

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – September 4, 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:

Rally for Medical Research @RallyForNIH

What or who do YOU rally for? Download your "I Rally For" card here and share!

<https://bit.ly/2C6Cpd8> [#rallymedres](#) [#IRallyFor](#)

1. House and Senate to Proceed to Conference on FY 2019 Labor-HHS Bill

Following the Senate's August 23 passage of its FY 2019 Labor-HHS bill, the House and Senate will likely proceed to a conference committee to work out differences between the two chambers' appropriations bills. According to the September 4 [floor schedule](#), the House will proceed to a motion to go to conference on H.R. 6157.

2. Senate Executive Session on OSTP Director Nominee

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Sept. 5 [will hold](#) an executive session to consider referring to the full Senate President Trump's nominee, Kelvin Droegemeier, PhD, to be the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

3. NIH Names New NCCIH Director

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, August 29 [announced](#) Helene M. Langevin, MD, CM, as the new director of the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH). Dr. Collins noted that "Helene's distinguished career and leadership in the integrative health community, along with her research on the role of non-pharmacological treatment for pain, makes her ideally suited to lead NCCIH." Dr. Langevin is expected to assume her new role in November 2018.

4. NIAID Director Co-Authors Article on Impact of HIV Research

NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD, August 28 [co-authored an article](#) titled "The Extended Impact of Human Immunodeficiency Virus/AIDS Research" in The Journal of Infectious Diseases. The [NIH media advisory](#) reports that "since the first cases of AIDS were reported in the United States 37 years ago, the National Institutes of Health has invested more than \$69 billion in the understanding, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS." Dr. Fauci's commentary highlights various examples of the far-reaching benefits of HIV/AIDS research, including advancing our understanding of the immune system and the role of inflammation in disease, a model for antiviral drugs to target other viruses such as hepatitis C, and vaccines against other viruses such as Ebola and Zika.

5. NIH Director's Blog: Role of Stress Gene in Chronic Pain

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, authored a September 4 [blog post](#) about the role of genetics in chronic pain susceptibility following a trauma. Dr. Collins summarizes many years of research that have shown an association between genetic variants in a stress-controlling gene and severity of chronic pain following a car accident. Dr. Collins concludes that "unfortunately,

current treatments used to manage chronic pain can be addictive, and that can lead to tragic outcomes... [but] the good news, as highlighted by this study, is we're making research progress" towards a better understanding of and better treatments for chronic pain.

6. NIH-funded Trial Shows Multiple Sclerosis Drug Slows Brain Shrinkage

An August 29 NIH [News Release](#) shared details of a NINDS-funded clinical trial of over 250 participants with multiple sclerosis (MS), showing that the drug ibudilast slowed the progression of brain shrinkage compared to placebo. The study, published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), was conducted across almost 30 sites. The paper's first author noted that, not only are the results encouraging for a potential new MS therapy, but also, the results "increased our understanding of advanced imaging techniques ... [leading] to increased efficiency of clinical research. These imaging methods may also be relevant to a host of other neurological disorders."

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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](#).

10. 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.

11. 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. Today (September 4) is the deadline to register.

12. 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](#)

13. 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 and see the attached flyer for additional information.

14. AEVR 25th Anniversary Reception – September 27

Please join AEVR for its 25th 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 and see the attached flyer for additional details.

15. NASEM: Upcoming Meeting on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Academia

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will [convene 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 discuss sexual harassment in academia. The meeting will be held 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.

16. 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

[Registration](#) is available online through Thursday, November 1.

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 or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.