

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – June 18, 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:

The Science Coalition [@scicoalition](#)

Federal research investment is critical to American innovation. After taking a big step forward in [#FY18](#), Congress should continue to [#FundBasicResearch](#) in [#FY19](#) & beyond. View the full [#InnovationImperative](#) report here: <https://bit.ly/2yhT9wv>

1. NIH Celebration Event – June 20

Stakeholders from the NIH advocacy community are hosting a reception on Capitol Hill to celebrate biomedical research supported by the NIH, as well as Congress's sustained commitment to NIH. The event will take place on Wednesday, June 20th from 5-7pm in the Kennedy Caucus Room (325 Russell Senate Office Building). Labor-HHS Chairman Roy Blunt, Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro will present brief remarks, along with NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD. We welcome your attendance and support at this celebratory event! Please [RSVP here](#) and see the attached flyer for additional details.

2. House Appropriations Labor-HHS Markup – June 20

The House Appropriations Committee [will mark up](#) the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) bill on June 20th. This follows a June 15 markup of the [draft fiscal year \(FY\) 2019 spending bill](#) in the L-HHS Subcommittee. According to a [committee-prepared summary](#), the measure provides "a total of \$38.3 billion for NIH, an increase of \$1.25 billion above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$4.1 billion above the [President's budget request](#)." The draft bill was passed by voice vote, though subcommittee Democrats expressed concern including Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) that "while the bill has some good points, the inadequate funding ... means cuts to education and health care programs." Read the Ad Hoc Group's full press statement [here](#).

3. National Coalition for Cancer Research Reception – June 20

After 32 years, National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR) will cease operations on August 31. You are cordially invited to their final Congressional reception on June 20, 2018 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm in G-11 Dirksen Senate Office Building. As this reception is at the same date, time, and in the adjacent building as the NIH Celebration event, we hope you will be able to stop by both events and celebrate the accomplishments of NCCR. Please respond to msmith@libertypartnersgroup.com if you will be attending the NCCR reception.

4. NIH Advisory Committee to the Director: Meeting Highlights

The NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) met June 14-15. Agenda items included the NIH Director's Report, NCI Director Report, budget and Congressional updates, and ACD Working Group Reports. The agenda and presentations are available [here](#).

5. JAMA: NIH Leaders Share Research Plan for the HEAL Initiative

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, NINDS Director Walter Koroshetz, MD, and NIDA Director Nora Volkow, MD, June 12 [authored a Viewpoint](#) in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* to share the research plan for the NIH Helping to End Addiction over the Long-term, or HEAL initiative. This initiative was formed to “foster innovative partnerships with other government agencies, academic institutions, industry, communities, and patient advocates” to deliver new solutions to treat opioid use disorder. Prominent components to the HEAL initiative include identifying novel biological targets for new treatment options, clinical trials networks, and implementation research.

6. NHLBI Advisory Council Discusses Precision Medicine Engagement

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council June 12 [meeting](#) included an update from the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Director Gary Gibbons, MD, highlighting several of the institute's current areas of focus, including the Women's Health Agenda and the Sickle Cell Disease initiative. He also discussed NHLBI's collaboration with the [All of Us Research Program](#). Notably, NHLBI Division of Cardiovascular Sciences Associate Director Gina Wei, MD, MPH explained that NHLBI will gather stakeholders in July for a follow-up to the spring All of Us Research Priorities Workshop to discuss research ideas and ways to advance heart, lung, and blood science through the All of Us Research Program.

7. OSP: The Insider's Guide to Effective Commenting on NIH Policies

As a previous comment letter writer herself, NIH Associate Director for Science Policy Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, gives 'insider' advice on how to construct an effective comment letter to NIH in an NIH Office of Science Policy [blog post](#). She expands on several recommendations: be specific, provide data, answer the questions, include new ideas, and emphasize what matters to you most.

8. Open Mike: RCDeCade - 10 Years and Still Counting

Mike Lauer, MD, NIH deputy director of extramural research, considers how the Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization (RCDC) webtool can be used to learn how NIH spent its research budget in an Open Mike [blog post](#). Available through the [NIH RePORT](#), the RCDC has been recently updated to report 285 categories, which were defined using an automated text mining tool. While the system has some weaknesses (many projects fit into several categories while some do not fit into any), the RCDC provides "consistent annual reporting and the ability to see any potential trends in spending." The post goes on to give an example of how the RCDC can be used.

9. NCATS Director's Corner: Translating Translation

An NCATS Director's Corner [blog post](#) by Christopher Austin, MD, Director of the NIH National Center for Advancing Translation Sciences (NCATS), discusses the need to define and explain "translation" as a biomedical term for public outreach. Dr. Austin shares [his recent publication](#) in Nature Reviews Drug Discovery that distinguishes between three related terms – translation ("the process of converting a scientific or clinical observation into an intervention"), translational research ("attempts to move a particular project across one step of the translational process"), and translational science ("the quest to understand how the [translational process](#) works, both at

each step and as an integrated whole, so that we can improve the process to work faster and more successfully").

10. NASEM Releases Report on Sexual Harassment in Science, Engineering, and Medicine

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) June 12 released [its report](#), "Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine." The report explains that of [three types of sexual harassment](#) - sexual coercion, unwanted sexual attention, and gender harassment - gender harassment is most prevalent and can be as damaging to an individual or career.. [The committee](#) recommends that a key area of focus to reduce and prevent sexual harassment is to create a culture and climate that does not allow such behavior, giving six key recommendations for institutions. To assist institutions, faculty, and students in these efforts, the NASEM [report website](#) provides several resources. NASEM is hosting a [discussion and responses to the report](#) on June 26 in Irvine, CA, which can also be attended by webcast.

11. FBR: Positive Change in Public Attitudes on Animal Testing and Research

The Foundation of Biomedical Research (FBR) [discusses](#) a recent [Gallup Poll](#) showing that public approval of Animal Testing and Research increased from 51% in 2017 to 54% in 2018, partially counteracting the near steady decline in approval from 65% in 2001. While the poll does not give an explanation, FBR speculates that this change is due to successful educational outreach. One example is FRB's ["Love Animals?" campaign](#), which emphasizes that animal research benefits pets as well as humans.

12. New York Times: Improvements May Be Needed for the NIH Grant System

Aaron Carroll, MD, of the Indiana University School of Medicine, [wrote an op-ed](#) in the New York Times outlining the challenges of the current grant system at the NIH, arguing that the current model favors white male researchers who are more established scientists, performing low-risk research. Dr. Carroll describes the granting process, highlighting challenges from low funding levels for the NIH, as well as difficulties in finding consensus amongst study section participants. He concludes that changes to the granting system must be considered in order to fairly support the careers of tomorrow's researchers.

13. STAT: Eric Dishman on Participating in NIH's All of Us Research Program

NIH All of Us Research Program Director Eric Dishman June 13 penned an [op-ed in STAT](#) outlining protections that the program has put in place to ensure the safeguarding of participants' data while supporting the program goals of "accelerating medical breakthroughs that personalize prevention, treatment, and care for all Americans." The piece outlines the steps taken by the NIH to reach out to and learn from diverse communities regarding their interests and concerns in the new research program, and how those comments were incorporated into the program's privacy and security principles. Dishman also details the differences between All of Us and companies that collect genetic information through direct-to-consumer tests as he encourages participating in NIH's flagship research program.

14. 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.

15. 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.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

16. Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus Universal Flu Vaccine Briefing – June 20

Join the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus as we welcome Dr. James Crowe of Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He'll discuss the challenges of developing a universal vaccine for the flu and discuss the recent discoveries that highlight the progress made in this field. The event will take place on Wednesday, June 20, 2018. Noon- 1:00 pm in 2043, Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP to: CLS@coalitionforlifesciences.org.

17. FASEB Webinar - Summer Advocacy Activities for Scientists – June 27

FASEB is hosting a [webinar](#) on Wednesday, June 27 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET which will highlight actions scientists can take this summer to advocate for increased biomedical and biological research funding. Summer is an ideal time to advocate for science and engage with Congress members and local aides while they are on recess. This webinar will provide step by step guidance and valuable resources researchers can use to develop and enhance relationships with elected officials at home including tips from an experienced graduate student advocate. Webinar participants will learn about best practices for requesting local meetings with members of Congress, how to prepare for visits, and new advocacy tools available from FASEB. [Registration required](#). An archived version of the webinar will be available following the live presentation.

18. 70th Anniversary of NHLBI Celebration – June 28

The American Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Society of Hematology, American Thoracic Society, and WomenHeart; The National Coalition for Women With Heart Disease et. al invite you to celebrate: The 70th Anniversary of the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The event will be held June 28, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Kennedy Caucus Room, 325 Russell Senate Office Building. Brief remarks will be made by NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD (Invited); Gary Gibbons, MD, director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; and Eugene Braunwald, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Please RSVP to Lesia Griffin, griffin@hmcw.org and see attached flyer for additional details.

19. Congressional Briefing: Modernizing Opioid Addiction Treatment Protocols - June 28

Drug overdoses are an increasing public health burden in the United States. Recently released data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics has provided a clearer picture of an overlooked aspect of the epidemic—emergency department visits arising from overdoses.

Research shows that people who have had an overdose are more likely to have another. Emergency department protocols, including screening and linking people to treatment, are critical needs. Join the briefing for a conversation with public health and emergency department experts on Thursday, June 28 from Noon-1:00pm in 2043 Rayburn to learn more about the role of the emergency department in this epidemic, and how investing in enhanced protocols will improve America's public health response to this issue. RSVP to jessica_grau@hcmstrategists.com and see attached flier for more details.

20. Dry Eye Awareness Month Congressional Briefing – July 11

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) and the Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS) at a Congressional briefing and screening for Dry Eye Awareness Month. The events will take place on Wednesday July 11, in 2168 Rayburn HOB. Please RSVP to dinabeau@aol.com and see attached flyer for more details.

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

22. 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.