

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – July 15, 2019

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 Cancer Society @AmericanCancer](#)

"#HPV vaccination is cancer prevention. The human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common infection that can cause six types of cancer. Get all the facts about HPV cancer prevention at <http://cancer.org/HPV> #HPVCancerFree"

### 1. Negotiations Continue on Budget Caps, Debt Ceiling Solution

Negotiations between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin regarding budget caps and the debt ceiling continued the week of July 8. The negotiations follow an updated report from the Bipartisan Policy Center estimating an early September debt default. [Sec. Mnuchin](#) and [Speaker Pelosi](#) exchanged letters July 12 and July 13, with Sec. Mnuchin urging Congress to increase the debt ceiling before August recess, and Speaker Pelosi urging a two-year budget caps deal. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet drafted FY 2020 spending bills in the absence of finalized budget cap numbers.

### 2. House-Passed NDAA Includes Bill on Foreign Influence

The House of Representatives July 12 passed its fiscal year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA, [H.R. 2500](#)). The bill also included the Securing American Science and Technology Act (SASTA, [H.R. 3038](#)) as Section 1089. According to the NDAA report language, SASTA would "establish an interagency working group to coordinate activities for the protection of federally funded research and development from foreign interference while accounting for an exchange of ideas and for the international talent required for scientific progress and American leadership in science."

### 3. NIH Posts Reminder on Policies Related to Conflict of Interest, Foreign Activities

The NIH July 10 issued a [guide notice](#) reminding institutions and investigators of their responsibilities under the NIH Grants Policy Statement to "report foreign activities through documentation of other support, foreign components, and financial conflict of interest to prevent scientific, budgetary, or commitment overlap." In an *Open Mike* [blog post](#), NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, notes that noncompliance may lead to withholding or termination of awards or a referral for investigator suspension or debarment.

### 4. NINDS, NIGMS Commit to Diversity at Conferences

Following NIH Director Francis Collins' June 12 [statement](#) that he will no longer participate in male-only panels, or "manels," Directors of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) shared their support for committing to diversity. NINDS Director Walter Koroshetz, MD, [explained](#) that NINDS has developed materials to assist conference organizers in increasing diversity in speaker panels and conference participation. The NIGMS Director John Lorsch, PhD, issued a [statement](#) that NIGMS staff will "will only attend meetings and conferences where the organizers

have shown a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion in their selection of chairs, speakers, and panelists.”

#### **5. NIH Extramural Nexus Updates**

The NIH Office of Extramural Research shared several recent updates on grant applications and inclusion. Staff June 28 [posted](#) a short guide to explain the differences between a grant application “project summary/abstract” and a “project narrative”, both of which will be publicly available on the NIH RePORTER if a grant is funded. Another June 28 [NIH post](#) points to a new “All About Grants” podcast episode on writing a strong fellowship application. A July 9 [blog post](#) explains how to find information on NIH’s new Inclusion Policies for Research Involving Human Subjects, such as information on the inclusion of women, minorities, and individuals of all ages.

#### **6. NIEHS Director Announces Retirement**

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, July 9 [announced](#) the October 3, 2019 retirement of National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Director Linda Birnbaum, PhD, DABT, ATS. Dr. Birnbaum became NIEHS director in 2009. Deputy Director Richard Woychik, PhD, will serve as Interim Director during the search for Dr. Birnbaum’s replacement.

#### **7. NEI Director Announces Retirement**

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, June 27 [announced](#) the July 29, 2019 retirement of National Eye Institute (NEI) Director Paul Sieving, MD, PhD. Dr. Sieving became NEI director in 2001 and will be leaving to take on a new role to establish the Center for Ocular Regenerative Therapy at the University of California, Davis. Deputy Director Santa Tumminia, PhD, will serve as Interim Director during the search for Dr. Sieving’s replacement.

#### **8. Summary Video: AACR-sponsored Congressional Briefing on E-Cigarettes**

A special [highlight video](#) was produced from the June 12th American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Congressional briefing, “E-cigarettes and Nicotine Addiction: A Potential Health Crisis for Youth and Young Adults.” The briefing was the largest attended Congressional briefing that the AACR has organized, including RSVPs from 150 Congressional staffers. The video provides important information about e-cigarettes, a device not well understood by many, especially the nation’s youth and young adults.

### **Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events**

#### **9. NIH Caucus Congressional Briefing – July 24**

Please join the Congressional NIH Caucus for a briefing titled, “The NIH BRAIN Initiative: Revolutionizing Our Understanding of the Human Brain.” The briefing will take place Wednesday, July 24, from 12:00-1:30pm in 485 Russell Senate Office Building. Please see attached flyer for more information and RSVP to [RSVP@ACTforNIHFoundation.org](mailto:RSVP@ACTforNIHFoundation.org).

#### **10. Rally for Medical Research – September 18-19**

Join a broad coalition of stakeholders representing millions of patients and other advocates from the medical research advocacy community on September 18-19, 2019, for the next Rally for

Medical Research Hill Day and help raise awareness of the urgent need for continued investment in the NIH to improve health, spur more progress, inspire more hope, and save more lives. Please visit the [event website](#) for more information and to register. Registration closes August 30.

### **11. NIH Fall Regional Seminar – Nov. 6-8**

The NIH is hosting the Fall 2019 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Phoenix, AZ, from Wednesday, Nov. 6- Friday Nov. 8. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about the program and to [register](#). Early registration rates apply through June 30.

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).