



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up

July 23, 2020

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the publication!

Congressional and NIH News

Senate Republican COVID-19 Aid Package Expected Soon

The Senate Republican proposal for the next COVID-19 emergency supplemental funding package is expected to be revealed as early as today, according to the most updated news reports. Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) told reporters that the package will more likely be a series of bills to address coronavirus impacts on health care and the economy ([CQ, subscription required](#)). Meetings between Senate Republicans and the White House have been ongoing this week in order to iron out the final details of the expected \$1 trillion package.

House Appropriations Committee Advances FY 2021 Spending Bill

The House Appropriations Committee [on July 20](#) released [text](#) and a [division-by-division summary](#) of H.R. 7617, a “minibus” spending package that combines seven of the FY 2021 annual spending bills – including the Labor-HHS-Education bill (H.R. 7614) in Division F – as reported by the House Appropriations Committee, with modifications. The committee press release notes that the House is expected to consider the minibus beginning the week of July 27. BGOV reported on July 22 that House progressives have expressed frustration with the inclusion of the Homeland Security spending bill in the seven bill minibus ([subscription required](#)).

According to the committee-prepared summary, the minibus “provides a total of \$47 billion for NIH,” which includes “\$42 billion in annual appropriations, an increase of \$500 million above the 2020 enacted level and \$8.6 billion above the President’s budget request, as well as \$5 billion in emergency appropriations,” as approved by the House Appropriations Committee.

The deadline for members to submit amendments for the House’s second spending package, which includes the Labor-HHS-Education funding bill is 4:30 p.m. on July 23, and submitted amendments are listed on the [House Committee on Rules website](#).

Dr. Fauci to Testify Before House Select Subcommittee

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, MD, [will testify before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis](#) on Friday, July 31, at 9:00 am. The hybrid virtual hearing, “The Urgent Need for A National Plan to Contain The Coronavirus,” will also include testimony from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield, MD, and Assistant Secretary for Health Department of Health and Human Services Adm. Brett Giroir, MD.

NIH Leadership Outlines Initiative to Ramp Up COVID-19 Tests

A [July 22 NIH News Release](#) summarizes goals of the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program to “increase significantly the number, quality and type of daily tests for detecting SARS-Cov_2... and help reduce inequities for underserved populations that have disproportionately affected by the disease.” The RADx framework has been published by NIH leadership as a [Special Report in the New England Journal of Medicine](#), and summarizes the four major components to RADx: RADx Tech to identify, develop and scale up innovative point-of-care technologies; RADx Advanced Technology Platforms (RADx-ATP) to support scaling-up of advanced technologies; RADx Radical to focus on non-traditional approaches for testing; and RADx Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) to engage communities to establish projects to improve access to testing.

STAT: NIH to Being “Flurry” of COVID-19 Treatment Studies

[STAT reported on July 23](#) an interview with NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, in which he cited that the NIH will soon launch a series of clinical trials into COVID-19 treatments. The trials are a part of NIH’s Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) partnership and are slated to include studies of antiviral monoclonal antibodies, immune system modifiers, and blood thinners.

Russell Vought Confirmed as OMB Director

Russell Vought was [confirmed](#) by the Senate to be director of the Office of Management and Budget on July 20. He had been serving as the Acting Director since January 2019.

Ad Hoc Member Resources

COVID-19 - Back to Campus: A Course on COVID-19 Safety

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has collaborated with member institutions and CITI Program to [launch a complimentary course to train research faculty and team members, research staff, students, and other staff at medical schools and research organizations on COVID-19 safety](#) as they return to campus this fall. The highlights of the course include a discussion of recommendations from NIH, CDC, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as optional modules on specific research areas. Organizations may subscribe to this free course by October 1, and learners will receive a CITI Program completion report as evidence of successful training. [Download a demo and learn more about the course here.](#)

Upcoming Events

NIH Human Fetal Tissue Ethics Advisory Board Meeting – July 31

The NIH posted a Notice of the first [meeting of the NIH Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board](#) in the *Federal Register* on July 15. The [virtual meeting](#) will take place on July 31 and will be open to the public from 10-11:05 am. According to the notice, there will be a 20-minute public comment period during the open session, and interested parties should notify the meeting contact person at least 4 days in advance to reserve a time slot.

Webinar on FY 2022 Alzheimer's Bypass Budget – August 5

The FY 2022 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Bypass Budget (ADBB) is now live on the NIA website. You can read the Executive Summary [here](#), and the full report [here](#). National Institute of Aging staff will be holding a webinar on Wednesday, **August 5th, from 10-11am EST** for interested stakeholders, to review the themes that were selected for the narrative, to discuss how we are integrating the narrative into our overarching AD/ADRD outreach plan, and to answer your questions about using the narrative as an educational tool. Registration details will be available soon.

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.

[Funding opportunities specific to COVID-19](#) lists active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.

Job Postings

ASM Seeks a Regulatory Affairs Specialist

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM)'s Policy and Advocacy Department seeks an experienced Regulatory Affairs Specialist to strengthen its presence with federal agencies, specifically CMS and FDA, and proactively identify opportunities for ASM federal policy engagement on clinical and regulatory matters. This person will monitor, analyze, and report on regulatory activity that has the potential to affect the microbial sciences and clinical microbiology community in assigned policy areas, and work with ASM members and staff to develop position statements, testimony, and regulatory comments. View the full job description and [apply here](#). For more information about ASM, go to: www.asm.org

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.*