

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – August 27, 2018

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:

### Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research [@FundNIH](#)

The Senate just passed the FY 2019 Labor-HHS bill, including a \$2B increase for [#NIH](#). Thank you to [@RoyBlunt](#) and [@PattyMurray](#) for supporting this bipartisan bill with robust support for biomedical research. Read Ad Hoc's statement [here](#) [#FundNIH](#)

#### 1. Senate Passes FY 2019 Labor-HHS Bill

The Senate Aug. 23 [voted 85-7](#) to approve the FY 2019 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, including a \$2 billion (5.4 percent) increase in funding over FY 2018 for the NIH. Attention now turns to the House, whose own version of the Labor-HHS bill awaits consideration of the full chamber after the House Appropriations Committee approved the bill on July 11.

Specifically, the Senate passed [H.R. 6157](#), which combines the Senate Appropriations Committee-passed FY 2019 Labor-HHS spending bill ([S. 3158](#)) with the text of the Senate committee-passed Defense spending bill ([S. 3159](#)). Prior to the vote on final passage, the Senate adopted by unanimous consent a manager's package that includes 53 of the 309 filed amendments to the bill. Senators had approved four additional noncontroversial amendments earlier in the week.

The final package incorporated a number of amendments to the Labor-HHS bill, including two directly related to NIH: an amendment from Senators Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), and Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) would transfer \$5 million from the NIH Office of the Director to the HHS Office of the Inspector General to ensure integrity in grant applications and an amendment from Senators Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Angus King (I-Maine) would require NIH to conduct a study of current funding levels for research related to mental health and substance use disorders.

The Ad Hoc Group [issued an Aug. 23 statement](#) on the Senate-passed bill, noting that “the \$2 billion increase [for NIH] keenly reflects the sustainable, predictable growth above inflation necessary to realize the invaluable promise of new cures, diagnostics, and treatments offered through NIH.”

#### 2. Senate HELP Committee Hearing on Prioritizing Cures

At an [Aug. 23 hearing](#) covering research progress as a result of Congress's investment in the NIH, NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., [announced a series of efforts](#) the agency is undertaking to further protect the integrity of biomedical research in the United States.

Testifying before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Dr. Collins indicated that NIH has sent letters to awardee institutions identifying three areas that the agency plans to address:

- Disclosures by NIH-funded institutions of substantial resource contributions from foreign governments and other organizations;
- Diversion of intellectual property to other entities, including other countries; and
- Breaches in the confidentiality of the peer review process among reviewers.

Dr. Collins also announced that, in partnership with other agencies, NIH-funded academic institutions, and U.S. professional organizations, a new working group of the NIH's Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) will examine strategies to enhance reporting processes, the security of intellectual property, and the integrity of the peer review system.

### **3. Senate Hearing on OSTP Director Nominee**

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Aug. 23 hosted a [hearing](#) on President Trump's nomination of Kelvin Droegemeier, Ph.D., to be the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Senator James Lankford (R-Okla.) officially introduced the nominee, who is currently Vice President for Research at the University of Oklahoma and holds his doctorate in atmospheric science, highlighting Dr. Droegemeier's 25 years of science policy work with the government and sharing "wholehearted support" for the nomination.

The committee is scheduled to meet Aug. 29 in an executive session to consider referring Dr. Droegemeier's nomination to the full Senate.

### **4. Senate NIH Caucus – Ask Senators to Join!**

The Senate NIH Caucus co-chaired by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) currently has 20 members. During August recess, grassroots advocates will have the perfect opportunity to ask their senators to join the NIH Caucus (see attached NIH Caucus flyer for the list of members). The Caucus promotes the need for sustained, predictable investment in biomedical research funded by the National Institutes of Health and the importance of treating and curing disease, securing our nation's global competitiveness, protecting us from bioterrorism, and boosting the economy. Please see attached flyer for additional details.

## **Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events**

### **5. NASEM: Upcoming Meeting and Webinar on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Academia**

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will be hosting [a webinar](#) on August 30, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET, led by two members of the authoring committee of the [recent report](#) "Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Science, Engineering, and Medicine." report, to discuss why addressing organizational climate is important to preventing sexual harassment and how certain policies and strategies recommended in the report can be applied in academia and industry to prevent sexual harassment. Free registration is required.

Additionally, NASEM is [convening leaders](#) including "academic leaders, Title IX and diversity officers, ombudsmen, researchers in sexual harassment, and leaders from professional societies, foundations, and federal agencies to discuss strategies and share promising practices" to continue the discussion. The meeting, being held on November 9, 2018, from

9:00am – 5:00pm in Washington DC, and will focus on developing strategies on how to prevent sexual harassment in academia.

#### **6. NIH Council of Councils Meeting – September 7**

Through a Federal Register [notice](#), the NIH announced a meeting of the Council of Councils, scheduled for September 7. Agenda items include announcements and updates; Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO); All of Us Program Update; NIH Update; Common Fund Program – Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Address Conditions; and Workshop Report on Contributions of Social and Behavioral Research in Addressing the Opioid Crisis. The meeting will take place at NIH campus, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 60/Cloisters, Lecture Hall/Chapel, Bethesda, MD 20892.

#### **7. NIH Workshop on Single IRB Resource and Infrastructure Development – September 12**

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.

#### **8. Coalition for Health Funding 3rd Annual Public Health Fair – September 12**

On behalf of the Coalition for Health Funding, you are cordially invited to the Third Annual Public Health Fair on September 12 from 12:00pm – 3:00pm. The Public Health Fair will feature representatives from 37 national health organizations and federal health agencies who are working in concert to improve America's health and well-being. This unique event will provide the opportunity to learn more about the full breadth of federally-funded public health and health research programs - from bench to bedside to curbside and beyond - and how these initiatives are helping Americans lead healthier, more prosperous lives across their lifespan. The Fair will take place in the Rayburn Atrium, Rayburn House Office Building. To view the event flyer, click [here](#).

#### **9. AACR Annual Cancer Progress Report Briefing – September 12**

The annual [AACR Cancer Progress Report](#) to Congress and the American public, now in its eighth edition, is a cornerstone of the efforts of the AACR to educate the public about cancer and the importance of biomedical research, as well as to advocate for increased federal funding for the NIH, NCI, and FDA. This year's report chronicles how federally-funded research continues to improve lives, and it shows that our ability to fully capitalize on our ever-growing knowledge of cancer is dependent on robust, sustained, and predictable federal funding. Please join AACR for a Congressional Briefing to release the report on September 12 at 12pm in 2168 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see attached flyer, and [RSVP here](#) by September 7.

#### **10. 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 by September 4.

### **11. Invitation to Golden Goose Award Ceremony – September 13**

On behalf of the Golden Goose Award, an annual [award](#) honoring federally funded research with silly sounding or obscure beginnings that has gone on to have enormous societal impact, we invite you to join us for our 2018 Golden Goose Award Ceremony and Reception at the Library of Congress on September 13, 2018. Please see the attached flyer, and [RSVP here](#) by Monday, September 10. [#GGA18](#)

### **12. 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](mailto:dinabeau@aol.com) and see the attached flyer for additional information.

### **13. AEVR 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception – September 27**

Please join AEVR for its 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dinabeau@aol.com) and see the attached flyer for additional details.

### **14. 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 this Friday, 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](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).