

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 10, 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:

Infectious Diseases Society of America @IDSAInfo

"The [#chickenpox](#) vaccine is not only effective in protecting against chickenpox. A new study reveals that children who received the chickenpox vaccine had a 78% lower rate of [#shingles](#) than those unvaccinated."

1. House Prepares for Floor Consideration of FY 2020 Labor-HHS Bill

The House Appropriations Committee June 5 [released](#) details for this week's full House consideration of a five bill "minibus," including the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Legislative Branch, Defense, State-Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development. Per the press statement, the entire package totals \$986.8 billion and contains the Appropriations Committee-supported funding level of \$41.1 billion for NIH.

Floor consideration is expected to begin on Wednesday, June 12. In accordance with a [statement](#) from the House Rules Committee, a structured amendment process is anticipated.

2. HHS Announces Restrictions to Fetal Tissue Research

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) June 5 issued a [statement](#) announcing new restrictions on fetal tissue research, following a months-long investigation. HHS will "discontinue intramural research — research conducted within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) — involving the use of human fetal tissue from elective abortion." According to HHS, extramural research projects that are currently funded will not be affected, however new extramural grant applications and current research projects in the competitive renewal process that propose to use fetal tissue and are recommended for funding will undergo an additional review by an "ethics advisory board" to determine "whether, in light of the ethical considerations, NIH should fund the research project." Additionally, HHS is allowing an existing contract with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to expire.

3. Senate Finance Committee Holds Hearing on Foreign Influences in Research

The Senate Finance Committee June 5 held a [hearing](#) titled, "Foreign Threats to Taxpayer-Funded Research: Oversight Opportunities and Policy Solutions." Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) gave opening remarks cautioning against the vulnerability of U.S. research to foreign threats and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) emphasized support for the foreign-born scientists' contributions to American research. NIH Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD, commented on current interagency communications to assess and act upon foreign threats to research integrity.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) shared that he expects to introduce the Secure Our Research Act the week of June 10, which would develop an interagency working group "to enhance cybersecurity protocols and protect federally funded research from foreign interference, espionage and exfiltration."

4. NINDS RFI: Enhancing Neuroscience Research for Emerging Programs

The NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is [soliciting input](#) on Enhancing Neuroscience Research at Institutions with Emerging Neuroscience Programs from researchers, institutional leadership, science administrators, research or professional organizations, and other interested members of the neuroscience community, on improving access to research resources (technology, instruments and approaches) at institutions with emerging neuroscience programs. Responses are due June 17 through a web-based form.

5. ReImagine HHS Public Hearing: Accelerate Clinical Innovation Initiative

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is holding a [public meeting](#) to “seek public input and comment on opportunities to leverage departmental resources, increase collaboration, and to partner with private stakeholders in the service of accelerating the process for clinical innovation in the United States.” HHS is seeking participation in the meeting and written comments from all interested parties, especially asking for input on specific issues discussed in the Federal Register [announcement](#).

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

6. 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](#).

7. 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.

8. 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](#).

9. 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](#).

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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. Essentials 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.