

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – September 25, 2017

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 welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here's this week's featured tweet:

Research!America (@ResearchAmerica)

.@NIHDirector at #transformers, "The value of research as an indispensable federal investment is compelling...because research saves lives."

1. NIH Director Among Featured Speakers at Washington Post Transformers Event

On Sept. 20, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, [spoke](#) about precision medicine and other aspects of scientific research at a Washington Post Transformers: Health event. During the interview, Dr. Collins discussed the "All of Us" research program, NIH's work to help curb the opioid epidemic, and the ongoing support for biomedical research funding. During the discussion, Dr. Collins highlighted that "the value of biomedical research as an investment of the federal government is just incredibly compelling." He also underscored the economic impact saying, "Every dollar that NIH puts into a grant returns \$8.38 in terms of economic growth over the next eight years." A transcript of the event is available on the Washington Post [website](#).

2. NIH Director Scheduled to Testify on Senate Committee Opioid Panel

On Oct. 5, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee [will hold](#) a full committee hearing on the "Federal Response to the Opioid Crisis." NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, is among the federal witnesses scheduled to testify. Other witnesses include Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, and Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Elinore McCance-Katz, MD, PhD. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10am in 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

3. Open Mike - Patents and the Relative Citation Ratio: Correlations to Assess NIH Impact

On Sept. 18, NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, [posted](#) an Open Mike blog post on patents and cited publications. After referencing an [article](#) on the patent productivity of NIH grants, Dr. Lauer wrote that "when patents cite a publication, that article is also likely to be highly influential in its field." He acknowledges that the "correlation between patent citation and relative citation ratio may be correlative, not causal," but that "both measures do still provide us with a glimpse into the influence of the NIH research portfolio."

4. NSABB Workshop on Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern

On Sept. 25-26, the NIH and the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) will co-host a workshop to engage with stakeholders and facilitate information sharing among research institutions regarding their approaches to, and experiences with, implementing the [United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern \(DURC\)](#). This two-day workshop will involve discussions with diverse institutional representatives and facilitate the sharing of experiences including strategies, best practices, challenges, and solutions regarding policy implementation and the identification and management of DURC. While webcasting will not be available,

the meeting will be recorded for future viewing on the [OSP Website](#). For additional details and to register please visit the [workshop website](#). Email Kevin Ramkissoon (ramkissoonkr@od.nih.gov) for questions.

5. Golden Goose Awards This Wednesday, Sept. 27 at the Library of Congress

The [Golden Goose Awards](#), taking place on Sept. 27 at 5:30pm at the Library of Congress, celebrate the stories of how basic research delivers major societal impacts – from NIH-funded [massages for baby rats](#) that changed how we treat premature babies (and saved billions in health care costs) to the once canceled NIH-funded [adolescent health study](#) that informs everything from school curricula to public health programs. Each year, three teams of researchers are showcased through written stories and documentary videos, and honored with an award ceremony in Washington, DC each fall. The award depends on the support of partners in the science community, and more than twenty different organizations in our community and beyond contribute each year. Additional details for the ceremony are attached; RSVP by Sept. 25 [here](#).

6. Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus Briefing – Sept. 27

Join the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus for a briefing featuring Joshua Schiffman, MD, a childhood cancer survivor, childhood cancer researcher, and childhood cancer doctor. Dr. Schiffman will discuss where cancer comes from in children, new research tools being developed to identify who is at risk for cancer before it happens, and exciting new approaches to treating and maybe one day even preventing cancer. This includes learning what we can about children with cancer from studying our pet dogs, who naturally develop a lot of cancer, and also from studying elephants, who naturally resist cancer. This briefing will be held on Sept. 27 in 2060 Rayburn House Office Building from noon to 1pm. RSVP by emailing Lynn Marquis at cls@coalitionforlifesciences.org. More information is in the attached flyer. Boxed lunches will be available for attendees.

7. Johns Hopkins Medicine Briefing on Precision Medicine – Sept. 27

On Sept. 27, Johns Hopkins Medicine will host a Capitol Hill briefing titled, “Lower Cost, Better Care.” The briefing is part of the “On the Road to Precision Medicine Health Care Leader Series.” This conversation will focus on current challenges in precision medicine. Leading experts across all sectors will discuss how to improve the way we tailor health care to individuals and create better ways to engage people in the health care system. Topics will include cost, communication, research and health care delivery. To RSVP, please send an email to JHOnTheRoad@jhmi.edu by COB Monday, September 25. Flyer attached.

8. AIMBE Congressional Briefing – Sept. 29

On Sept. 29, as part of Healthy Aging Month, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) will host a Capitol Hill briefing titled, “Eyes to the Future: Meet the Inventor of the Bionic Eye.” It is projected that the annual cost of vision disorders in the United States by 2050 will be \$373 billion—or \$717 billion when adjusted for inflation. This cost is driven by an aging population in need of more advanced eye health care. Biomedical engineers are working to solve this problem through research and development supported by federal science agencies, including the National Eye Institute. The briefing will take place from noon to 1pm in B-339/2044 Rayburn House Office Building. More information is available in the attached flyer. RSVP to Sarah Mandell at smandell@aimbe.org. Boxed lunches will be provided.

9. Briefing Social Science Solutions for Health, Public Safety, Computing, and Other National Priorities – Oct. 4

The Consortium of Social Science Associations and SAGE Publishing invite you to a congressional briefing on Social Science Solutions for Health, Public Safety, Computing, and Other National Priorities. This briefing will take place on Oct. 4 from noon to 1pm in 2075 Rayburn House Office Building. Featured speakers include: Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.), Wendy Naus of the Consortium of Social Science Associations, Andrew Bernat, PhD, from the Computing Research Association, Nancy La Vigne, PhD from The Urban Institute, and William Riley, PhD, from the National Institutes of Health.

10. American Statistical Association October Symposium Invitation

The ASA is hosting a [symposium](#) October 11-13 in Bethesda, MD to follow up the discussions generated by its 2016 [Statement on P-Values and Statistical Significance](#) on statistical and scientific evidence. The [ASA Symposium on Statistical inference](#) featured speakers include Marcia McNutt, John Ioannidis, and leaders of the statistical community. Discussions will center on specific approaches for improving statistical evidence as it intersects with three broad components of research activities: Conducting research in the 21st century; Using research in the 21st century; Sponsoring, disseminating, and replicating research in the 21st century; Online registration will be open through the end of the conference: <https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/ssi/2017/registration.cfm>.

11. 14th Annual AERA Brown Lecture In Education Research with Alfredo J. Artiles

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) invites you to its [Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research](#). This lecture is designed to feature the important role of research in advancing understanding of equality and equity in education. This year's featured speaker is Alfredo Artiles, PhD, dean of graduate education and the Ryan C. Harris professor of special education at Arizona State University. Dr. Artiles is a leading scholar on understanding and addressing educational inequities related to the intersections of disability with other sociocultural differences. The lecture will take place from 6 to 9 pm ET on Oct. 19 at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center (1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC). You may RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/14th-annual-aera-brown-lecture-in-education-research-tickets-35522375381?aff=email072717>. This event is free and open to the public. A buffet reception will follow.

12. SfN Invites You to Its Neurobiology of Disease Workshop

On Nov. 10, The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) will host a [2017 Neurobiology of Disease Workshop](#), "Gene Therapy to Address Unmet Needs in Neurology." This workshop will feature Florian Eichler, MD, Xandra O. Breakefield, PhD, and [others](#) to discuss the breadth of current and emerging gene therapy approaches to treat neurologic disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, ALS, or muscular dystrophy. This workshop embraces the breadth of "gene therapy" including viral vectors, oligonucleotides, and cell therapies used in promising preclinical studies and clinical trials for a variety of neurologic disorders long thought to be incurable. These new methods involve DNA engineering, gene replacement using virus vectors and the patient's own genetically modified cells, oligonucleotides that can "revive" beneficial gene functions or suppress toxic ones, and viruses and cells armed to tackle brain tumors. For questions, please email training@sfn.org.

13. FasterCures Convenes "Partnering for Cures" in San Francisco

Since 2009, [Partnering for Cures](#) (P4C) has been convening leaders with the experience, creativity, and motivation needed to transform the medical research system. The event is convened annually by [FasterCures](#), a center of the Milken Institute, and connects decision-makers from across diseases who are motivated by the same mission – to reduce the time and cost of getting new therapies from discovery to

patients. *FasterCures* is taking P4C on the road and convening a smaller, cross-sector group of medical research leaders in San Francisco. Registration is now open for P4C San Francisco on Nov. 14. Find out more information at <http://www.partneringforcures.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 Joe Bañez at jbanez@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.