Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
September 13, 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:

**UCSD GRR @UCSDGRR – September 8**

In collaboration with @SanYsidroHealth, researchers at @UCSDMedSchool were granted $3 million from the National Institutes of Health (@NIH) for '2ViDA!'. This new program tackles vaccine hesitancy and barriers in Latinx, Black Communities. Read more.

House Energy & Commerce Begins Reconciliation Markup, Including ARPA-H Funds

On September 13, the House Energy & Commerce Committee will begin marking up its portion of the Build Back Better Act, a human infrastructure plan that includes parts of President Biden’s American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan. Committee Chair Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) released a memo outlining the main provisions for the bill to accompany the draft text, including a proposed $3 billion investment to establish President Biden’s ARPA-H initiative. The legislation would direct the HHS Secretary to appoint an ARPA-H director responsible for coordinating the agency’s work with other HHS research agencies. While the measure does not indicate that the new agency would reside within the NIH, it does include language indicating that ARPA-H funds should “supplement and not supplant appropriations” for NIH.

Also included in the draft legislation is a $15 million investment in NIH’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) for research on “interventions to mitigate the effects of the COVID–19 public health emergency on pregnant, lactating, and postpartum individuals, with a particular focus on individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups.”

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research previously sent a letter signed by 230 coalition members urging Congressional leaders to invest in physical and human infrastructure in the research enterprise, specifically for the NIH.

House Leaders Discuss Continuing Resolution Timeline
A spokesman for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer told reporters on Sept. 10 that the House Majority Leader hopes to vote on a continuing resolution (CR) during the week of September 20 (subscription required). The fiscal year ends on Sept. 30.

House leaders have not yet announced an intended deadline for the CR. However, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) indicated that the CR could include language to raise the debt ceiling, following a Sept. 8 letter from Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen indicating the department may not be able to extend extraordinary measures to fund the government past the expected default in mid-October.

**OMB Issues Anomalies Memo for Short-term CR**
The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a Sept. 7 memo detailing additional funding requests in the case of a CR to fund the government after the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1. The memo included a request for an extended disbursement anomaly for NIH grants for funds made available in FY 2016 and were obligated for multi-year research grants. Acting OMB Director Shalanda Young also authored a blog post summarizing the budget anomalies.

**OSTP Issues Pandemic Preparedness Blueprint**
On Sept. 2, the Biden administration released a $65 billion preparedness plan to combat future pandemics that would include NIH experts as part of the core team to manage pandemic responses. The preparedness strategy includes five main pillars: improving medical defenses such as vaccines and therapeutics, bolstering early warning and real-time monitoring of infectious diseases, strengthening public health systems, enhancing stockpiles, and creating a unified biodefense response "Mission Control" with staff from several federal agencies.

The preparedness plan requests that at least $15 billion of the proposal be funded through the current budget reconciliation package.

**NCI Annual Plan & Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2023**
The National Cancer Institute has shared its Annual Plan & Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2023. The annual plan and budget proposal contains four special scientific topics: clinical trials, computer-based drug design, precision prevention, and tumor dynamics. Other themes throughout the proposal include investigator-initiated research, cancer research and building on established areas, and health equity.

When talking about or sharing information about the FY23 Annual Plan online, NCI encourages you to use the hashtag #NCIFuture and #NothingWillStopUs.

**Upcoming Events**

**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.

**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.

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.

NEW Golden Goose Awards Ceremony – September 22
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 2021 Golden Goose Award Ceremony. In our tenth year, we are thrilled we can once again recognize three teams of researchers whose work demonstrates how scientific and technological advances that result from foundational scientific research supported by the federal government can profoundly impact society in unforeseen ways. Please join us virtually on September 22 at 4pm ET to celebrate these achievements. Please RSVP here by Tuesday, September 21.

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 23, with a virtual kick-off reception on September 22 at 4pm EST.

Help End the HIV Epidemic: Clinical Fellowship Opportunity – November 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. 13
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.

NEW OSTP and NSF Seek Input on Nationwide AI Research Resource Implementation Plan - October 1
The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Science Foundation are looking for your input to shape the work of the National Artificial
Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) Task Force. This Task Force is taking on a critically important initiative – building an implementation plan for a national infrastructure that would democratize access to artificial intelligence (AI) research and development (R&D). The Task Force will provide recommendations for establishing and sustaining the NAIRR, including technical capabilities, governance, administration, and assessment, as well as requirements for security, privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. The Task Force will submit two reports to Congress presenting a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan: an interim report in May 2022 and final report in November 2022.

Please submit responses to the Request for Information before the comment period closes on October 1, 2021.

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

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.

**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 combination of education and work experience. Click [here](#) to apply.

**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.