Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
June 28, 2021

The Ad Hoc Round Up will be on hiatus the week of July 5 for the July 4 holiday and Congressional recess.

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 Lung Association @LungAssociation – June 15

Our brand-new Lungcast episode, in partnership with @MDMagazine, features the branch chief of @NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse to break down the #science of e-cigarettes. What do we know and what’s left to learn? Tune in today: http://Lung.org/lungcast

House Appropriators Release FY 2022 302(b) Funding Level Proposal

The House Appropriations Committee released its FY 2022 subcommittee allocation in advance of its meeting on June 29 to mark up the suballocations for all 12 spending bills. For FY 2022, the House Appropriations Committee proposes a discretionary spending allocation of $237.5 billion for the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill, a $63.4 (36%) increase over FY 2021 reported CQ (subscription required).

The mark up of the 302(b) allocations coincides with the full committee’s first markup of the FY 2022 season of the Legislative Branch and Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bills. The Labor-HHS-Education spending bill, including funding for the NIH, is scheduled for a July 12 markup in the subcommittee followed by full committee consideration on July 15.

Lawmakers Introduce Cures 2.0 Including ARPA-H Authorization

Reps. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) and Fred Upton (R-Mich.) released a discussion draft of the Cures 2.0 Act on June 22, legislation aimed at accelerating medical research and patient access to novel therapeutics. Specifically, Cures 2.0 would build upon the 21st Century Cures Act passed in 2016 and would authorize President Joe Biden’s Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) within the NIH.
In a joint press release, DeGette and Upton stated that the government “has amazing resources at its disposal and now is the time to put the full weight of those resources to use to cure some of the world’s most devastating diseases.”

**White House, NIH Leaders Author Commentary on ARPA-H**
NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Eric Lander, PhD led a June 22 Science commentary on a vision for ARPA-H. As summarized in the related NIH news release, the authors note that “ARPA-H should embrace a culture and approach similar to that of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to champion innovative ideas in health and medicine. ... Projects supported by ARPA-H would focus on solving practical problems that foster breakthroughs to serve patients equitably — at levels ranging from the molecular to the societal — and drive them to the point of adoption.” The administration also released a White House fact sheet on the ARPA-H proposal.

**White House Scientific Integrity Task Force Seeks Public Feedback on Scientific Integrity Policies**
The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued a June 28 request for information (RFI) to “inform the [Scientific Integrity] Task Force’s recommendations to ensure robust and accurate evidence-based policymaking and to restore public trust in government.” OSTP described the rationale for the RFI in a June 25 news release. The 50-member task force, comprised of federal research agency staff, is currently reviewing existing policies regarding scientific integrity to “improve the lives of the American people, inform innovative and equitable policy, and revitalize the confidence of the American public in its government.” The RFI is open to the public and responses are due by July 28.

**NIH Begins Study Of COVID-19 Vaccination During Pregnancy and Postpartum**
The National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is sponsoring a newly launched trial to evaluate the immune response to SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in pregnant and postpartum people detailed a June 23 NIH news release. The study, MOMI-VAX, will enroll a total of 1,000 pregnant and postpartum people and will also study the transfer of antibodies to the baby through the placenta and breast milk. “The results of this study will fill gaps in our knowledge and help inform policy recommendations and personal decision-making on COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and in the postpartum period,” NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD, stated.

**Upcoming Events**

**A Lifestyle Epidemic: Ocular Surface Disease – July 13**
In recognition of Dry Eye Awareness Month, Alliance For Eye And Vision Research (AEVR) in conjunction with Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS), will be holding a globally streamed congressional briefing on July 13, 2021, from 12:00-1:00 PM EDT. This interview-style discussion led by AEVR Executive Director James Jorkasky and key leaders from TFOS will address the latest in lifestyle and environmental factors that result in dry eye.
To attend on-site/receive Live Stream link, RSVP to: 202-407-8325 or Dinabeau@aol.com. More information about the meeting and other upcoming AEVR events can be found on the AEVR 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.

Virtual Rally for Medical Research - September 22-23
The Rally for Medical Research is held every September and includes more than 300 national organizations coming together to call on our nation’s policymakers to make funding for National Institutes of Health (NIH) a national priority and raise awareness about the importance of continued investment in medical research that leads to more progress, more hope, and more lives saved. This year’s event will be held virtually on September 22-23. For more information to register, please visit rallyformedicalresearch.org.

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.

NEW Public Comment on Proposed National Priorities for Health – August 27
PCORI’s work is guided by a set of national priorities and a research agenda that provide a framework for our funding of patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research. Beginning in 2020, we embarked on a strategic initiative to identify new priorities to direct our work in the years ahead.

In the latest step in this process, our Board of Governors at its June meeting approved posting for public comment five proposed National Priorities for Health developed in consultation with hundreds of stakeholders, advisors, and experts. We invite your comments on the proposed National Priorities for Health during the public comment period June 28 to August 27 and look forward to sharing an overview of the proposed national priorities on a June 29 webinar.

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

APA Seeks Senior Directors, Congressional and Federal Relations

The American Psychological Association (APA) Advocacy Office is recruiting for two Senior Directors of Congressional and Federal Relations. Both positions focus primarily on science government relations: to serve as liaisons for federal science funding agencies, cover science policy issues and represent APA in coalitions and partnerships (portfolios to be determined). One of the positions is Masters degree preferred; the other is doctoral degree preferred. You can apply via the APA Jobs gateway.

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](#).

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**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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