Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – July 16, 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:

United For Medical Research @UMR4NIH
"Introducing #AmazingThings Podcast Newsmaker interviews. First up, @TomColeOK04 talks @NIH and the importance of America's investment in medical research #keepNIHstrong"

1. **House Appropriations Committee Passes Labor-HHS Spending Bill**

The House Appropriations Committee July 11 amended and passed its version of the FY 2019 Labor-HHS spending bill by a party line vote of 30-22. The committee adopted 18 amendments to the subcommittee-passed bill, the majority of which related to the separation of immigrant families at the US border. The updated bill maintains the subcommittee-approved funding level of $38.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2019, reflecting a $1.25 billion (3.4 percent) increase over the comparable FY 2018 funding level. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the Labor-HHS bill June 28, and is expected to take up its Labor-HHS bill on the Senate floor – for the first time since 2007 – potentially as soon as the week of July 30.

2. **NIH: Expiring Appropriations and What It Means for You**

The NIH posted a short podcast and video on 'Expiring Appropriations,' which informs listeners on "how you know if you have expiring funds, what to do if you find yourself in this situation, and whether money can be restored." The NIH Grants Policy Statement has more information on this topic.

3. **NIH Partners with VA to Boost Veteran Access to Cancer Clinical Trials**

The NIH July 10 announced an official partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase veterans' access to cancer clinical trials. The partnership joins the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the VA to form the Interagency Group to Accelerate Trials Enrollment (NAVIGATE), which will launch at 12 VA sites across the country, and will "enhance the ability of veterans to participate in trials carried out through NCI's National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) and the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). This partnership is intended not only to aid veterans in receiving more timely access to clinical trials, but is also expected to speed up the completion of the NCTN and NCORP trials.

4. **Open Mike Blog: Charting Your Small Business' Course**

Jodi Black, PhD, Deputy Director of the NIH Office of Extramural Research (OER), and Matthew Portnoy, PhD, Program Manager of the NNS SBIR/STTR Program, July 10 posted a guest blog post on the Open Mike Blog. The authors discussed the importance of commercializing research discoveries for a fruitful transition into clinical use, and highlighted the important role of small businesses in achieving this goal. The rest of the blog details opportunities supported by NIH that aim to assist researchers in commercializing their products. They reviewed the role and processes involved in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business

Technology Transfer Research (STTR) programs, the eight-week I-Corps ™ at NIH program, various assistance programs for SBIR/STTR applicants, and mentoring opportunities for awardees.

5. NCATS Director's Corner: Bringing Translational Science to the Opioid Crisis

A Director's Corner post by NCATS Director Christopher Austin, MD, discusses the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translation Sciences' (NCATS) role in the Helping to End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) Initiative. Dr. Austin explains that "research has an important role to play in understanding the underlying biology of addiction and pain, developing new interventions to treat them, and determining which interventions are most effective." Under the HEAL Initiative, NCATS is using several existing resources to lead a trans-NIH effort to "develop innovative, human cell-based screening platforms and novel drugs to treat opioid misuse, addiction and pain."

6. FDA Statement on Advancing Development of Gene Therapies

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Scott Gottlieb announced six new FDA draft guidance documents on gene therapy for specific diseases and manufacturing gene therapies. Dr. Gottlieb explained that the goal of the FDA is to create a "modern, comprehensive framework for how we'll help advance the field of gene therapy while making sure new products meet the FDA's gold standard for safety and effectiveness." The statement also solicits public input on the draft guidance documents.

7. SACHRP Discusses Recent Common Rule Revisions

The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP) held a public meeting July 10-11 and discussed the recent revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects ("Common Rule"), which institutions, researchers, and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) must implement before the January 21, 2019 compliance date. The regulations are scheduled to go into effect July 19, 2018. SACHRP discussed recommendations for the revised expedited review list and appropriate compensation for research subject participation, and dedicated significant time to the Committee's draft commentary on the new requirements for informed consent. On September 7, the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) will host its first workshop on the revised Common Rule, "Meeting New Challenges in Informed Consent in Clinical Research."

8. NASEM Releases Report on Returning Results to Participants

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) July 10 released a report titled "Returning Individual Research Results to Participants." Covered in a STAT article, the report discusses the fact that most research results are not currently returned to participates, largely due to worries about misinterpretation of results, un-validated results, and the labor involved. Still, the report concludes, returning research results to patients should be cautiously but routinely considered. An NIH Office of Science Policy "Under the Poliscope" blog post discusses the report and the importance of thinking of 'human research subjects' as 'research participants.'

9. 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

10. 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.

11. American Association for Cancer Research Briefing – July 18

Please join the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) for a Congressional briefing titled "E-Cigarettes: Striking a Balance between Preventing Youth Nicotine Addiction and Helping Current Adult Smokers Quite Combustible Cigarettes." The event will take place on Wednesday, July 18, at noon in 385 Russell Senate Office Building. This briefing will update the audience on the latest science pertaining to the effects and content of e-cigarettes and will discuss the growing problem of youth use of e-cigarettes, including a first-hand perspective of their impact from a reporter with *The New Yorker*. Please RSVP here and see the attached flyer for additional details.

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

13. Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges Briefing – July 19

Please join the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) for a Congressional briefing titled "It's A Dog's Life (that may save yours!)" on July 19 from noon to 1:30pm in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP to Christian Elkins at celkins@aavmc.org and see the attached flyer for additional information.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. Learn Serve Lead – November 2-6, 2018

Learn Serve Lead 2018 - the AAMC Annual Meeting is open for registration. The November 2-6 event takes place in Austin, Texas and will draw 4500-plus attendees including a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to four plenary sessions including *Grit* author and researcher Angela Duckworth, PhD, and civil and women's rights leader Anita Hill, JD, there are more than 130 concurrent sessions. Some of the slated sessions include:
- Improving Population Health Through Learner-Engaged Research
- Rightsizing Research Infrastructure
- Achieving Health Equity through Research: Innovations From NIMHD-Funded Science
- Unhealthy Politics: The Battle over Evidence-Based Medicine

Discounted registration is available through August 31.