

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – September 17, 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](#)

[.@RepKevinYoder](#): Without the [@NIH](#) we wouldn't have these advancements in treating these diseases. Medical research is a non-partisan issue. [#RallyMedRes](#)

Be sure to check out the [#RallyMedRes](#) and [#GGA18](#) hashtags for more tweets from the Sept. 12-13 Rally for Medical Research and Golden Goose Awards!

1. House and Senate Agree to, File Conference Report on FY 2019 Labor-HHS Bill

House and Senate negotiators Sept. 13 adopted and have since filed a [compromise agreement](#) on the FY 2019 Labor-HHS and Defense spending bills ([H.R. 6157](#)), which adopts the Senate-passed \$39.1 billion funding level for the NIH, representing a \$2 billion (5.4 percent) increase, including funding provided through the 21st Century Cures Act. The [joint explanatory statement](#) accompanying the agreement includes funding tables for all programs included in the bill. The Senate is expected to vote on the package the week of Sept. 17, with a House vote the following week, before sending to the president in advance of the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

2. NIH Policies, Statements on Sexual Harassment

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, published a [Sept. 17 statement](#) titled "Changing the culture of science to end sexual harassment." In the statement, Dr. Collins states that sexual harassment is unacceptable, "and it presents a major obstacle that is keeping women from achieving their rightful place in science — as trainees representing the next generation of innovators, as researchers making important scientific discoveries, and as senior personnel on NIH-supported grants." In recognizing that NIH needs to "increase [its] transparency on the issue," NIH launched an [anti-sexual harassment website](#) to highlight NIH policies pertinent to the extramural and intramural programs. Dr. Collins concludes that other science agencies are working on their own ways to address sexual harassment in science, and that "these policies should be harmonized across the government."

3. *Open Mike*: NIH Sexual and Gender Harassment Policies

In conjunction with Dr. Collins statement, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, Michael Lauer, MD, authored a Sept. 17 [Open Mike blog post](#) to update the community on NIH's sexual harassment policies. Dr. Lauer summarizes various recent incidents and publications involving sexual harassment in academia, and shared an update on how NIH handles these incidents when reported at NIH-funded institutions. Lauer quotes the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS) in that "the [grant recipient](#), which [nearly always is an institution, not a person](#) 'is responsible for the actions of its employees and other research collaborators' ... and that failure to comply may cause NIH to 'withdraw approval of the ... senior/key personnel'" on a research grant. Further, "if a grantee takes administrative or disciplinary action against its employee(s) ... that impacts the ability of the employee(s) to continue as 'senior/key personnel' on an NIH award, NIH

requires the grantee to notify NIH and seek NIH's advance approval for replacement(s) of PD/PIs and senior/key personnel.”

4. PCORI Board Approves Policy for Researchers to Share Their Research Data

The Board of Governors of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Sept. 7 approved a [new policy calling](#) for the researchers PCORI funds to share their data sets and documentation for reanalysis and reuse. According to a [press release](#), certain research teams that receive PCORI funding, especially larger awards, are expected to place the data generated during their studies, as well as the documentation for how the data were produced, into a PCORI-designated repository. The data, including deidentified information collected from study participants, full protocols, meta-data, and statistical analysis plans, would be made available to other research teams for reanalysis and additional analyses. PCORI notes that a distinguishing feature its approach is that funding will be provided to research teams to prepare the data and other materials for sharing. The policy was also [reported](#) in *Modern Healthcare*.

5. NY Times: Top Sloan Kettering Cancer Doctor Resigns After Failing to Disclose Industry Ties

José Baselga, MD, PhD, Chief Medical Officer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, [resigned](#) Sept. 13 following an investigation by [ProPublica and the New York Times](#) into his failure to disclose his industry relationships in dozens on publications, including those in major journals and in the journal for which he was the former editor-in-chief. The report has raised questions about whether journals and academic institutions know enough about what investigators/authors are disclosing.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

6. AEVR Hill Briefing on Age-Related Macular Degeneration – Sept. 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 Sept. 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.

7. AEVR 25th Anniversary Reception – Sept. 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 Sept. 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.

8. NIEHS Hill Briefing: A Healthy Start for Every Child – Oct. 10

Please join the Friends of NIEHS for a U.S. Congress briefing titled, “A Healthy Start for Every Child: How the Environment Influences Health and Development,” featuring NIEHS Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D. The event will take place Wednesday, October 10, 2018 12:30p.m. – 2:00pm p.m. in the Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2045. Please RSVP to dcrsvp@thoracic.org and see the attached invitation for more information.

9. Panel Study of Income Dynamics 50th Anniversary Reception – Oct. 18

Please join the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) in celebrating its 50th anniversary during an Oct. 18th reception. The event will take place at the Newseum from 6:30 – 9pm. Please RSVP to pathall@umich.edu and see the attached flyer for additional details.

10. 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 Nov. 9, 2018, from 9:00am – 5:00pm in Washington DC, and will focus on developing strategies on how to prevent sexual harassment in academia.

11. Learn Serve Lead – Nov. 2-6, 2018

Learn Serve Lead 2018 - the AAMC Annual Meeting is open for registration. The Nov. 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, Nov. 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.