Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

September 20, 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:

**Friends of NIA @FriendsofNIA – September 17**  
Calling all researchers in #aging! Join us in our campaign to highlight research supported by @NIH and NIA [http://friendsofnia.org/blog/niafundsme-social-media-campaign/…](http://friendsofnia.org/blog/niafundsme-social-media-campaign/…)#NIAFundsMe

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

The House Energy & Commerce Committee completed marking up its portion of the Build Back Better Act on Sept. 15. The committee approved the provision including a proposed $3 billion investment to establish President Biden’s ARPA-H initiative. During the markup, several committee members expressed support for the ARPA-H proposal, with Republicans expressing disappointment at efforts to establish the initiative through reconciliation, which they characterized as a partisan process, rather than through a bipartisan process. Health Subcommittee Chair Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) stated that the committee will hold hearings on the initiative, but the reconciliation package provided an opportunity to fund the initiative.

Reps. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) and Fred Upton (R-Mich.) both mentioned the effort to authorize ARPA-H through their Cures 2.0 legislation, which they hope to introduce later in September. The House-passed FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies spending bill also includes $3 billion for
ARPA-H but establishes the new entity within the NIH rather than HHS as proposed in the Build Back Better provision.

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 Expected to Vote on Continuing Resolution During Week of Sept. 20

The House Rules Committee is scheduled to convene to consider a continuing resolution (CR) on Sept. 20, with the full House expected to vote on the measure later in the week. Text of the CR has not yet been released, which will include the duration of the stopgap measure to fund the government past the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1. Previous reports indicated that Congressional leaders were considering a CR that would extend into December.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) also noted that the House would vote on a measure to address the debt ceiling during the week of Sept. 20, however it is unclear if that issue will be included in the CR or considered separately. This follows outreach from the Treasury Department indicating that extraordinary measures may not be available to fund the government past the expected default in mid-October.

NIH Issues Long-COVID Research Award

On Sept. 15, the NIH announced an award for the REsearching COVID to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER) Initiative to study long-term effects of COVID-19 in adult, pregnant, and pediatric patients. A $470 million parent award was made to New York University’s Langone Health which will serve as the central convener of the research cohort and will also issue subawards to more than 100 researchers at more than 30 institutions across the country. “This scientifically rigorous approach puts into place a collaborative and multidisciplinary research community inclusive of diverse research participants that are critical to informing the treatment and prevention of the long-term effects of COVID-19,” said Gary Gibbons, MD, director of NIH’s National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and one of the co-chairs of the RECOVER Initiative.

NIH Council of Councils

The NIH’s Council of Councils met on Sept. 17 to receive updates on various NIH activities and initiatives including the All of Us Research Program, the agency’s COVID-19 research, the UNITE initiative, and the final report of the Sequence Read Archive working group. The meeting also included votes on several concept clearances including Advanced Training in Artificial Intelligence for Precision Nutrition Science Research (AIPrN) and time-sensitive health research opportunities within the Office of
Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR). Copies of the presentations and a recording of the meeting are available on the [meeting website](#).

**Open Mike: Clarifying NIH’s Approach to Granting ESI Extensions**

NIH’s Director of Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, clarified regulations regarding extensions for early stage investigators (ESIs) in a [Sept. 17 blog post](#). Specifically, the [updated FAQs](#) now state that the NIH will allow those ESIs who are already on an extension to request an additional extension should circumstances require, such as unexpected obstacles presented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**UMR Releases Part 2 of “Why Invest in NIH?” Factsheet**

United for Medical Research (UMR) released part two of their “Why Invest in NIH?” factsheet series highlighting why it is essential that the United States maintain a strong National Institutes of Health (NIH). The factsheet, [Reducing the Human & Economic Toll of Disease](#), looks at some of America’s most chronic and costly diseases and how — despite significant progress in some areas — there is still much work to be done to reduce their toll on society and the economy.

This newest fact sheet and the second in the series, Responding to COVID-19, is [available here](#).

**#NIAFundsMe Social Media Campaign**

The Friends of the National Institute of Aging (FoNIA) has designed a social media campaign to highlight the research that the NIA funds, which enhances the lives and expands the health span of all Americans. FoNIA is encouraging all aging researchers to take a picture of themselves and/or something emblematic of their research and post to social media using the hashtag #NIAFundsMe. Additional details are on the [FoNIA blog](#).

**Upcoming Events**

**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.

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.

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.

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

NEW Academic Public Health Leadership Positions

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) has posted three senior level job announcements: Chief External Relations And Advocacy Officer; Director, Advocacy and Federal Affairs; and Chief Academic Officer. The Chief External Relations and Advocacy Officer will lead the integration and advancement of the ASPPH’s advocacy, strategic communications, and fundraising and development efforts. The Chief also will lead the ASPPH’s efforts to promote the use of research and
science to advance public policy. The Director, Advocacy and Federal Affairs, will lead the ASPPH’s efforts to affect regulatory, legislative, and other public policy issues. The individual also is charged with keeping the leaders of ASPPH member schools and programs informed on the status of policy deliberations and legislative and regulatory actions. The Chief Academic Officer will lead programs, initiatives, and activities that support education, accreditation, practice, professional development, workforce development, and data. All three positions are based in ASPPH’s Washington, DC office. Applications will be accepted through October 15, 2021.

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.

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.*