Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
October 18, 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:

**Association of American Universities @AAUniversities – October 18**

A new method of highlighting the most epileptic parts of the brain developed by @JohnsHopkins biomedical engineers could enable not only more accurate diagnosis of epilepsy, but also help guide more precise surgical treatment.

**Senate Appropriations Democrats Release FY 2022 Labor-HHS Draft Bill**
On Oct. 18, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) released draft text of nine remaining FY 2022 spending bills, including the Labor-HHS bill with proposed funding for the NIH. The bill would provide $45.5 billion for the NIH base budget in FY 2022, a $2.6 billion increase over FY 2021. This compares to a $3.5 billion increase to the base budget approved by the House in July. The bill also proposes a $2.4 billion investment for ARPA-H, compared to the $3 billion investment passed by the House. Additional details are available in the bill text, explanatory statement, and bill summary released by the committee Democrats. Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) issued a press statement urging a bipartisan process to finalizing FY 2022 spending bills.

**Rep. Eshoo Introduces ARPA-H Authorizing Legislation**
On Oct. 15, Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) introduced the Advanced Research Project Agency–Health Act or the “ARPA–H Act,” aimed at establishing the new research initiative proposed by President Biden. Eshoo stated in a press release, “This bill will allow ARPA-H to focus on developing breakthrough technologies that would otherwise die in the commercial market. I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues to establish this agency that will be a beacon of hope for so many Americans fighting for their lives.”

The bill would authorize $3 billion in FY 2022 for the initiative, as provided in the House-passed Labor-HHS spending bill and funding would be separate and distinct from other appropriations for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). According to
the legislation, the ARPA-H director would be appointed by the president and would serve within HHS.

House Energy & Commerce Hearing on Public Health, Research Legislation
The House Committee on Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health will hold a markup of research and related legislation on Oct. 20 at 10:30am EST. The hearing entitled, “Enhancing Public Health: Legislation to Protect Children and Families,” will include consideration of several bills related to individual NIH Institutes and Centers. Additional detail is provided in Committee Chair Frank Pallone’s hearing memo.

Three House Democrats Announce They Will Not Seek Reelection in 2022
Reps. John Yarmuth (D-Ky.), David Price (D-N.C.), and Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) have announced that they will not seek reelection in 2022. Rep. Yarmuth was first elected in 2006 and currently serves as the Chair of the House Budget Committee. Rep. Price is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and chairs the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee. He was first elected in 1987. Rep. Doyle serves on the House Energy & Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the NIH, and is in his 14th term in Congress.

Upcoming Events

RFP Extended: Microgrants Available for Student Policy Groups – Oct. 19
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 19, 2021.

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.

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.

NABR Webinar on the Harm-Benefit Analysis for Animal Research – Nov. 2
Join the National Association for Biomedical Research on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 12:30 p.m. EST when Jerrold Tannenbaum leads a webinar titled “Follow the Science! Why the Pursuit of Knowledge – and not ‘Harm-Benefit Analysis’ – is the Key to Scientifically and Ethically Sound Animal Research.” In recent years there has been much discussion in the research community about Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) adopting the Harm Benefit Analysis (HBA) in the review and evaluation of the proposed use of animals in biomedical research, which will be discussed in the webinar. Register here.

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.

Sign-On Letters

NEW Letter to Congressional Leadership Urging Completion of FY22 Appropriations
Research!America invites you to join an organizational sign-on letter to Congressional leaders requesting prompt action to complete Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) appropriations. You can view the letter text here and use this form to sign on. Please feel free to share the letter with your networks! The deadline to sign on is COB Wednesday, October 20.

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

NEW Assistant Vice President of Federal Research and Health Policy, CU
The University of Colorado seeks an Assistant Vice President of Federal Research and Health Policy. The Assistant VP of Federal Research and Health Policy will develop and lead strategy for federal advocacy for CU Anschutz Medical Campus, CU System, and
University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) – determine federal priorities; pursue federal agency funding opportunities; maintain effective relationships with Colorado Congressional Delegation and staff, federal executive branch offices, and other health systems and higher education institutions. Along with specific institution focus, the Assistant VP will also serve as the lead on health policy, hospital, physical, and research issues; including the analysis and tracking of all related federal bills and advancement of budgetary, legislative, and policy priorities. For a full position description, please visit the [CU Careers Page](#).

**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 will also 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 Society positions on research funding, animal research, and other science policy issues, supporting 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](#).

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**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.