

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – July 17, 2017

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 welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here's this week's featured tweet:

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research (@FundNIH)

Read the Ad Hoc Group's statement on the draft House Labor-HHS Appropriations bill at <https://www.aamc.org/research/adhocgp/7.13.17HHSBill.pdf> #FundNIH

1. House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Approves FY 2018 Bill

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education [took action](#) on its fiscal year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, sending the bill to the full committee by way of a party line vote. The full committee markup is [scheduled](#) to take place at 10:00am on Wednesday, July 19 in 2359 Rayburn House Office Building. The measure provides \$34.7 billion in base funding for NIH, a \$943.4 million (2.8 percent) increase over the comparable FY 2017 funding level, which Subcommittee Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) described “as a floor, not as a ceiling for biomedical research funding” in his opening remarks. The bill also fully utilizes the \$496 million designated for specific NIH initiatives in the Innovation Account established in the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255), bringing the bill's total NIH funding level to \$35.2 billion in FY 2018. The Ad Hoc Group [issued a statement](#) upon the release of the bill text expressing appreciation for the Subcommittees support of the NIH, but also expressed a need to increase spending caps to ensure strong, predictable funding growth above inflation.

2. Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Joins Community Letter on FY 2018 Spending Caps

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research [joined](#) the advocacy community on a July 11 community letter asking congressional leadership to consider spending cap increases for FY 2018. In a letter to House and Senate Leaders, coordinated by Research!America, over 200 organizations urged lawmakers to “negotiate another bipartisan budget agreement that advances the nation's health and raises the non-defense and defense spending caps established under the 2011 Budget Control act (BCA).”

3. Sen. Chris Coons Op-Ed: R&D is Essential for Boosting the American Economy

On July 11, Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) [wrote](#) an opinion piece in The Hill making the case for a continued investment in research and development (R&D). After speaking about his experience as an Amherst College chemistry graduate, Sen. Coons describes his concern with the proposed cuts laid out by the Trump Administration, saying “These cuts have real, direct, and long-term consequences,” calling investments in R&D “absolutely vital to the U.S. economy.”

4. White House Announces Appointment of HHS Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources

On July 13, the White House [announced](#) President Trump's intent to nominate John Bartrum to be assistant secretary for financial resources at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The announcement notes Mr. Bartrum's previous work experience as a senior professional staffer to the House Appropriations Committee, budget director at the NIH, and professional staff in the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

5. NIH Researcher Featured in #IAMHHS Campaign

On July 11, the HHS [featured](#) NIH Clinical Center Researcher Michelle Holshue, RN, in its #IAmHHS campaign. According to the HHS website, the campaign is a multi-part video series that highlights employees' stories of their service, dedication, and discovery working for HHS. The feature piece describes Michelle's work abroad, back in her home state of Pennsylvania, and at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda. Michelle is also an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

6. AACR Congressional Briefing on the Progress in Immuno-Oncology

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and the Society for the Immunotherapy of Cancer invite you to a congressional briefing on Wednesday, July 19 entitled, "Progress in Immunology: Delivering Hope and Clinical Benefit to Cancer Patients." This briefing will highlight some of the exciting innovations that are being delivered through immuno-oncology, illustrate the hope that these advances are bringing to cancer patients, and note the challenges that still need to be overcome so that even more cancer patients can benefit from these revolutionary treatments. The briefing will be held from 12 to 1:30 pm in 485 Russell Senate Office Building. For a list of speakers and additional information, please visit the event [website](#). You may RSVP [here](#). Lunch will be provided at this widely attended event.

7. NAPHSIS Congressional Briefing on Death Data in Public Health

The National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) invites you to attend a congressional briefing entitled, "Till Death Do Us Part: The Value of Death Data in Public Health and Fraud Prevention." This briefing for congressional staff and other stakeholders will provide important information about death records and how they are being used to promote and protect health, safety, and security. In particular, speakers will discuss how vital records are being used to fight the opioid epidemic and prevent fraud. This briefing will take place in the Gold Room (2168) of Rayburn House Office building on July 18 from 3 to 4 pm. Ice Cream will be served. More info on the attached flyer. To RSVP, email crdfellow3@DC-CRD.com.

8. Friends of NIDA Briefing on Opioid Use Disorder Prevention Methods

The Friends of NIDA, in cooperation with the Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, the Prescription Drug Abuse Caucus, and the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force, invite you to a congressional lunch briefing entitled, "Preventing Opioid Use Disorders: Community Based Approaches that Work." This briefing discussion will cover prevention research funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) along with community-based and focused prevention approaches that have yielded positive outcomes to help reduce the impact of the opioid epidemic. This briefing is scheduled for July 25 from 12 to 1:30pm in 2226 Rayburn House Office Building. [Use this link to RSVP](#). For questions, contact Cynthia Malley at cmalley@apa.org.

9. Golden Goose Awards

The [Golden Goose Awards](#) celebrate the stories of how basic research delivers major societal impacts – from NIH-funded [massages for baby rats](#) that changed how we treat premature babies (and saved billions in health care costs) to the once canceled NIH-funded [adolescent health study](#) that informs everything from school curricula to public health programs. Each year, three teams of researchers are showcased through written stories and documentary videos, and honored with an award ceremony in Washington, DC each fall. The award depends on the support of partners in the science community, and more than twenty different organizations in our community and beyond contribute each year. Attached are the 2017

Golden Goose Award Sponsorship opportunities (also on the Golden Goose Awards [website](#)). The deadline for sponsoring is Sept 6.

10. Join the 2017 Rally for Medical Research Hill Day: Sept 13-14

[Registration](#) for the Rally for Medical Research is now open. For five consecutive years, the Rally for Medical Research Hill Day's has raised awareness during a critical time about the urgent need for an increased investment in the NIH to improve health, spur more progress, inspire more hope and save more lives. The Rally for Medical Research Hill Day is scheduled to take place on Thursday, Sept. 14, in Washington D.C. A reception will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 13 on Capitol Hill from 5:30 to 7:30 pm following a Hill Day training session at 3:00 pm at the [Grand Hyatt](#). Additionally, a hotel room block has been reserved on a first come, first served basis at the Grand Hyatt, Washington DC. Specific questions may be directed to info@rallyformedicalresearch.org and for organizations interested in sponsoring the event, more information is available at: <http://rallyformedicalresearch.org/Pages/Hill-Day-Sponsors-2017.aspx>. Follow the Rally on Twitter @RallyforNIH or join the group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RallyMedRes/>

11. FasterCures Convenes “Partnering for Cures” in San Francisco

Since 2009, [Partnering for Cures](#) (P4C) has been convening leaders with the experience, creativity, and motivation needed to transform the medical research system. The event is convened annually by [FasterCures](#), a center of the Milken Institute, and connects decision-makers from across diseases who are motivated by the same mission – to reduce the time and cost of getting new therapies from discovery to patients. *FasterCures* is taking P4C on the road and convening a smaller, cross-sector group of medical research leaders in San Francisco. Registration is now open for P4C San Francisco on Nov. 14. Find out more information at <http://www.partneringforcures.org/>.

12. Job Opening: Communications Manager at FASEB

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a non-profit scientific organization, seeks a Communications Manager to develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive public relations program for the Office of Public Affairs, including managing FASEB social media accounts and programs. A [position description](#) is available on FASEB's website. Applications can be submitted online through the [FASEB Employment Opportunities portal](#). NOTE: this position is different than the Director of Communications opportunity that was advertised in April.

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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.