



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up

July 30, 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 Includes \$15.5B for NIH

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) on July 27 released the Coronavirus Response and Additional Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 ([S.4320](#)), including \$15.5 billion for the NIH. The bill includes specific funding for NHLBI, NIDDK, NIAID, CIVHD, NIMH, NIMHD, and NCATS, as well as nearly \$13 billion for the Office of the Director, with \$10.1 billion designated to reopen NIH-funded research labs and provide research relief. The bill is one of a series of bills introduced by Senate Republicans, together considered the “Health Education and Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act.

Following the introduction, the Ad Hoc Group released a [July 28 press statement](#) urging both the House and Senate to work quickly to enact at least \$15.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding for NIH in the next COVID-19 emergency spending package.

House FY 2021 Labor-HHS Bill Floor Consideration Begins

The House of Representatives will begin consideration of a second minibus of FY 2021 spending bills, including the Labor-HHS spending bill, on July 30. The minibus, [H.R. 7617](#), will not contain the FY 2021 Homeland Security spending bill, according to a [summary from the House Appropriations Committee](#). The House on July 29 voted 229-182 to allow votes on [340 amendments](#) to the minibus, including nearly 100 amendments to the Labor-HHS portion of the minibus (Division F). A final vote on the package may occur by the end of this week.

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.

Open Mike: An Early Look at Grant Submissions During the Pandemic

NIH Director of Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, shared data on research grant applications received between May 1 and June 5 to discuss COVID-19 impacts to research in a [July 28 Open Mike blog post](#). Comparing grant applications from the same timeframe in 2017-2019, the 2020 applications for new and competing renewals both increased overall compared to previous years. Dr. Lauer noted the data for the October 5 deadline will be especially important. “Many more months of lab slowdowns, enforced teleworking, and school / camp closures may lead to detrimental effects on researchers’ efforts. In addition, school districts across the country are announcing that their physical campuses and buildings remain closed through the rest of the calendar, placing even more burdens and stress on scientists with family responsibilities,” Dr. Lauer wrote.

Dr. Collins Conducts Interview on ACTIV Partnerships

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD joined Senior Medical Advisor of Pfizer Freda Lewis-Hall, MD, DFAPA, [in a July 27 interview](#) to discuss ACTIV (Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines), a public-private partnership coordinated by the FNIH in response to the global coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Lewis-Hall and Dr. Collins explore how public-private partnerships help expedite scientific progress and how everyone can join in the fight against COVID-19.

Experimental COVID-19 Vaccine Shows Protection of Airways in Animals

[The NIH issued a July 28 media advisory](#) detailing results from a SARS-CoV-2 antibody vaccine trial in nonhuman primates, showing that the vaccine “induced robust immune responses and rapidly controlled the coronavirus in the upper and lower airways.” In the related New England Journal of Medicine publication, the authors note the importance of a vaccine that reduces viral replication in the lungs would limit disease in the infected individual, and reduce viral load, which could lessen transmission of the virus to others. The vaccine is co-developed by National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) researchers and Moderna, Inc.

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.

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.*