

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 5, 2017

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 welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here's this week's featured tweet:

United for Medical Research (@UMR4NIH)

'Cuts to medical research will come back to hurt us in the future' - @TomColeOK04 #keepNIHstrong
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/05/even-the-threat-of-cuts-can-hurt-american-science/528615/>

1. Ad Hoc Group Submits Statement to Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee

On June 2, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research **submitted** outside witness testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS) for the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Labor-HHS appropriations bill. The testimony thanks the Subcommittee for providing NIH funding increases in FY 2016 and FY 2017 and recommends the Subcommittee continue the funding trajectory for FY 2018. The request is consistent with recent Ad Hoc Group [statements](#) and [ads](#).

2. HHS Secretary Tom Price, MD, to Testify at Senate Finance and House Ways and Means

On June 8, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tom Price, MD [will testify](#) at a hearing held by the Senate Finance Committee on the President's fiscal year 2018 Budget. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Additionally, Secretary Price [will testify](#) before the House Ways and Means Committee on June 8 at 1 p.m. in 1100 Longworth House Office Building. Any individual or organization wanting to submit a statement for the record can find instructions on the [Senate Finance Committee](#) or [House Ways and Means](#) Committee websites.

3. NIH to Hold Advisory Committee to the Director Meeting June 8 and 9

Through a [Federal Register Notice](#), the NIH announced an Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) meeting, scheduled for June 8 from 9 am to 5:30 pm and June 9 from 9 am to 1 pm. The [agenda](#) includes the NIH Director's report, a Grand Support Index Report, 21st Century Cures updates, and the ACD working group reports, among other business. The meeting will take place at National Institutes of Health, Porter Neuroscience Research Center, Building 35 A, Room 620/630, NIH Campus in Bethesda, MD. More information will be made available on the ACD website: <https://acd.od.nih.gov/>

4. House Appropriations Committee Deadline for Congressional Requests Approaching

In a [Dear Colleague Letter](#), House Appropriations Chair Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) announced an opportunity for Members of Congress to respond to the president's FY 2018 budget request. The letter states, "The Committee will be opening the member request database for further requests in response to the just-released budget from the President." The deadline for submission to the House Labor-HHS subcommittee is close of business on Tuesday, June 6.

5. Senate Finance Committee Hearing on Nomination of Eric Hargan as HHS Deputy Secretary

On June 7, the Senate Finance Committee [will hold](#) a hearing to consider the nomination of Eric Hargan as Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary. The hearing will be at 10 a.m. in 215 Dirksen Senate Office building.

6. NIH Director's Blog: All Scientific Hands on Deck to End the Opioid Crisis

On May 31 in a joint [blog post](#), NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD and NIDA Director Nora Volkow, MD, announced a plan to accelerate research in three crucial areas: overdose reversal, addiction treatment, and pain management. The plan, laid out in a New England Journal of Medicine [article](#), recognizes that, "Opioid misuse and addiction is an ongoing and rapidly evolving public health crisis, requiring innovative scientific solutions." In response, Dr. Collins and Dr. Volkow announced that "the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is joining with private partners to launch an initiative in three scientific areas: developing better overdose-reversal and prevention interventions to reduce mortality, saving lives for future treatment and recovery; finding new, innovative medications and technologies to treat opioid addiction; and finding safe, effective, nonaddictive interventions to manage chronic pain. Each of these areas requires a range of short-, intermediate-, and long-term research strategies."

7. Updated FASEB NIH Funding Trends Slides

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) updated its [NIH Funding Trends slide deck](#) to reflect FY 2016 appropriations for biomedical research as well as the proposed funding level included in the Trump Administration's FY 2018 budget request. This presentation analyzes data on NIH appropriations, the number of Research Project Grants and competing awards issued by the agency, the average grant size, and application success rates. A summary of trends in NIH funding going back to 1995 is also included.

8. Research!America Congressional Briefing: Innovation Intersection

On June 12, Research!America will [host](#) a congressional briefing titled, "Innovation Intersection" from noon to 1:00 pm. Experts from across the medical research continuum will focus on the development phase of the discovery, development and delivery continuum, exploring who, what, why and how of clinical research that is pivotal to delivering safe and effective medical innovations to patients. Panelists include John Hubbard, Ph.D., FCP, chairman of Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO), and president and CEO, Bioclinica; Victor J. Dzau, M.D., president of National Academy of Medicine; Patty Fritz, MS, vice president of US Corporate Affairs, UCB Inc.; Sudip S. Parikh, Ph.D., senior vice president and managing director, DIA. The panel will be moderated by Eleanor Perfetto, Ph.D., MS, senior vice president of Strategic Initiatives at the National Health Council. The briefing will take place in SVC 201. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by filling out this [form](#).

9. Research!America Congressional Briefing on Migraine

On June 15, Research!America will [host](#) a congressional briefing titled, "The Value of Research and Prevention in Addressing the Societal Burden of Migraine." During this Capitol Hill briefing, a moderated panel will discuss the debilitating impact of migraines on health, the economy and society. Speakers include: Walter Koroshetz, M.D., director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS); Mary Franklin, executive director, National Headache Foundation; Brian Gifford, Ph.D., director, research and measurement, Integrated Benefits Institute; Jaime Sanders, The Migraine Diva; and Amaal J. Starling, M.D., assistant professor of neurology, Mayo Clinic. The briefing will be held from noon to 1 pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by filling out this [form](#).

10. FasterCures Convenes “Partnering for Cures” in Boston and San Francisco

Since 2009, [Partnering for Cures](#) (P4C) has been convening leaders with the experience, creativity, and motivation needed to transform the medical research system. The event is convened annually by [FasterCures](#), a center of the Milken Institute, and connects decision-makers from across diseases who are motivated by the same mission – to reduce the time and cost of getting new therapies from discovery to patients. [FasterCures](#) is taking P4C on the road and convening a smaller, cross-sector group of medical research leaders twice – once in Boston and once in San Francisco. Registration is now open for P4C Boston on July 12, 2017, and P4C San Francisco on Nov. 14, 2017. Find out more information at <http://www.partneringforcures.org/>.

11. Golden Goose Awards

The [Golden Goose Awards](#) celebrate the stories of how basic research delivers major societal impacts – from NIH-funded [massages for baby rats](#) that changed how we treat premature babies (and saved billions in health care costs) to the once canceled NIH-funded [adolescent health study](#) that informs everything from school curricula to public health programs. Each year, three teams of researchers are showcased through written stories and documentary videos, and honored with an award ceremony in Washington, DC each fall. The award depends on the support of partners in the science community, and more than twenty different organizations in our community and beyond contribute each year. Attached are the 2017 Golden Goose Award Sponsorship opportunities (also on the Golden Goose Awards [website](#)). The deadline for sponsoring is Sept 6, 2017.

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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.