

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – July 30, 2018

Editor's Note: With the House and Senate both in their August work period the week of August 6th, the Ad Hoc Round Up will take a one week hiatus on August 6, and will resume publication on August 13th!

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:

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology [@FASEBorg](#)

#TuesdayTip: Sharpen your [#advocacy](#) skills with our slide deck on the value of biological research ft. key facts & figures making the case to [#FundScience!](#) [#RT](#) to spread the word & check it out at <http://www.faseb.org/fundscience>”

1. Appropriations Update

The Senate is expected to resume debate of the four bill minibus including the FY 2019 Interior-Environment, Financial Services, Agriculture, and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bills the week of July 30. Following passage of these four bills, the Senate may move on to a two bill package including the Labor-HHS and Defense bills likely beginning the week of August 13, following the Senate's one week August recess.

2. House Energy & Commerce Hearing on 21st Century Cures Implementation

The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee July 25 [held](#) a hearing titled, “21st Century Cures Implementation: Updates from FDA and NIH.” Members of the subcommittee asked National Institutes of Health (NIH) [Director Francis Collins](#), MD, PhD, National Cancer Institute Director Ned Sharpless, MD, Deputy Director of the All of Us Research Program Stephanie Devaney, PhD, and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, to provide a status update on various provisions included in the 21st Century Cures Act ([P.L. 114-255](#)). Common themes included updates on the All of Us Research Program including data security measures; progress to condense duplicative and onerous administrative regulations for researchers; clinical trial design updates; and breakthroughs in cancer research. A summary of the hearing is posted on [MedPage Today](#).

3. NIH STRIDES Program Partners with Google Cloud

As a part of NIH's [Strategic Plan for Data Science](#), the [Science and Technology Research Infrastructure for Discovery, Experimentation, and Sustainability \(STRIDES\) Initiative](#) looks to accelerate discoveries in biomedical research by making big data more accessible and usable. NIH July 24 [announced](#) that Google Cloud is the first industry partner in the STRIDES effort. NIH Principal Deputy Director and Interim Associate Director for Data Science, Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD, noted that “NIH is in a unique position to bring together academic and innovation industry partners to create a biomedical data ecosystem that maximizes the use of NIH-supported biomedical research data for the greatest benefit to human health.” The partnership allows NIH intramural and extramural researchers the use of Google Cloud's “storage, computing, and machine learning technologies.”

4. Preliminary Data Suggests Blood Pressure Management Reduces Likelihood of Dementia

NIH-funded researchers participating in the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial ([SPRINT](#)) Memory and Cognition IN Decreased Hypertension (SPRINT MIND) have [preliminary results](#) of a recent clinical trial, suggesting “intensive lowering of blood pressure may reduce the risk of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and the combined risk of MCI and dementia, but not dementia alone.” The [Washington Post](#) further notes that the 2010 trial including over 9,300 participants showed a 19 percent lower rate of MCI in the group receiving more intensive blood pressure management.

5. NIH Director’s Blog: Frequent Digital Media Use and ADHD

In a July 24 [blog post](#), NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, shared results of the NIH-supported Happiness & Health Study showing a correlation between digital media usage and ADHD symptoms. The study followed over 2,500 students from 10 diverse high schools in the Los Angeles area, and used various surveys to investigate connections between use of digital media (such as texting, use of social media, and watching videos) and onset of ADHD-like symptoms. The results showed “among 51 teens who said they frequently participated in all 14 of the digital media activities evaluated in the study, 10.5 percent later reported new ADHD symptoms. That’s compared to 4.6 percent of teens who reported no high-frequency digital media use at the start of the study.”

6. NIH Posts Update on NGRI Policy on Early Established Investigators

The NIH posted [a notice](#) about an update on the Next Generation Researchers Initiative (NGRI) that was discussed at the June Advisory Committee to the Director meeting. The notice states that “NIH will not use an Early Established Investigators (EEI) flag in application and review systems as described in [NOT-OD-17-101](#). NIH will continue to prioritize funding for Early Stage Investigators (ESIs), and pending the deliberations of the ACD Next Generation Working Group, will use an interim strategy to consider ‘at risk investigators.’”

7. Senate NIH Caucus Updates

The Senate NIH Caucus was launched on May 19, 2015, by co-chairs Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL). The NIH Caucus promotes the need for sustained, predictable investment in biomedical research funded by the National Institutes of Health and the value it adds to the country in treating and curing disease, securing our nation’s global competitiveness, protecting us from bioterrorism, and boosting the economy. Ask your Senators to join the NIH Caucus to show their support for the groundbreaking research done at universities and institutions across the country. See attached flyer for a list of current caucus members.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

8. Rally for Medical Research – September 12-13

Join a broad coalition of stakeholders representing millions of patients and other advocates from the medical research advocacy community on September 12-13, 2018, for the next Rally for Medical Research Hill Day and help raise awareness of the urgent need for continued

investment in the NIH to improve health, spur more progress, inspire more hope, and save more lives. Please see attached flyer or visit the [event website](#) for more information and to register.

9. Registration Open for NIH Workshop on Single IRB Resource and Infrastructure Development

The NIH will be holding a [public workshop](#) on "successful strategies and lessons learned for modifying and enhancing institutional IRB infrastructure for [single IRB review of multi-site studies](#)" on September 12 in Rockville, MD. The seven awardees of the NIH-funded [administrative supplements](#) to develop applicable approaches to single IRB review of multi-site studies will present their strategies at the workshop. The meeting is free and will be webcast, but seating is limited and registration is required.

10. AEVR Hill Briefing on Age-Related Macular Degeneration – September 27

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) for a Hill briefing titled, "Understanding the 'Dry' Form of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) To Develop Effective Treatments." The event will take place September 27 from 12-1:15pm in 2060 Rayburn House Office Building. Please RSVP to dinabeau@aol.com and see the attached flyer for additional information.

11. AEVR 25th Anniversary Reception – September 27

Please join AEVR for its 25th Anniversary celebration and poster session, including 21 Emerging Vision Scientists in the U.S. The reception will be held on September 27 from 5:30-7:30pm in the Rayburn House Foyer. Please RSVP to dinabeau@aol.com and see the attached flyer for additional details.

12. Call for Golden Goose Award Nominations

The Golden Goose Award team is accepting nominations for the 2018 year. The Golden Goose Awards honor federally funded research that may be odd, obscure, or serendipitous but ends up having a major impact on society. To submit a nomination, [follow this link](#), or visit goldengooseaward.org and click on "nominate" in the top right corner. If submitting a nomination, be prepared to talk about who you are nominating, what unexpected impact the research has had, and which U.S. federal agency funded the work. Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

13. Learn Serve Lead – November 2-6, 2018

Learn Serve Lead 2018 - the AAMC Annual Meeting is open for registration. The November 2-6 event takes place in Austin, Texas and will draw 4500-plus attendees including a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to [four plenary sessions](#) including Grit author and researcher Angela Duckworth, PhD, and civil and women's rights leader Anita Hill, JD, there are more than 130 concurrent sessions. Some of the slated sessions include:

- Improving Population Health Through Learner-Engaged Research
- Rightsizing Research Infrastructure
- Achieving Health Equity through Research: Innovations From NIMHD-Funded Science
- Unhealthy Politics: The Battle over Evidence-Based Medicine

[Discounted registration](#) is available through August 31.

Job Postings

FASEB Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is hiring a [Science Policy Analyst](#) to develop policy positions related to promoting the interests of investigators in the biological and biomedical sciences. The individual will write position statements, meeting summaries, and reports and serve as a liaison to FASEB Science Policy Subcommittees and task forces, in addition to monitoring the Federal Register and attending federal agency meetings. The position is full time, includes benefits, and is located at FASEB headquarters in Bethesda, MD. PhD preferred. Interested applicants can [apply online](#).

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.