

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – September 6, 2016

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research has joined the Twitterverse! Follow us @fundNIH to keep up with events included in the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round-up – among other news of interest to the NIH advocacy community – in 140 characters or less. Additionally, each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round-up will feature hashtags and/or tweets suggested by members of the NIH advocacy community. We encourage all readers who are active on social media to use these messages, and welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round-up.

1. NIH Awards Six Teams to Reverse Neural Regeneration

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) September 1 [announced](#) that it will provide funding for six projects that will work to identify factors that influence neural regeneration. These efforts are part of the National Eye Institute Audacious Goals Initiative, which seeks to use regenerative neurons to restore vision. The projects will receive \$12.4 million over three years.

2. Nominations Continue for 2017 Lurie Prize

There is still time to nominate a colleague for the Foundation for National Institute of Health's 2017 Lurie Prize in Biomedical Sciences. Nominations are being accepted until September 14, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. The Lurie Prize recognizes “outstanding achievement by a promising young scientist in biomedical research.” You can learn more about the award and how to nominate a colleague [here](#).

3. Rally for Medical Research Hill Day Registration Still Open

Registration continues for the Rally for Medical Research for the 2016 Hill Day. This year's Hill day will take place Thursday, September 22, 2016. You can register for the Hill day [here](#), and if you have any questions, please contact info@rallyformedicalresearch.org.

4. Congressional Briefing on Neuroscience

Moving Towards a Healthy Brain

Hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-339

Lunch will be provided.

This briefing will highlight neuroscience research, and ways to keep the brain healthy.

Speakers:

- **Sarah Ingersoll**, MS, MBA, RN, Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurology, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
- **Arthur Kramer**, Ph.D., Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education, Professor of Psychology & Engineering, Northeastern University; Member, Global Council on Brain Health

Moderator:

- Erin Heath, AAAS

Please RSVP [here](#).

5. Congressional Briefing on Pain Research

Pain Research: On the Verge of a Breakthrough
Sponsored by the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus
Friday, September 9, 2016
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-340
Boxed lunches will be available for attendees.

Dr. Allan Basbaum, a world-renowned researcher who studies the fundamental mechanisms that contribute to the development of chronic pain, will discuss the different types of chronic pain and the recent breakthroughs that may hold promise for potential new treatment strategies. Additional information is in the attached invitation.

Speaker:

- **Allan Basbaum**, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Anatomy, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine.

Please RSVP to Tommy Mattocks at cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org.

6. Congressional Briefing on Advancements in Retinal Diseases

Advances in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Retinal Diseases
Hosted by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
Wednesday, September 14, 2016
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-338

This briefing is held during International AMD Awareness Week 2016 and Healthy Aging Month, and will focus on the latest developments in AMD diagnosis and treatment as well as other retinal diseases.

Speakers:

- **Amir H. Kashani**, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California.

Please RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com

7. Congressional Reception for Emerging Vision Scientists

Emerging Vision Scientists Reception

Hosted by the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 pm

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2168 (The Gold Room)

The reception will highlight the work of 22 early-stage vision scientists, who will display posters and discuss their breakthrough research. Their research ranges from that addressing aging eye disease to deaf blindness. The event focuses on answering the question, “How will this research delay or prevent the \$717 billion annual cost of eye disease and vision impairment projected by year 2050?”

Please RSVP to Dina Beaumont at 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com

8. Congressional Briefing on Cancer Moonshot Technology Breakthroughs

Cancer Moonshot: Breakthroughs

Sponsored by the American Institute for Medical & Biological Engineering

Thursday, September 15, 2016

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-339

Lunch will be provided.

This briefing will discuss recent breakthroughs in technology that are used to combat cancer. Specifically, the briefing will highlight innovative imaging techniques being used to diagnose cancer and new vaccines that are undergoing clinical trials.

Speakers:

- **David Mooney**, Ph.D., Professor of Bioengineering, Harvard University;
- **Nimmi Ramanujam**, Ph.D., Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Founder of the Global Women’s Health Technologies Center, Duke University;
- **Krishna Kandarpa**, M.D., Ph.D., Director of Research Sciences and Strategic Directions, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, NIH; and
- **Milan Yager**, Executive Director, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Please RSVP to smandell@aimbe.org.

9. *Congressional Briefing on the ABCD Study*

Brain Development and Our Kids' Future - the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study

Sponsored by the Friends of NIAAA and Friends of NIDA

Monday, September 19, 2016

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2168 (The Gold Rom)

This briefing will provide an overview of the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, which is the largest long-term study of brain development and child health. The briefing also will highlight the impact the ABCD study will have for education and mental health.

Speakers:

- **Sandra Brown**, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research and Distinguished Professor, University of California San Diego, Co-Director ABCD Study Coordinating Center;
- **Sharon Levy**, M.D., Director, Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Program, Boston Children's Hospital;
- **Thomas Brock**, Ph.D., Commissioner, National Center for Education Research, Institute of Education Sciences;
- **Kevin Gray**, M.D., Director, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Medical University of South Carolina;
- **Nora Volkow**, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH; and
- **George Koob**, Ph.D., Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIH.

Please RSVP to Cynthia Malley at cmalley@apa.org.

10. *Congressional Briefing to Unveil the Cancer Progress Report*

AACR Cancer Progress Report 2016: Improving Lives Through Research

Sponsored by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Russell Senate Office Building, Room 385

Lunch will be provided at this widely attended event.

Speakers:

- **The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.**, U.S. Representative for New Jersey's 10th congressional district, Co-chair, Congressional Men's Health Caucus;

- **Margaret Foti**, Ph.D., M.D. (hc), Chief Executive Officer of the AACR;
- **Nancy E. Davidson**, M.D., President of the AACR and Chair, AACR Cancer Progress Report 2016; Director, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute; Hillman Professor of Oncology, Associate Vice Chancellor for Cancer Research, and Distinguished Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh;
- **Elizabeth M. Jaffee**, M.D., Deputy Director, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins; Dana and Albert “Cubby” Broccoli Professor of Oncology, and Co-Director, Skip Viragh Center for Pancreas Cancer, Johns Hopkins University; Chair, National Cancer Advisory Board;
- **Nancy McGuire**, Survivor of leiomyosarcoma; Great Falls, VA;
- **Steve McKinion**, Parent of a child with acute lymphoblastic leukemia; Wake Forest, NC; and
- **Philip Prichard**, Survivor of renal cell carcinoma; Memphis, TN

Please RSVP to Dash Dalen at govrelations@aacr.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 Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org or Clay Crabtree at ccrabtree@aamc.org.