

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – July 9, 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](#):

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center [@fredhutch](#)

Thank you [@RoyBlunt](#) [@PattyMurray](#) [@rosadelauro](#) [@TomColeOK04](#) [@herrerabeutler](#) for proposing a strong increase to [@NIH](#) budget to support groundbreaking cancer research. With support from Congress and constituents, Fred Hutch will [#CureCancerFaster](#). [#FundNIH](#)

1. House Appropriations Labor-HHS Markup – July 11

The House Appropriations Committee [is scheduled to mark up](#) the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) bill on July 11th. This follows a June 15 markup of the [draft fiscal year \(FY\) 2019 spending bill](#) in the L-HHS Subcommittee. As detailed in the [report](#), 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 out of subcommittee by voice vote, with Democratic opposition. Read the Ad Hoc Group's full press statement [here](#).

2. Senate Appropriations Committee Passes FY 2019 Spending Bill

The Senate Appropriations Committee June 28 approved its Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill ([S. 3158](#), [S.Rept. 115-289](#)), approved by the subcommittee two days earlier. The bill provides a program level of \$39.1 billion for the NIH, a \$2 billion (5.4 %) increase over the comparable FY 2018 funding level. The committee report estimates that the funding level in the bill would support over 11,400 new and competing grants in FY 2019. Under the Senate bill, all institutes and centers would receive at least a 3.2 percent increase over the FY 2018 funding levels. The Ad Hoc Group released [a June 26 statement](#) following the Labor-HHS Subcommittee markup of the bill, thanking Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) for their bipartisan efforts on the bill.

3. Pew: US Public Views Federally Supported Science, Medical Research as Good Investment

The Pew Research Center July 3 [released](#) a survey finding that Americans are strongly supportive of government investment in medical and scientific research. About 80% of US adults agree that government investments in medical research "pay off in the long run," with a slightly smaller percentage affirming the same for basic research. Trends nevertheless indicate increasingly divergent views when it comes to support of research, where there had been no significant divide in a previous study conducted in 2001. This was the first survey to include specific views on medical research and to invite comparison of government with private investment in research.

4. NIH Director's Blog: Independence Day and *All of Us*

In a [July 3 blog post](#), NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD shares that the Fourth of July "stands as a reminder of the many new opportunities that our nation and its people continue to

pursue”, including through NIH’s All of Us Research Program. He calls on readers to join together in a community effort to advance precision medicine through participation in the recently launched research program.

5. Open Mike: NCATS Trial Innovation Network

Mike Lauer, MD, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, [posted](#) on his Open Mike Blog this week a description of the Trial Innovation Network supported by the NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program hubs. He writes that “the goal of the TIN [Trial Innovation Network] is to conduct high quality multi-site clinical trials faster and more cost-efficiently through the provision of services such as single IRB and standard contract agreements or by helping investigators develop robust recruitment and retention plans.” The post describes the TIN’s configuration and services for investigators, noting, “investigators do not need to be at a CTSA institution to request TIN support.”

6. Open Mike: Rigorous Resources for Rigorous Research

In another Open Mike [blog post](#), Mike Lauer, MD, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, summarizes the presentation from the working group on rigor and reproducibility at the June NIH Advisory Committee to the Director meeting. Dr. Lauer covers various topics: highlighting existing resources and products for developing better proposals; clarifying what is meant by scientific premise; sharing examples of useful authentication plans; integrating rigor into training and the responsible conduct of research; and assessing outcomes of rigor policies. Dr. Lauer also noted that an overarching theme was a preference for resources over forms and checklists.

7. Open Mike: When to Share or When Not to Share, that is the Privacy Question

In a third Open Mike [blog post](#), Dr. Lauer discusses how the NIH is “now able to better safeguard the privacy of the extramural application process, including work products resulting from peer review.” This is a result of the [“Final Rule”](#) on records used in managing NIH research and development applications and awards throughout the award lifecycle. Dr. Lauer states that the Final Rule “ensures that certain products developed during peer review remain confidential and exempted from release under the Privacy Act.”

8. Inside Higher Ed: Reps Lamar Smith and Clay Higgins on Foreign Agents Targeting American Research

House Science Committee Chair Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and Committee-member Rep. Clay Higgins (R-La.) write that “without stifling academic freedom, academic institutions must take steps to guard against thefts of sensitive information” in an Inside Higher Ed [article](#). They discuss recent cases of theft of American technology by Iranian and Chinese nationals, as well as other potential threats, and recommend that “research institutions that receive public funds should be required to comply with sensible security standards.”

9. NIH: Making Neighborhood-Disadvantage Metrics Accessible - The Neighborhood Atlas

An NIH [press release](#) profiled a new, NIH-funded socioeconomic data set developed by Amy Kind, MD, PhD, and William Buckingham, PhD, of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and UW’s Applied Population Laboratory. The developers published

a [perspective](#) in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) on this resource which helps researchers view socioeconomic data at a community level. The resource, the [Neighborhood Atlas](#), was developed with support from the NIH's National Institute on Aging and National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and based on the Area Deprivation Index updated with current American Community Survey data. The NIH press release added, "Dr. Kind noted that the Neighborhood Atlas and its data can be harnessed as a new way to advance disparities-focused research, suggesting it can be used to improve translational, clinical and community research by showing ways to aid design, recruitment, retention and outreach."

10. 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

11. SACHRP Meeting on July 10-11

The Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SAHCRP) will meet July 10th and 11th at 6001 Executive Blvd, Rockville, Md. The meeting is free and open to the public; time each day is allotted for public comment. An [agenda](#) and information on webcast is posted. Topics include: "key information" in the revised Common Rule; SACHRP's response to the Office of the Inspector General report of July 2017 "OHRP Generally Conducted its Compliance Activities Independently but Changes Would Strengthen its Independence"; OHRP draft guidance on three burden-reducing provisions of the revised Common Rule; and an update on issues pertaining to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation.

12. 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 House Office Building. Please RSVP to dinabeau@aol.com and see attached flyer for more details.

13. Coalition for the Life Sciences Congressional Briefing – July 11

The Coalition for the Life Sciences and the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus are hosting a briefing titled: Water Bears: What They Are Revealing about How Life Can Survive in Extreme Conditions. The briefing will take place July 11 from 12-1pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP to Lynn Marquis at cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org and see the attached flyer for more information.

14. Congressional Briefing on Biomedical Engineering and the Opioid Epidemic – July 13

Please join the American Institute for Medical & Biological Engineering as well as the Congressional Research and Development Caucus and the Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus for a Congressional briefing titled: Fighting Pain Without Drugs: Industry Efforts to Combat the Opioid Epidemic Made Possible by Biomedical Engineering. The event

will take place Friday, July 13 from 12-1pm in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP to smandell@aimbe.org and see the attached flyer for additional information.

15. Population Association of America Congressional Briefing – July 16

Please join the Population Association of America for a Congressional briefing titled Momentum Shift: How the Millennial Generation is reshaping America. The event will take place July 16 from 2-3pm in 2168 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP to CRDFellow@dc-crd.com and see the attached flyer for additional details.

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

17. NIH Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning – July 23

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are advancing rapidly and in use across industries, including biomedical research and health care delivery. For this full-day public workshop, NIH is bringing together leaders in innovation and science to explore the opportunities for AI and ML to accelerate medical advances from biomedical research. Workshop participants will hear from leading industry experts and scientists who are employing AI/ML in biomedical research settings. Speakers will cover a range of issues including the promise of integrating AI technology into health care, how it is being used in biomedical research, its potential for enhancing clinical care and scientific discovery. The event will take place Monday, July 23, from 8:45am – 4:40pm on the NIH Main Campus. Please [register](#) to attend in-person, or visit the [event page](#) for more details.

18. 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.

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.