Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
July 26, 2021

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:

@PittAnes Pitt Anesthesiology & Periop. Medicine – July 19

Spotlight on project led by @AjayDWasan1: #BACPAC researchers funded by #NIH, #nihHEALinitiative, @NIH_NIAMS studying patients with #ChronicPain and high levels of depression/anxiety to determine the effectiveness of antidepressant/PT treatment https://bit.ly/3hBxt1q

House to Consider FY22 Labor-HHS Bill in Minibus of Seven Spending Bills

Seven FY 2022 spending bills approved by the House Appropriations Committee, including the Labor-HHS bill, are expected to be considered on the House floor beginning as soon as July 27. The seven-bill minibus, H.R. 4502, will use the FY 2022 Labor-HHS bill as the vehicle. The House Rules Committee will convene at 2pm on July 26 to determine which of the hundreds of submitted amendments to the minibus will be considered on the House floor. Full text of the minibus as well as individual reports for the seven bills and filed amendments are posted on the House Rules Committee website.

The Senate Appropriations subcommittees have yet to meet to consider any of their FY 2022 spending bills. Recent press reports indicate that four subcommittees may hold markups before August recess, with the Senate Labor-HHS bill expected to be considered in September.

Ad Hoc Group Provides Feedback to ARPA-H RFI

Ad Hoc Group Executive Director Tannaz Rasouli submitted comments to the Cures 2.0 Act draft legislation, authored by Reps. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) and Fred Upton (R-Mich.), on July 16. The letter responds to a request for information issued in conjunction with the discussion draft, seeking input on various questions regarding President Biden’s proposed ARPA-H initiative. The draft bill includes a placeholder for ARPA-H but does not outline specifications.
The letter thanked Congress for its continued bipartisan commitment to increased funding for the NIH, including six years of above-inflation increases for the agency. “As you consider how to establish ARPA-H, the Ad Hoc Group urges you to work with appropriators to ensure that investments in ARPA-H are balanced with robust investment in NIH-supported, foundational, investigator-initiated research. … There is room in this ecosystem for both advanced R&D approaches like ARPA-H and foundational science that is the core of NIH’s mission, but — critically — the former depends on the latter,” the letter stated.

Federal Officials Testify Before Senate HELP Committee on COVID-19 Response
Federal health and science agency officials provided updates on the federal government’s COVID-19 response on July 20 before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. In his opening statement, NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, MD, noted the accumulation of real-world evidence of the COVID-19 vaccines’ efficacy as an important update since his May testimony before the committee. He added that NIAID is engaged in research to understand whether booster shots will be needed to “increase the durability of protection” against SARS-CoV-2. Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-N.C.) noted in his opening remarks that the NIH should continue to accelerate its basic research efforts, including increased leveraging of academic partnerships.

Upcoming Events

NIH and OSTP Listening Sessions on ARPA-H - July 26
The National Institutes of Health and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy are organizing a series of listening sessions to get feedback from patient advocacy groups, industry, scientific professional organizations, and other stakeholders on the president’s ARPA-H proposal. These listening sessions will vary in format from broad, public discussions to smaller, invitation-only meetings to discuss more sensitive information.

The next three sessions are detailed below:

**Session 3**: This meeting will convene stakeholders in the areas of ophthalmology, deafness and communication disorders, and dental and craniofacial disorders (July 26).
**Session 4**: This meeting will convene stakeholders in the areas of minority health and disparities, and nursing (July 30).
**Session 5**: This meeting will convene stakeholders in the areas of addiction and alcoholism (August 2).

Congressional Webinar: Gut Check: What You Need to Know About the Microbiome and Nutrition - July 28
The American Society for Nutrition and the American Society for Microbiology invite you to join us for “Gut Check: What you need to know about the microbiome and nutrition” on July 28th at 12pm EST. This webinar will cover current state and opportunities in gut microbiome science research, made possible in large part by an investment through the NIH. This includes highlighting the importance of NIH and other federal science agency funding opportunities and research efforts to advance microbiome research. Panelists
will discuss what is needed to maintain progress in discovery through basic research and accelerate the translation of these findings into clinical and nutrition applications. Speakers include Dr. Lita Proctor, who served as the Coordinator of the NIH Human Microbiome Project. Click here for more information and to register.

**NEW** Congressional Briefing on Use of Mouse Models to Cure Rare Pediatric Diseases – August 2
Please join the Jackson Laboratory for a virtual congressional briefing titled, “Why the Path to Therapeutics for Our Smallest Patients Depends on Mice,” taking place on August 2, at 2p.m. EDT. The speakers will discuss their work using the latest gene-editing technology to develop new mouse models of specific genetic diseases; characterize the models to ensure they reflect the human disease; and make the mice and data available to the worldwide scientific community. Please register here.

**NEW** NIA, NICHD, & NHLBI Science of Sleep Facebook Live Q&A Series
National Institute of Aging is collaborating with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute on Child Health and Human Development and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute on a Science of Sleep Facebook Live Q&A series. The effort is designed to raise awareness about the importance of sleep across the lifespan, highlight NIH research in this area, and promote evidence-based strategies for improving sleep at every age. The following segments are planned:

- The Science of Sleep and Teens on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2:30pm ET
- The Science of Sleep and Adults on Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2:30pm ET
- The Science of Sleep and Older Adults on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2:30pm ET

**Apply for National Eczema Association Research Grants – Deadline August 31**
Applications are being accepted for the 2021 National Eczema Association (NEA) research grant cycle. Grants for junior and senior investigators ranging from $5,000-$150,000 are available. Applications are due August 31. Additional details are on the NEA website.

**Virtual Rally for Medical Research - September 22-23**
The Rally for Medical Research is held every September and includes more than 300 national organizations coming together 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 22-23. For more information to register, please visit rallyformedicalresearch.org.

**Requests for Public Comment**

**Public Comment on Proposed National Priorities for Health – August 27**
PCORI’s work is guided by a set of national priorities and a research agenda that provide a framework for our funding of patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research. Beginning in 2020, we embarked on a strategic initiative to identify new priorities to direct our work in the years ahead.

In the latest step in this process, our Board of Governors at its June meeting approved posting for public comment five proposed National Priorities for Health developed in consultation with hundreds of stakeholders, advisors, and experts. We invite your comments on the proposed National Priorities for Health during the public comment period June 28 to August 27 and look forward to sharing an overview of the proposed national priorities on a June 29 webinar.

NIH Seeks Input on New Resource for Developing Consent Language for Future Use of Data and Biospecimens – September 29

The NIH is requesting information from stakeholders on the utility and useability of a resource that includes sample language and points to consider when developing informed consent documents for data and biospecimen sharing (NOT-OD-21-131). Stakeholder feedback on this resource will be essential in ensuring this resource is maximally useful to the community. NIH emphasizes that any use of the sample informed consent language would be completely voluntary and will not be required.

The comment window is open for 90 days and NIH has established a web portal for responses (https://osp.od.nih.gov/rfi-comment-informed-consent-sharing/). To ensure consideration, comments must be received no later than September 29, 2021. Questions may be sent to SciencePolicy@mail.nih.gov.

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.

NIH COVID-19 Research Website provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about NIH research and our strategic role in COVID-19 research.

HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.
Combat COVID website including information for those who have never had COVID-19, have been infected, have recovered, and for health care providers.

Job Postings

**NEW** ACS CAN Seeks Legislative Director, Federal Relations
The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is seeking a Legislative Director in their Advocacy Department. They will serve as principal federal lobbyist and strategist for the Society and ACS CAN on all issues relating to research, annual federal appropriations, early detection, prevention of cancer, and other related issues. The candidate must have high level expertise in federal health policy and must also have 15 or more years of professional experience, including extensive legislative and/or advocacy experience. Bachelors or master’s degrees and Capitol Hill experience are preferred. Additional details and application instructions are here.

APA Seeks Senior Directors, Congressional and Federal Relations
The American Psychological Association (APA) Advocacy Office is recruiting for two Senior Directors of Congressional and Federal Relations. Both positions focus primarily on science government relations: to serve as liaisons for federal science funding agencies, cover science policy issues and represent APA in coalitions and partnerships (portfolios to be determined). One of the positions is Masters degree preferred; the other is doctoral degree preferred. You can apply via the APA Jobs gateway.

American Thoracic Society Seeks Associate Director, Government Relations
The American Thoracic Society is accepting applications for following position: Associate Director, Government Relations. The Associate Director is responsible for developing and maintaining an ATS advocacy strategy for assigned issue areas. Reports to Chief, Advocacy & Government Relations. B.S. or B.A. degree in public health, health policy, health administration, biological sciences or related area with a minimum of five years congressional experience as an aide or legislative representative in a voluntary health organization or professional society. Excellent written and oral communication skills required. Additional details and application instructions are here.

ASM Seeks Senior Specialist, Regulatory Affairs
The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is seeking a Senior Specialist, Regulatory Affairs. The Senior Specialist will play an integral role on ASM’s federal affairs team by monitoring, analyzing and reporting on regulatory activity that has the potential to affect the microbial sciences community in assigned policy areas, with a particular focus on diagnostic regulation, food safety, coding and reimbursement. The specialist will also identify opportunities for ASM federal policy engagement with regulatory agencies such as the FDA and CMS, and help build relationships with agency officials. For more information go here.

IADR/AADR Seek Assistant Director of Government Affairs
The International and American Associations for Dental Research are seeking an Assistant Director of Government Affairs to recommend and implement the Associations’ policy priorities related to dental, oral and craniofacial research; the
federal research enterprise, including the scientific workforce; scholarly publishing; international collaboration and more. Additional information and application instructions can be found here.

NHLBI Seeks Science Policy Analyst
NIH’s National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) seeks a Science Policy Analyst to assist in the institute’s engagement with Congress. The analyst’s role will include reviewing proposed legislation, responding to Congressional inquiries, preparing public outreach materials, and more. Additional information and instructions for applying can be found here.

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.