Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
October 4, 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:

**Neuronline @NeuronlineSfN – Sept. 23**

“As advocates in that world, it’s our responsibility to make sure scientists feel comfortable coming and working with Members of Congress,” says @Lynnieo553, Director of the @CLS_Advocates. Learn more about how to get involved & talk to lawmakers. t.co/xAd9x10KQP?amp=1 #SciPol

**President Signs CR Through December 3**

President Biden signed a continuing resolution (CR, P.L. 117-43) into law on the last day of the fiscal year that extends FY 2021 government funding levels through Dec. 3. The Senate amended and passed a House-approved version of the CR by a vote of 65-35 on Sept. 30 before sending it back to the House to approve the revised measure by a vote of 254-175. Democratic leaders removed version from the CR, which was opposed by Republicans, that would have suspended the debt ceiling until Dec. 16, 2022. The amended CR maintained language allowing the NIH to provide no-cost extensions to specific multiyear grants that were negatively impacted by the pandemic, through FY 2022. Democrats have not yet laid out a plan to address the debt ceiling following Republican opposition and testimony from Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, PhD, indicating that the government would default on its loans by mid-October without congressional action.

**OSTP, NIH Release ARPA-H Stakeholder Feedback Summary**

In follow-up to the 15 listening sessions that were hosted on the president’s Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) proposal this summer, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the NIH have posted a summary outlining the main themes reiterated by participating stakeholders. These sessions included more than 5,100 stakeholders and nearly 250 organizations from across the country, representing patient advocates, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, professional societies, the academic research community, industry, and others. A set of frequently asked questions on ARPA-H, informed by the discussions
during the listening sessions, were also posted. Any additional comments or questions from stakeholders may be submitted to ARPAHcomments@nih.gov.

**NIH Grantees Receive Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**

The 2021 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine was awarded on October 4 to David Julius, PhD, of the University of California San Francisco and Ardem Patapoutian, PhD, of Scripps Research, for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch. The award-winning research to identify cellular sensors responsive to heat and mechanical stimuli to better understand the nervous system was funded by the NIH. According to the NIH, to date, 165 NIH supported researchers have been sole or shared recipients of 97 Nobel Prizes.

**NIAID Issues New Awards to Fund “Pan-coronavirus” Vaccines**

The NIH awarded three research institutions with a total of approximately $36.3 million to conduct research to develop vaccines to protect against multiple types of coronaviruses and viral variants, stated a Sept. 28 News Release. The awards to Duke University, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, are being awarded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). “These new awards are designed to look ahead and prepare for the next generation of coronaviruses with pandemic potential,” said NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, MD.

**Seeking Endorsements: U.S. Air Travel Public Safety Act**

On Sept. 29, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) introduced the U.S. Air Travel Public Safety Act that would require all passengers on domestic airline flights to either be fully vaccinated, have recently tested negative for COVID-19 or have fully recovered from COVID-19. A poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that about three in 10 people surveyed who were waiting to be vaccinated said they would be more likely to get vaccinated if airlines required passengers to be vaccinated. This number increased to about four in 10 among unvaccinated individuals who said they would only get the vaccine if required. Additional background on the bill is available in Sen. Feinstein’s press release. If your organization would like to endorse the bill, please contact Andrew Fuentes in Senator Feinstein’s office at Andrew_fuentes@feinstein.senate.gov.

**Upcoming Events**

**RFP: Microgrants Available for Student Policy Groups – Oct. 12**

Research!America recently launched their 2021-2022 Civic Engagement Microgrant Program which provides funding for student- and postdoc-led civic engagement projects. The funding is intended for early career researchers who want to design and execute nonpartisan civic engagement activities and elevate the importance of scientific research, technological innovation and public health. Programs the students design should encourage dialogue between young scientists and local community and/or government leaders about the roles science and research play in issues important to their communities. Groups are also encouraged, but not required. Participation in this program affords early career researchers the opportunity to build transferable skills and
gain relevant experience for careers in and outside of academia. The application deadline is October 12, 2021.

**NEW** OSTP and NIH ARPA-H Listening and Feedback Session - Oct. 20
The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and NIH are co-hosting an ARPA-H Listening and Feedback Session for interested stakeholders. The session will take place on October 20 from 2:30-4pm EST. Additional details are on the NIH’s ARPA-H events website. Please register [here](#).

**Congressional Briefing: Myopia: A Public Health Crisis – Oct. 20**
Myopia, or nearsightedness, is one of several refractive errors that occur when the eye cannot clearly focus images from the outside world. Myopia affects 30% of the United States population and 28% of the world’s population and is expected to reach 50% by year 2050. Studies estimate that the global impact of uncorrected myopia results in a $244 billion annual loss of productivity. The Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) is co-sponsoring a briefing on October 20 at 12 - 1pm EST in which speakers will address myopia clinical care and research. View the [briefing flyer](#) for additional information and [register here](#).

**NEW** The Jackson Laboratory Healthcare Forum – Oct. 27-28
The Jackson Laboratory will hold the 2021 JAX Healthcare Forum to discuss the “post COVID world” and the current landscape of the biomedical research community on Oct. 27-28. This includes discussions on preparing for the next pandemic, what we learned from COVID-19, and how the biomedical research industry played a vital role in the production and implementation of life-saving vaccines and treatments. The forum will include experts and leaders in research, business, government, and academia. Registration is free. [More information and an invitation to register can be found here](#).

**NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration – Nov. 1-4**
The NIH is hosting a virtual regional seminar on program funding and grants administration from November 1-4. The event website includes a detailed agenda with keynote speakers and concurrent sessions. Registration is free and available on the event website. Additional background information is available on the [Sept. 24 Open Mike blog post](#).

**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.

Congressional Briefing: Speaking with Keratoconus Patients About Research and Treatments - Nov. 10
The Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) is joining with the National Keratoconus Foundation (NKCF) to recognize World Keratoconus Day 2021. Keratoconus (KC) is an eye condition in which the normally round, dome-shaped cornea—the transparent front of the eye—becomes weak and irregular, resulting in vision distortion, double or blurry vision, and light sensitivity. Researchers believe that certain individuals have a genetic predisposition to develop it, and a 2021 study from Australia suggests prevalence of 1.2% of the population, meaning it affects the lives of more than 3 million Americans. Speakers Christopher Rapuano, MD (Wills Eye Hospital) and Christine Sindt, OD, FAAO (University of Iowa) will address how they speak with newly diagnosed KC patients about research and treatment options. The briefing will take place on Nov. 10 from 12-1pm EST. View the briefing flyer for additional information and RSVP to Dina Beaumont at dinabeau@aol.com

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**

**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 APS’s advocacy role. The individual will also be responsible for working with 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.

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.