



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up- July 25, 2016

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets suggested by members of the 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.

*Editor's Note: With the House and Senate adjourned through September 5 for the summer recess, the Weekly Round Up will resume publication on September 6, 2016.*

#### 1. NIH Study on the Impact of Peer Review Scoring

In his Open Mike blog, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, M.D., July 22 [discussed](#) the results of a [study](#) conducted by staff in the NIH Office of Extramural Research that analyzed peer review scoring and its correlation with funding outcomes. The study found that an application's approach score and significance score were "the most important predictors" of its overall impact score and whether the application is funded.

#### 2. Article Provides Overview of the PMI Cohort Program

The *New York Times* July 23 [discussed](#) the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI) and provided an overview of the PMI Cohort Program. The article noted the Cohort Program's plan to enroll one million volunteers for a 10-year study that will study volunteer's genetic data, as well as lifestyle and environmental factors, in order to develop individualized treatments for patients. The article notes that health care providers will invite their patients to participate, and people can sign up for the Cohort Program through "academic medical centers at Columbia University, Northwestern University, the University of Arizona and the University of Pittsburgh, each of which is working with local partners."

#### 3. GAO Report on Streamlining Administrative Requirements

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) July 22 [released](#) a report on its recommendations for streamlining administrative requirements related to federal research grants. The GAO found that there are opportunities to reduce universities' and researchers' administrative workload and costs. The GAO recommends that OMB and federal agencies, such as NIH, should identify areas where administrative requirements can be standardized or made more flexible.

#### 4. Op-Ed Highlights the Importance of Federal Research Funding through NIH

Hollis Cline, Ph. D, a Hahn Professor of Neuroscience at The Scripps Research Institute and President of the Society for Neuroscience, July 20 [discussed](#) the importance of federal funding for biomedical research through the NIH. Cline noted Congress's recognition of NIH research by providing a \$2 billion increase in funding in fiscal year (FY) 2016, and noted the Senate Appropriation Committee's recent FY 2017 Labor-H spending bill that would provide an additional \$2 billion for NIH. Cline also highlighted the investments in NIH and NSF research that have led to significant progress in neuroscience.

## **5. Rally for Medical Research Hill Day Registration Now Open**

The Rally for Medical Research has opened registration for the 2016 Hill Day. This year's Hill day will take place Thursday, September 22, 2016. You can register for the Hill day [here](#), and if you have any questions, please contact [info@rallyformedicalresearch.org](mailto:info@rallyformedicalresearch.org).

## **6. Congressional Briefing on Advancements in Retinal Diseases**

### **Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Retinal Diseases**

*Hosted by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research*

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**House Rayburn Office Building, Room B-338**

This briefing is held during International AMD Awareness Week 2016 and Healthy Aging Month, and will focus on the latest developments in AMD diagnosis and treatment as well as other retinal diseases.

#### **Speakers:**

- **Amir H. Kashani**, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California.

Please RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or [dinabeau@aol.com](mailto:dinabeau@aol.com).

## **7. Congressional Reception for Emerging Vision Scientists**

### **Emerging Vision Scientists Reception**

*Hosted by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research*

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**

**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 pm**

**House Rayburn Office Building, Room 2168 (The Gold Room)**

The reception will highlight the work of 22 early-stage vision scientists, who will display posters and discuss their breakthrough research. Their research ranges from that addressing aging eye disease to deaf blindness. The event focuses on answering the question, "How will this research delay or prevent the \$717 billion annual cost of eye disease and vision impairment projected by year 2050?"

Please RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or [dinabeau@aol.com](mailto:dinabeau@aol.com)

*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 Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org) or Clay Crabtree at [ccrabtree@aamc.org](mailto:ccrabtree@aamc.org).*