Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
August 30, 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:

United4MedResearch @UMR4NIH – August 13

Beyond vaccines and treatments, NIH has helped ramp up new technologies to respond to #COVID19 and future pandemics #keepNIHstrong

Chambers Agree to FY 2022 Budget Resolution, Proceed to Reconciliation

On Aug. 24, the House adopted the Senate-passed $3.5 trillion budget resolution for FY 2022 (S. Con. Res. 14) by a party line vote of 220-212, following Senate passage on Aug. 11. The FY 2022 budget resolution provides top-line spending instructions for congressional committees to utilize as part of the budget reconciliation process, which allows the Senate to pass legislation — including components of President Joe Biden’s American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan — by a simple majority and without being subject to a filibuster.

A summary of the resolution from the Senate Budget Committee to Senate Democrats provides an overview of the funding level instructions and recommended policies under each committee’s jurisdiction that may be included in the reconciliation bill, including an instructed $726 billion for the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee with policy recommendations for research infrastructure. The president’s American Jobs Plan included a recommended “$40 billion in upgrading research infrastructure in laboratories across the country, including brick-and-mortar facilities and computing capabilities and networks” to be spent across federal research agencies.

Both chambers will now work to craft legislative text to fulfill the reconciliation instructions with a tentative deadline to submit legislation by Sept. 15. Committees are expected to begin marking up their contributions to the reconciliation package during the week of Sept. 6.

White House Releases FY 2023 R&D Budget Priorities
The White House released its annual research and development (R&D) priorities memo during the week of Aug. 23, signed by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Acting Director Shalanda Young and Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Eric Lander, PhD. The memo provides guidance to federal research agencies as they draft their FY 2023 budget requests to deliver to OMB. Multi-agency priorities for R&D include: pandemic preparedness, addressing climate change, research into critical and emerging technologies, innovation for equity, and national security and economic resilience.

OSTP Outlines Administration’s Plans to Address Research Security
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director Eric Lander, PhD, authored an Aug. 10 blog post outlining the Biden administration’s upcoming plans to address research security. In the post, he discussed three major areas that the guidance will address: disclosure policies for federally funded researchers, oversight and enforcement policies for federal agencies, and maintenance of agency research security programs.

Additionally, Lander detailed three main principles that will guide the administration’s efforts on developing federal research security guidelines: protecting America’s national security and open science, being clear and uniform in detailing what researchers should disclose and how they should do so, and ensuring that policies do not fuel xenophobia or prejudice.

Upcoming Events

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.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) and NCI Director, Dr. Ned Sharpless will be hosting a Blue Ribbon Panel Report Anniversary event on September 9th from 12pm – 1pm ET. The event will reflect back on the recommendations of the BRP, share updates on the progress of the Cancer Moonshot, and discuss future directions and potential for Cancer Moonshot Initiatives. Please register for the event and submit any questions you may have in advance. This is part of a Cancer Moonshot Series hosted by NCI.

NEW NIH Council of Councils – September 17
The NIH Council of Councils will convene in a virtual format on September 17 beginning at 10am EDT, according to a Federal Register notice. Additional details including an agenda will be available on the Council of Councils website closer to the meeting date. The meeting will be webcast at http://videocast.nih.gov/.
NEW Congressional Briefing: Latest on Clinical Practice and Research for AMD Patients – September 21
Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) for a congressional briefing during International Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Awareness Week 2021 and Healthy Aging Month. This briefing begins AEVR’s Seventh Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day on Capitol Hill and features clinician-scientists who will address all aspects of AMD clinical practice and research, taking place on September 21 at 12pm EDT. Please RSVP to Dina Beaumont at dinabeau@aol.com and visit the AEVR website for more details.

NEW A Conversation: Moving Beyond COVID-19 in My Career Pathway – September 21
The Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) is engaging 28 early-stage vision scientists in a 30-minute video conversation about how they have applied lessons learned from COVID-19 laboratory closures to their future research and career pathway. This is a follow-up to AEVR’s September 2020 30-minute video discussion with early-stage vision scientists about the impact of COVID-19 on their research. The event will take place on September 21 at 1:30pm EDT. Please RSVP to Dina Beaumont at dinabeau@aol.com and visit the AEVR website for more details.

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.

NEW Help End the HIV Epidemic: Clinical Fellowship Opportunity – Nov. 8
The HIV Medicine Association and IDSA Foundation are accepting applications for the 2022–2023 training year. The fellowship program supports up to two physicians who are not trained in infectious diseases to pursue one year of HIV clinical training under the mentorship of an HIVMA member at clinical sites serving medically underserved populations.

The award includes a stipend set according to the PGY-4 salary level at the training institution, funds to cover the fringe benefits provided by the sponsoring organization and an additional $5,000 to support educational opportunities or offset administrative costs. Physicians whose communities are underrepresented in medicine or who are interested in working in the Southeastern United States are strongly encouraged to apply. Program and application requirements are on the HIVMA website, including recommended competencies for HIV clinical fellows. Email HIVMA staff with questions or for more information. Applications due by Nov. 8.
Sign-On Letters

ASM Letter on Bioeconomy Research and Development Act of 2021 – Sept. 10
The American Society for Microbiology invites your organization to join a community sign-on letter urging Congressional leadership to include H.R. 4521/S. 1418, the Bioeconomy Research and Development Act of 2021, in the final competitiveness package this fall. This bipartisan legislation easily passed the House in the 116th Congress but did not make it across the finish line in the Senate. This year, the Bioeconomy Research and Development Act was included in the Senate-passed Endless Frontier Act/USCIA package and we want to make sure that Congressional leadership includes it in the conferenced bill. The bioeconomy, which includes all products, processes, and services, based on renewable biological resources, is valued at nearly $1 trillion. In 2020, the National Academies released a report detailing the scope of the U.S. bioeconomy and calling on the federal government for better coordination across sectors, including health and medicine.

To read and sign on to the letter, click here. Contact Amalia Corby at acorby@asmusa.org with any questions.

Requests for Public Comment

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 Science Policy Analyst, American Physiological Society
The American Physiological Society (APS) is seeking a Science Policy Analyst that will report to the Director of Science Policy and Government Relations to help fulfill APS’s advocacy role by tracking legislative and regulatory issues related to federal funding for biomedical research, the use of animals in biomedical research, biomedical research workforce, and other science policy issues, helping develop and implement advocacy strategies in support of Society positions on research funding, animal research, and other science policy issues, supporting the American Physiological Society’s Science Policy (SP) and Animal Care and Experimentation (ACE) Committees, representing APS in meetings with external scientific and advocacy organizations and coalitions, and represent the department in internal APS activities and projects, writing about science policy for the Society’s website, news magazine and social media and contribute to other communications efforts. To learn more about APS, please visit their website. Please e-mail your cover letter and resume to apply for the position.

NEW Advocacy Coordinator, Epilepsy Foundation
The Epilepsy Foundation is seeking an Advocacy Coordinator to join our team. This position will support the Foundation’s Advocacy Team in advancing policy that overcomes the challenges of living with epilepsy and accelerates therapies to stop seizures, find cures and save lives. This includes supporting policy work particularly at the state level; government relations and engagement with legislative and administrative offices as needed; supporting activation and engagement of the Foundation’s advocates; and advocacy-related administrative duties. Policy focus areas are access to care, disability rights, public health & education, and research and innovation. Bachelor’s Degree required or equivalent relevant work experience; concentration in public policy, health policy, government or political science is preferred. Hyperlink to the full position description and how to apply.

The Director, Government Affairs and Policy, The ALS Association
The Director, Government Affairs reports to the Vice President, Public Policy and works as part of a team with the Associate Director of Grassroots Advocacy and the Public Policy Manager. The Director, Government Affairs designs and directs all aspects of government affairs including identifying legislative and regulatory opportunities, securing appropriations, and advancing legislation and policies through nonpartisan advocacy with members of Congress, congressional committees, and relevant federal agencies. The Director, Government Affairs is also responsible for collaborating with the Associate Director of Grassroots Advocacy to mobilize Association chapters and volunteers to achieve results and represents the association in national coalitions focused on the needs of people living with ALS. Bachelor’s degree with 4-8 years of work experience in healthcare government affairs and advocacy or the equivalent combinations of education and work experience. Click here to apply.

**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.