



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

August 24, 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:

#### Rally for Medical Research @RallyForNIH – August 20

Tell us why medical research is important to you! Print an [#IRallyFor](https://www.instagram.com/rallyforresearch/) sign and post a selfie to share why you're participating in this year's virtual Rally for Medical Research. [#RallyMedRes #FundNIH](https://rallyformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/IRallyFor_Template.pdf) [https://rallyformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/IRallyFor\\_Template.pdf](https://rallyformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/IRallyFor_Template.pdf)

#### House Passes USPS Funding Without Additional COVID-19 Relief

The House of Representatives convened a Saturday vote to approve by a vote of [257-150](#) a bill including \$25 billion for the U.S. Postal Service (Delivering for America Act, [H.R. 8015](#)) on August 22. In advance of the vote, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to members rejecting requests to broaden the legislation to include a "skinny" COVID-19 relief bill, citing negotiating power from the House-passed Heroes Act. White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows visited the Capitol during deliberation on the postal service bill in an attempt to include select economic stimulus provisions to the House bill. No additional meetings have been scheduled between congressional and White House negotiators, who broke off discussions on a comprehensive COVID-19 relief package on August 7.

#### White House Releases FY 2022 R&D Budget Priorities

The Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy [released a memo on August 14](#) detailing the administration's FY 2022 research and development priorities. The memo outlines the country's role as "the unquestioned global leader in science and technology research and innovation," including in responding to COVID-19. The memo also outlines five priority areas for FY 2022 including: public health security and innovation; leadership in the industries of the future and related technologies such as AI; American security; energy and environmental leadership; and space leadership.

#### NIH Ethics Advisory Board Releases Funding Recommendations

The NIH Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board [released a report on August 18](#), summarizing the group's funding recommendations for 14 research proposals

which include the use of human fetal tissue, reviewed during the board's first meeting on July 31. Of the 14 proposals, 13 were recommended to withhold funding. The proposals have already received approval for funding following two rounds of peer review, and HHS Secretary Alex Azar will make the final funding determination. Included in the NIH report was a dissenting opinion of two members of the board, stating that the recommendation to withhold funds from certain projects "will paradoxically fail to reduce the use of human fetal tissue in the development of humanized mice needed for therapy development including for COVID19."

### **Sign On Letter Supporting NASEM Study on Racism in Academia**

[The American Physiological Society is circulating a sign on letter](#) thanking House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) for leadership in confronting inequities in the U.S. scientific enterprise that have prevented full participation of racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in STEM, and supporting [the call](#) for the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to undertake a study to acknowledge and assess systemic racism in academia. If your organization would like to sign the letter, [please fill out this form](#) by August 28, 2020. If you have questions about the letter you may contact Rebecca Osthus at [ROsthus@physiology.org](mailto:ROsthus@physiology.org).

## Requests for Public Comment

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### **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) published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the institute's strategic planning 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

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### **Inclusion Across the Lifespan Workshop – September 2**

NIH is hosting the second in a series of Inclusion Across the Lifespan workshops to provide lessons learned regarding the inclusion of pediatric and older populations in clinical studies, with evidence-based practical advice to the scientific community. The workshop will bring together individuals with a variety of backgrounds in clinical study development and execution, with focus on pediatric and geriatric populations, and

consideration of special populations across the life course. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, September 2, from 10:30am – 5:30pm EST. [Please register in advance.](#)

### **Virtual Rally for Medical Research – September 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>.

### **Virtual NIH Regional Seminar – October 27-30**

NIH is making plans for a [virtual regional seminar](#) on program funding and grants administration this fall. The event will take place from October 27-30. The agenda is currently under development, but a sample of potential sessions can be [found here](#). Registration details will be on the [Regional Seminars website](#) when available.

## **NIH COVID-19 Resources**

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[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**

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### **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](http://www.asm.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](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).*