump signed the 'right to try' bill on May 30, which will allow terminally ill patients to bypass the Food and Drug Administration rules to ask drug companies for access to experimental drugs. While the president claims that it will save "tremendous numbers of lives," critics worry that the law will give false hope or put patients in danger. A [Huffington Post](#) [article](#) points out that the FDA's '[Compassionate Use](#)' policy already allows access to experimental treatments to 99% of patients who request them, without circumventing FDA oversight.

6. *Washington Post*: China Increasingly Challenges American Dominance of Science

Over the past decade, China has been putting increasing resources and effort into scientific research and establishing itself as a world economic power. This year, China is expected to surpass the US in spending on scientific research. In fact, "between 2000 and 2015, research spending in the United States increased an average of 4 percent annually. China during that time ratcheted up its spending by an average of 18 percent each year." Today, the [Washington Post](#) [details](#) that a part of China's research growth model is luring researchers to Chinese institutions, including many researchers in the US who have struggled with various visa issues in recent years. In 2016, China published more scientific publications than the United States for the first time. The authors suggest that American lawmakers should encourage a collaborative research model between the US and China as China looks to invest in such a robust research enterprise.

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. 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 20th.

9. 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) or Jennifer Zeitzer (jzeitzer@faseb.org) for additional information. Please see the attached flyer for details and sponsorship opportunities.

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 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.