

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – August 5, 2019

With Congress on recess for the month of August, the Weekly Round Up will be on hiatus for the remainder of the summer.

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:

[Golden Goose Award @GoldGooseAward](#)

Like the fabled goose that laid the golden egg, [#federallyfunded](#) scientific research has yielded extraordinary, yet unexpected returns. Join us on September 10 to celebrate the scientific success stories of our 2019 awardees. [#GGA19 goldengooseaward.org](#)

1. President Signs Budget Caps Deal Into Law

The president August 2 signed into law the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 ([H.R. 3877](#)), which would suspend the debt ceiling through July 31, 2021 and would revise discretionary spending caps in fiscal years (FYs) 2020 and 2021. The Senate Aug. 1 approved, [67-28](#), the House-passed measure. The Senate also rejected [23-70](#) an [amendment](#) to the budget deal offered by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) to add a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and cap on-budget spending through FY 2029. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research will be sending letters of appreciation to Members of Congress for their support in passing this measure.

Once Senate subcommittees are informed of the 302(b) allocations, they can begin drafting their individual spending bills. Senate Appropriations Chair Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) has stated to the press that he anticipates the first spending bills, including the Labor-HHS bill, will be considered when Congress is back in session the week of Sept. 9.

2. NIH Releases FY 2021 Alzheimer's Bypass Budget

The National Institute of Aging [July 29 released](#) its FY 2021 Professional Judgement, or Bypass, Budget for Alzheimer's and related dementias. The [Executive Summary](#) covers recent advances in research including a better understanding of genetics and disease mechanisms, efforts to make clinical trials more accessible, and estimates that an additional \$2.822 billion for Alzheimer's and related dementias will be needed in FY 2021 to reach NIA's goal of treating or preventing these diseases by 2025.

In response to the budget release, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) [released a statement](#) noting her longstanding support of biomedical research, and her contribution to developing the National Alzheimer's Project Act which "sets a goal of effectively treating, curing, or preventing Alzheimer's disease by 2025." Sen. Collins continued, "Investment in biomedical research is critical to achieving these goals, and NIH has now officially informed Congress of the investment needed to combat this devastating disease. I support the NIH's budget request."

3. Nature Correspondence: Biomedical Research in Africa

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, and advisor to NIH's Fogarty International Center Robert Eiss July 30 co-authored a [correspondence in Nature](#) detailing the growth and history of biomedical research in Africa. The authors note, "in ten years, NIH funding support for African scientists has advanced from subcontracts in US institutions to one-third of merit-based grants awarded to foreign institutions," primarily to study local health concerns and HIV. The authors conclude, "the long-term success of these early ventures will hinge on African governments' future investment in research."

4. Senators Introduce Bill to Establish Adoption Policy for Research Animals

Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine), Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) July 30 introduced the [Animal Freedom from Testing, Experimentation and Research \(AFTER\) Act](#). The bill aims to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require federal agencies including the NIH to establish policies for adoption or non-laboratory placement of research animals that are deemed "suitable for release" and no longer needed in federal laboratories. Representatives Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.) and Jackie Walorski (R-Ind.) June 21 introduced a House companion bill ([H.R. 2897](#)), which currently has 33 bipartisan cosponsors.

5. Senators Introduce Bill to Reduce Drug Prices Developed from NIH Funds

Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Rick Scott (R-Fla.) August 1 introduced the [We PAID \(Protect American Investment in Drugs\) Act of 2019](#). The bill would limit the cost of prescription drugs developed from technology patented by the federal government or developed from research that was supported by federal funds. A reasonable cost for a given drug would be determined through a report by the National Academy of Medicine and by a newly established Drug Affordability and Access Committee.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

6. NASEM Meeting on Clinical Use of Human Genome Editing – August 13

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) is hosting the [first meeting](#) of the International Commission on Clinical Use of Heritable Human Genome Editing from 8:30 am – 5:15pm on August 13 in Washington, D.C. This goal of this commission is to "develop a framework for scientists, clinicians, and regulatory authorities to consider when assessing potential clinical applications of human germline genome editing...if society concludes that heritable human genome editing applications are acceptable." [Registration](#) is required to attend the event in person or to view the webcast.

7. Golden Goose Award Ceremony – September 10

Save the date! The 8th annual Golden Goose Awards will be held September 10 at 5:30pm at the Library of Congress. This award celebrates federally funded research that may be odd, obscure, or serendipitous but ends up having a major impact on society. Visit the [event website](#) for additional information.

8. Emerging Vision Scientists Day Briefing and Reception – September 18

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) as they host two events for Emerging Vision Scientists Day. A Congressional briefing titled, "New Stem Cell-Based Therapies for Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Blast-Related Eye Injuries," will take

place on Wednesday, September 18, from 12:00-1:15pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building.

AEVR will also host an evening reception featuring early-stage vision investigators from 5:30-7:30pm in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer. Please see attached flyers for additional details, and RSVP for both events to Dina Beaumont @ 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com.

9. Rally for Medical Research – September 18-19

Join a broad coalition of stakeholders representing millions of patients and other advocates from the medical research advocacy community on September 18-19, 2019, 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 visit the [event website](#) for more information and to register. Registration closes August 30.

10. NIH Fall Regional Seminar – Nov. 6-8

The NIH is hosting the Fall 2019 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Phoenix, AZ, from Wednesday, Nov. 6- Friday Nov. 8. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about the program and to [register](#).

Job Postings

NIH Office of Science Policy Seeks Health Science Policy Analyst

The NIH Office of Science Policy is currently seeking to fill a Health Science Policy Analyst position within its office. A strong candidate will have extensive biomedical research knowledge, particularly in developmental biology, with exceptional analytical and communication skills to help with the mission of furthering biomedical science research policy development and implementation. Please see individual posts for [external](#) or [internal](#) candidates. The vacancy announcement is open until Friday, August 9, 2019.

FASEB Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology seeks a Science Policy Analyst to spearhead its efforts related to research workforce and career development. Excellent opportunity for someone transitioning from bench to Beltway! Position description attached (link to <https://www.faseb.org/viewer.aspx?ID=3746&JobPdf=07.29.2019ADSciencePolicy.pdf>).

Ready to apply? Visit <https://bit.ly/2Sefl0u> or email cover letter, CV/resume, and policy-oriented writing sample to resumes@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.