



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up

June 12, 2020

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner ([chwagner@aamc.org](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org)) for inclusion in the publication!

## Congressional and NIH News

### Senate Slated to Begin FY 2021 Markups Week of June 22

The Senate is expected to begin marking up its FY 2021 spending bills the week of June 22, according to a Republican committee staffer ([CQ, subscription required](#)). Additionally, Senate subcommittees have reportedly been provided the option of skipping the subcommittee markup. According to this timeline, the Senate will begin consideration of FY 2021 spending bills two weeks before the House according to a schedule outlined by House Appropriations Chair Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) last week.

### Alexander Releases White Paper, Seeks Feedback on Pandemic Preparedness

Senate HELP Committee Chair Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) released a [June 9 white paper, "Preparing for the Next Pandemic."](#) outlining five recommendations to address future pandemics, including accelerating research and development. [According to the press release](#), "The five recommendations outlined above, along with a series of questions at the end of this white paper, are intended to elicit recommendations that Congress can consider and act on this year." The HELP committee seeks stakeholder feedback submitted to [PandemicPreparedness@help.senate.gov](mailto:PandemicPreparedness@help.senate.gov) by June 26.

### Open Mike: New NIH Preprint Pilot Now Available

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has launched a pilot to make preprint publications of NIH-funded COVID-19 research searchable in PubMed Central and discoverable in PubMed. As reported by PubMed Central Program Manager Kathryn Funk in a [June 9 Open Mike blog post](#), the [NIH Preprint Pilot](#) is expected to expand beyond COVID-19.

### Open Mike: Additional COVID-19 Flexibilities for Preliminary Data in Applications

In a second [June 9 Open Mike blog post](#), NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, discussed NIH's efforts to support grant applicants' inability to generate significant preliminary data due to pandemic-related lab closures. Dr. Lauer

notes that NIH will allow “preliminary data as a new special exception to our post-submission materials policy.”

### **Science: Federal Support Helps Labs Stay Afloat Amidst Pandemic**

A [June 5 article in Science](#) describes the role of federal investments in supporting continued research progress despite lab closures due to COVID-19. Flexibilities provided by the Office of Management and Budget and a transition to virtual study sections are examples of how federal agencies facilitated continued progress outside of the lab including data analysis, writing manuscripts, and submitting grant applications. Researchers are still unable to function at full capacity, and the article highlights the Ad Hoc Group’s recommendation that Congress provide additional supplemental funds to support costs of returning to pre-COVID research levels.

### **NIH NOSIs and Funding Opportunities Related to COVID-19**

Several NIH Institutes on June 8 posted Notices of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding COVID-19-specific research. [One NOSI issued by a majority of NIH Institutes and Centers](#) aims to address secondary health effects of the social, behavioral, and economic changes, particularly among populations who experience [health disparities](#) and vulnerable populations through the use of digital health assessments and interventions to yield measurable near-term impact. [A second NOSI issued by multiple Institutes and Centers](#) aims to investigate community interventions to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations. The National Cancer Institute and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease issued two emergency awards, [one to research the SARS-CoV-2 immune response](#) and [one to develop serological tests](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

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### **NIH ACD Meeting – June 11-12**

The NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) [will meet via teleconference](#) on [June 11](#) and [June 12](#) from 1:00-4:00pm EST. Aside from COVID-19 updates, the ACD will also cover topics of rigor and reproducibility in animal research, sexual harassment in research, and foreign influences on research integrity, among others. Please visit <https://videocast.nih.gov/> to view the meeting on the day of the event.

### **ASM Briefing on Pursuing a SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine – June 18**

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is continuing its virtual briefing series to showcase the latest science behind [COVID-19 Diagnostics, Vaccines, and Therapeutics](#). We invite you to join us for the conclusion of the series (Part 3, [flyer attached](#)) **Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 pm Eastern**, “From Remdesivir to Human Convalescent Plasma: Understanding COVID-19 Therapeutic Development.” ASM experts will discuss how scientists are leveraging decades of basic and clinical research to bring innovative and effective therapies to the market for COVID-19, including groundbreaking work into the use of human convalescent plasma, how we can apply knowledge from existing antivirals to the novel disease, and what is needed from Congress and the Administration to ensure safe and effective therapies can get to the patients who need them. [Please register here](#) and contact Mary Lee Watts ([mwatts@asmusa.org](mailto:mwatts@asmusa.org)) with any questions.

### **Research!America Briefing on COVID Impacts to Research Progress – June 18**

Join Research!America and partners on June 18 at 2:00pm EST for a virtual roundtable discussion focusing on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public and private sector-fueled medical progress. Panelists, including National Cancer Institute Director Ned Sharpless, MD, will explore the pandemic's influence on the research NIH conducts and supports, our nation's R&D infrastructure, the private sector investment climate, technology transfer and other key variables influencing the pace of medical progress, and opportunities to quickly reboot R&D as we move forward. [Visit the event website](#) for more information and to register.

### **Webinar on An Inside Look at the National Eye Institute (NEI) – June 26**

The National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR) and Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) are co-hosting a webinar entitled An Inside Look at NEI featuring Michael Steinmetz, PhD, Director of Extramural Science Programs. The webinar will take place on June 26 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm EST and will address the application review process, budgets and funding policy, and special initiatives, including trans-NIH and trans-agency activities. [Please register here.](#)

## 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.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations provided through the first three COVID-19 supplemental packages (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; Families First Coronavirus Response Act; and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act).

## Job Postings

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### **FASEB Seeks Associate Director for Legislative Affairs**

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) seeks an experienced [Associate Director for Legislative Affairs](#) to serve as principal representative of FASEB to members of Congress and congressional staff and advise FASEB leadership and the Board of Directors on legislative strategies and advocacy initiatives related to increasing federal funding for and awareness of life sciences research. This position is responsible for developing and executing a successful appropriations strategy and legislative advocacy program on behalf of FASEB and FASEB member societies and coordinating with other stakeholders in the biomedical research advocacy community. Please see the [attached PDF job description](#) and [click here](#) to submit a cover letter,

resume, and a short writing sample. For more information about FASEB, visit [www.faseb.org](http://www.faseb.org).

### **AAI Seeks Science Policy Analyst**

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), a non-profit professional biomedical research association, seeks a motivated and intellectually inquisitive individual to provide scientific expertise to the AAI public affairs program. This position supports the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, the members of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs, and other AAI staff in developing scientific and policy positions that convey the views, concerns, and interests of the AAI membership. Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with resume, including publications, and salary requirements, to FASEB Human Resources at [resumes@faseb.org](mailto:resumes@faseb.org), or visit the [FASEB employment website](#) to apply. [See attached](#) and the [FASEB job site](#) to view a detailed job description.

***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](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).*