



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

July 27, 2020

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](https://twitter.com/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 – July 24

What happens when Congress boosts [@NIH](https://twitter.com/NIH) budget? More research gets funded and more jobs & economic activity are created [#keepNIHstrong](https://twitter.com/keepNIHstrong)
<https://unitedformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/NIHs-Role-in-Sustaining-the-US-Economy-FY19-FINAL-2.13.2020.pdf>

Senate Republican COVID-19 Aid Package Expected Soon

The Senate Republican \$1 trillion proposal for the next COVID-19 emergency supplemental funding package is expected to be revealed as early as today, July 27, according to the most updated news reports. Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) told reporters that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) hasn't yet decided if the proposal will go directly to the Senate floor or begin with negotiations with Democratic counterparts ([BGOV, subscription required](#)).

House FY21 LHHS Bill Slated for Floor Time Week of July 27

The House of Representatives is slated to consider H.R. 7617 the week of July 27, 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.

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 House Rules Committee will meet at 11am on July 28 to determine which amendments will receive votes on the House floor. A complete list of submitted amendments is provided on the [Rules Committee website](#).

Senators Introduce RISE Act for Research Relief

Senators Markey (D-Mass.), Tillis (R-N.C.), Gardner (R-Colo.) and Peters (D-Mich.) on July 23 introduced the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act ([S. 4286](#)), the companion to [H.R. 7308](#) introduced on June 24. The RISE Act authorizes approximately \$26 billion in supplemental funding for federal research agencies, including NIH, to ameliorate the tremendous disruption to federally funded research from COVID-19. The bill also provides for temporary regulatory relief due to the pandemic. [According to the Senators' press release](#), "The people who comprise the research workforce – graduate students, postdocs, principal investigators, and technical support staff – face financial and other hardships from the disruption of their research activities. The RISE Act will provide necessary relief to preserve current scientific workforce and ensure that the United States is prepared to continue our global scientific leadership once this crisis ends."

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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Co-Developed by NIAID Enters Phase III Trial

mRNA-1273, a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine co-developed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) and Moderna, Inc., has entered a Phase 3 clinical trial, according to a [July 27 NIH press release](#). NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD, noted, "Results from early-stage clinical testing indicate the investigational mRNA-1273 vaccine is safe and immunogenic, supporting the initiation of a Phase 3 clinical trial. This scientifically rigorous, randomized, placebo-controlled trial is designed to determine if the vaccine can prevent COVID-19 and for how long such protection may last."

NIH Names New NEI Director

The NIH on July 24 [announced the selection of Michael Chiang, MD](#), to be the next director of the National Eye Institute (NEI). Dr. Chiang currently serves as the Knowles Professor of Ophthalmology & Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Portland, and is associate director of the OHSU Casey Eye Institute. NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, noted, "Dr. Chiang brings extensive experience as a clinician, researcher and educator to NIH. His work in biomedical informatics and telehealth research are particularly important for the future of vision research." Dr. Chiang is expected to begin his new role in late 2020.

Requests for Public Comment

NIH Requests Comments on Improving Biomedical Research Involving Animal Models – July 31

The NIH posted a [request for information](#) (RFI) "aimed at enhancing rigor, transparency, and translatability to improve biomedical and behavioral research involving animal models," according to an Open Mike [blog post](#) by NIH deputy director for extramural research Mike Lauer, MD. A [working group](#) of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director

will consider responses to this request as they draft their final report expected in December. Comments should be [submitted online](#) and are due July 31.

NIDDK Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – July 31

NIH's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) issued a March 16 [request for information](#) on the institute's five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, "The goal of the process is to develop a broad vision for accelerating research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions within the Institute's mission," and focuses on five broad themes for community input. [Comments are due](#) by July 31.

NIDA Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – August 7

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) [issued a Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) seeking feedback on an outline for the NIDA Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025. NIDA specifically seeks feedback on: the scientific goals and actions articulated in the framework including additional areas of opportunity that should be included in the plan; drawbacks or challenges to accomplishing these goals and actions; cross-cutting research topics and approaches articulated in the framework; and ways to ensure widespread dissemination and implementation of the plan. You may submit your comments via email to: NIDAstrategicPlan@nida.nih.gov.

Improving Biomedical Research Involving Animal Models – August 21

The NIH seeks feedback from stakeholders on rigor and transparency in animal research, optimizing the relevance of animal models to human biology and disease, and the impact of research culture in selecting animal models for research. Additional details are provided in the [request for information](#). Comments are due by August 21 and must be submitted electronically on the submission website: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/rfi/rfi.cfm?ID=108>.

OLAW Seeks Feedback on Semiannual Animal Inspections – October 22

The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare ([OLAW](#)) is seeking stakeholder input on flexibilities available for conducting semiannual animal facility inspections. Specifically, OLAW seeks input on flexibilities available to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees for conducting semiannual inspections of their animal facilities. Additional details are provided in the [request for information](#). Comments must be [submitted electronically by October 22](#).

NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is embarking on an institute-wide strategic planning process, and published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so [through this form](#).

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.

Friends of NIA Webinar on COVID-19 and Aging Research – August 6

Please join the Friends of the National Institute on Aging (FoNIA) and our distinguished panelists on Thursday, August 6, 2020, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, EDT for a webinar on COVID: Opportunities and Obstacles in Aging Research and Caregiving which will explore the nexus between the COVID-19 virus and older adults. Specifically, our three panelists will discuss: what data around COVID-19 tells us about existing racial, economic and geographical health disparities; how aging research can be more inclusive in light of COVID exposed disparities; opportunities to study care needs of older adults and their caregivers before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic; and how aging impacts the effectiveness of potential COVID treatments and vaccines. [Please register here.](#)

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.*