Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
June 7, 2021

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 Cancer Society Cancer Action Network @ACSCAN – June 6

It’s #NationalCancerSurvivorsDay! Did you know we can help ensure there are even more survivors celebrating for years to come? Tell Congress to increase federal cancer research funding to save even more lives from cancer! https://bit.ly/34SoPWk

NIH ACD to Meet June 10-11
The NIH’s Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) will meet June 10th and 11th beginning at 12pm EDT both days. Day 1 topics include an NIH director’s report, several updates on COVID-19, and an update on NIH’s efforts to address harassment in the research environment. Day 2 topics include an update on ARPA-H from Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Eric Lander, PhD, and the UNITE Initiative. Additional details are on the ACD’s website.

HHS Secretary to Testify Before Senate Appropriators on FY22 Budget
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra, JD, will testify before the Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on the FY 2022 budget request on June 9 at 10am. The hearing will be webcast.

Lander Authors Letter to Research Community as OSTP Director
Eric Lander, PhD, was sworn in on June 2 as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). In a letter addressed to the research community, he described the weight of the responsibility of the new role and the need for collaboration with all people who believe science and technology can make a better, safer, and more just world.

Morning Consult Opinion: Making the Case For ARPA-H
Jed Manocherian, founder and chairman of ACT for NIH, wrote a June 4 Morning Consult op-ed highlighting President Biden’s proposed FY 2022 funding for the NIH, including investment in a new ARPA-H initiative. “There is no single action that will do
more to advance the health and wealth of our nation than investing robustly in fundamental research at NIH and creating ARPA-H to accelerate translational research that will lead to new cures and therapies,” he wrote. Manoucherian urged the administration and Congress to work with stakeholders in the scientific community as plans develop for the new initiative.

**NIH Launches Clinical Trial of Universal Influenza Vaccine Candidate**
The NIH Clinical Center has launched the first ever Phase 1 clinical trial of a universal flu vaccine “designed to provide long-lasting protection against multiple flu virus strains,” relayed a June 1 NIH news release. The vaccine utilizes self-assembling nanoparticle scaffolds to display hemagglutinin protein from four different flu virus strains. “The health and economic burdens of influenza are substantial, and the world badly needs improved flu vaccines,” said NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, MD. “I am encouraged by the great promise of the VRC nanoparticle vaccine candidate, which so far has performed very well in pre-clinical testing.”

**Open Mike: An Updated Look at Applications Submitted During the Pandemic**
NIH Director of Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, summarized the status of applications to the NIH during the pandemic in a June 1 Open Mike blog post. The Office of Extramural Research analyzed R01-equivalent and Research Project Grant (RPG) applicants by gender and race. “In these descriptive analyses of we find no particularly marked changes in the high-level demographics of designated PI’s on R01-equivalent and RPG applications. We plan to examine these data in greater depth, particularly once peer review outcomes and funding decisions are known,” Lauer stated.

**Upcoming Events**

**Senate LHHS FY 2022 Outside Witness Testimony Deadline - June 24**
The Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee has posted a deadline of June 24 for outside witness testimony for FY 2022. Additional details on the format and submission instructions are on the [subcommittee website](#).

**Apply for National Eczema Association Research Grants – Deadline August 31**
Applications are being accepted for the 2021 National Eczema Association (NEA) research grant cycle. Grants for junior and senior investigators ranging from $5,000-$150,000 are available. Applications are due August 31. Additional details are on the [NEA website](#).

**Requests for Public Comment**

**NCI: Seeking Stakeholder Input on Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion in the Cancer Research Workforce – July 15**
The NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) issued an RFI “on how to enhance diversity and inclusion in the cancer research workforce, including enhancing the participation of
individuals who are underrepresented in cancer research, such as underrepresented minorities (URM). This RFI is part of NCI’s Equity and Inclusion Program convened to identify opportunities and priorities that will promote equity and social justice in three areas: 1) Enhancing Cancer Health Disparities Research; 2) Diversifying the Cancer Research Workforce; and 3) Ensuring an Inclusive and Diverse Community at NCI. The response deadline is July 15, 2021.

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.

[Funding opportunities specific to COVID-19](#) lists active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research.

[NIH COVID-19 Research Website](#) provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about NIH research and our strategic role in COVID-19 research.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.

[Combat COVID website](#) including information for those who have never had COVID-19, have been infected, have recovered, and for health care providers.

Job Postings

**American Thoracic Society Seeks Associate Director, Government Relations**
The American Thoracic Society is accepting applications for following position: Associate Director, Government Relations. The Associate Director is responsible for developing and maintaining an ATS advocacy strategy for assigned issue areas. Reports to Chief, Advocacy & Government Relations. B.S. or B.A. degree in public health, health policy, health administration, biological sciences or related area with a minimum of five years congressional experience as an aide or legislative representative in a voluntary health organization or professional society. Excellent written and oral communication skills required. Additional details and application instructions are here.

**ASM Seeks Senior Specialist, Regulatory Affairs**
The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is seeking a Senior Specialist, Regulatory Affairs. The Senior Specialist will play an integral role on ASM’s federal affairs team by monitoring, analyzing and reporting on regulatory activity that has the potential to affect the microbial sciences community in assigned policy areas, with a particular focus on diagnostic regulation, food safety, coding and reimbursement. The specialist will also identify opportunities for ASM federal policy engagement with regulatory agencies such as the FDA and CMS, and help build relationships with agency officials. For more information go [here](#).

IADR/AADR Seek Assistant Director of Government Affairs
The International and American Associations for Dental Research are seeking an Assistant Director of Government Affairs to recommend and implement the Associations’ policy priorities related to dental, oral and craniofacial research; the federal research enterprise, including the scientific workforce; scholarly publishing; international collaboration and more. [Additional information and application instructions can be found here](#).

NHLBI Seeks Science Policy Analyst
NIH’s National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) seeks a Science Policy Analyst to assist in the institute’s engagement with Congress. The analyst’s role will include reviewing proposed legislation, responding to Congressional inquiries, preparing public outreach materials, and more. [Additional information and instructions for applying can be found here](#).

**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.

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