



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

August 31, 2020

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:

Neuronline @NeuronlineSfN August 18

As advocates in that world, it's our responsibility to make sure scientists feel comfortable coming and working with Members of Congress." Says [@Lynnleo553](#), Director of the [@CLS Advocates](#). Learn more about how to get involved and talk to lawmakers. <https://bit.ly/3fp5SxF>

Roll Call: Congress Faces Tough Call Next Month on Stopgap Funding Length

With fewer than 10 legislative days before the start of FY 2021 on October 1 and a presidential election two months away, legislators are beginning to discuss potential continuing resolution (CR) timelines, [as reported in Roll Call](#) on August 25. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) is advocating for a CR through March, while veterans of the process predict a CR through December 11. The House has already passed 10 of 12 FY 2021 spending bills, including the Labor-HHS bill with NIH funding. The Senate Appropriations Committee has yet to introduce any draft FY 2021 spending bills.

Update on COVID-19 Relief Negotiations

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows commented that the administration is open to combining additional COVID-19 relief with a continuing resolution for FY 2021 spending bills during an August 26 event and reported in [Roll Call](#). Mr. Meadows added that the proposal does have support of several Senate Republicans. However, Mr. Meadows also noted that he has not had additional conversations with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) regarding a new COVID-19 relief package since negotiations stalled in early August.

NIH Establishes Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases

In an [August 27 news release](#), the NIH announced the establishment of the Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID), funded through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). 11 grants with approximately \$17 million in funding have been awarded to centers around the world to establish surveillance

collaborations across 29 countries. “The CREID network will enable early warnings of emerging diseases wherever they occur, which will be critical to rapid responses. The knowledge gained through this research will increase our preparedness for future outbreaks,” noted NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD.

People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Disproportionately Affected by COVID-19

An [August 28 NIH media advisory](#) summarized research results on the disproportionate toll of COVID-19 on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs), funded by NIH’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The study authors describe impacts to caregiver needs of people with IDD and recommend prioritizing those who cannot benefit from screen-based supports for in-person services. The authors also encourage the use of in-home support for special educational services when schools do not meet in-person.

Cancer Grand Challenges Partnership Launched

The National Cancer Institute announced a new partnership with Cancer Research UK to fund Cancer Grand Challenges, a global effort to make bold advances in cancer research, according to an [August 27 NIH news release](#). The sponsors plan to co-fund four awards of approximately \$25 million over five years, with the goals of: identifying important cancer research opportunities; facilitating global collaboration among multidisciplinary researchers to solve these challenges; giving the global teams the freedom and scale to innovate and carry out cutting-edge research; and further advancing fundamental biological knowledge and its clinical application to cancer. New challenges are expected to be released in October.

Report: Research Impact Under COVID-19

The Council on Government Relations released an August 2020 report on COVID-19’s impact to the research enterprise. [Research Impact Under COVID-19: Financial Crisis and the “Pandemic Normal”](#) provides a model for estimating research output loss and financial impact, describes the challenges of conducting research during a pandemic, and advocates for renewed commitment and a substantial infusion of new research investment to maintain the country’s global research competitiveness. The Research Impact Metric (RIM) Model estimates research output losses between 20-40% as well as financial losses of hundreds of millions of dollars at individual institutions.

Upcoming Events

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.](#)

NEW! Research!America's National Health Research Forum - September 8-10

Registration is now open for Research!America's 2020 Virtual National Health Research Forum - three days of powerful conversations that take an unvarnished look at the impact of COVID-19. The event Straight Talk: Securing a Science Strong Future will take place from September 8-10, 2020. The full agenda is [available here](#). For more information and to register, [click here](#).

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 rallyformedicalresearch.org.

Global Liver Institute's Advanced Advocacy Academy – October 26-30

The Global Liver Institute's fourth annual [Advanced Advocacy Academy \(A3\)](#) will take place worldwide on October 26-30. This year's virtual event will offer liver patients, caregivers, and professionals the opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of drug development, clinical trials, state and federal legislation, media and communications, and liver health and disease. Live discussions with faculty members will enhance individual learning, foster engagement, and promote important conversations. Self-paced lessons can be customized to fit each attendee's personal learning style and schedule. Anyone impacted by liver disease and passionate about liver advocacy should [apply for A3 2020](#) online by October 1. For more information, see the [attached flyer](#) or contact a3@globaliver.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.

Requests for Public Comment

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](#).

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: [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 or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.*