



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

July 13, 2020

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:

Vanderbilt Government Relations @Vanderbilt GR – July 10

Thanks to support from [@NIH](#), discovery of aggressive cancer cell types by [@VUmedicine](#) researchers made possible with machine learning techniques [#keepNIHstrong](#) [@UMR4NIH](#)

House FY 21 Report Language Released in Advance of July 13 Markup

The House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee [on July 12](#) released [report language](#) to accompany its [FY 2021 spending bill](#). According to the report, the FY 2021 Committee recommendation for NIH includes an increase of \$500 million in non-emergency budget authority, as well as \$5 billion in emergency appropriations. Not less than \$2.5 billion of the emergency appropriations “must be transferred to Institutes and Centers in proportion to their share of appropriations in fiscal year 2020. Each Institute and Center will receive an increase of at least 7% over the 2020 enacted level.”

The full House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark up the FY 2021 Labor-HHS spending bill on [Monday, July 13, at 1pm](#).

NIH Posts COVID-19 Guidance for Preparing Fall 2020 Applications

The NIH Office of the Director [released new guidance](#) on July 8 for preparing grant applications with fall 2020 due dates, the earliest being September 25. The guidance states that NIH grant applications should not include COVID-19 contingency plans and that reviewers will be instructed to disregard situations due to COVID-19.

Data Harmonization, Sharing and COVID-19 Research

National Institute on Aging leaders Lisbeth Nielson, PhD, director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Research and Kenneth Santora, PhD, director of the Division of Extramural Activities shared NIH's efforts to streamline, harmonize, and organize COVID-19 data in a [July 8 blog post](#). The blog post provides existing resources with data collection tools, measurement protocols, and public health crisis tools. The blog also shares NIH's efforts to address health disparities through research on community and digital health interventions related to COVID-19.

Neuron: NINDS Strategies for Enhancing Neuroscience Workforce Diversity

Michelle Jones-London Ph.D., director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity, authored a [July 10 editorial in *Neuron*](#) outlining efforts at NIH to promote workforce diversity in neuroscience. [According to the NIH press release](#), “NINDS recognizes the benefits of a diverse workforce in neuroscience research and has established a variety of programs to help achieve that goal. Structural biases and racism in the neuroscience workforce are existing issues that can be changed with a commitment from everyone at the individual, institutional, and community levels.”

Open Mike: Addressing Foreign Government Influence in Research

In a [July 8 Open Mike blog post](#), NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, discusses the June 23 presentation of Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Kelvin Droegemeier, PhD, on “Enhancing the Security and Integrity of America’s Research Enterprise.” Dr. Lauer highlights five key takeaway messages and summarizes the presentation and “how it fits within the context of NIH extramural research.” As Dr. Lauer outlines how the NIH and the biomedical community are addressing foreign government influence, he also emphasizes the importance of collaboration with scientists in foreign countries.

Bridging the Gap: From Research to Policy

Ellen T. Kurtzman, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, associate professor from the George Washington University School of Nursing, shared lessons learned from her year as a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow as a [guest author for the National Library of Medicine’s *Musings from the Mezzanine* blog](#). Dr. Kurtzman shared lessons learned and possible solutions from her time as a congressional staffer to better align the research and policymaking worlds, including finding policy in all things such as in medical professions training, re-defining scholarship, and positioning researchers to contribute to policy discussions.

Requests for Public Comment

Deadline Extended: NCCIH Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – July 13

NIH’s National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) issued an April 27 [request for information](#) on the Center’s five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, “The NCCIH is developing a new strategic plan to guide the Center’s research efforts and priority setting for 2021 through 2026. Seeking input into the strategic planning process is critical for identification and consideration of research areas and topics to be included in the new plan. NCCIH is requesting input in any or all of 9 topic areas.” [Comments are due](#) by July 13.

NIGMS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – July 31

NIH’s National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) is [requesting feedback](#) on its [draft strategic plan framework](#). A June 8 Feedback Loop blog post explains that the NIGMS is seeking input on the NIGMS’s goals and objectives, additional areas to be included in the framework, performance measures for evaluation, and other suggestions. [Comments are due by July 31](#).

NIH Requests Comments on Improving Biomedical Research Involving Animal Models – July 31

The NIH posted a [request for information](#) (RFI) “aimed at enhancing rigor, transparency, and translatability to improve biomedical and behavioral research involving animal models,” according to an Open Mike [blog post](#) by NIH deputy director for extramural research Mike Lauer, MD. A [working group](#) of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director will consider responses to this request as they draft their final report expected in December. Comments should be [submitted online](#) and are due July 31.

NIDDK Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – July 31

NIH’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) issued a March 16 [request for information](#) on the institute’s five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, “The goal of the process is to develop a broad vision for accelerating research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions within the Institute’s mission,” and focuses on five broad themes for community input. [Comments are due](#) by July 31.

NIDA Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – August 7

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) [issued a Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) seeking feedback on an outline for the NIDA Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025. NIDA specifically seeks feedback on: the scientific goals and actions articulated in the framework including additional areas of opportunity that should be included in the plan; drawbacks or challenges to accomplishing these goals and actions; cross-cutting research topics and approaches articulated in the framework; and ways to ensure widespread dissemination and implementation of the plan. You may submit your comments via email to: NIDAstrategicPlan@nida.nih.gov.

NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is embarking on an institute-wide strategic planning process, and published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so [through this form](#).

Upcoming Events

Virtual Rally for Medical Research – Sept. 16-17

The Rally for Medical Research is held every September and includes more than 300 national organizations coming together in support of 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 16-17. For more information and to register, please visit <https://rallyformedicalresearch.org>.

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 four COVID-19 supplemental packages (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; Families First Coronavirus Response Act; the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act; and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act).

Job Postings

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.

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.*