



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

October 5, 2020

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](https://twitter.com/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:

#### Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology @FASEBorg – October 2

Help stop the spread (intentional and unintentional) of inaccurate scientific information! Consider writing an opinion piece (op-ed, letter to the editor, commentary) for your local news outlet. Here's how: <https://bit.ly/34pCa8i> [#scicomm](https://twitter.com/scicomm) [#researchers](https://twitter.com/researchers) [#ScienceTwitter](https://twitter.com/ScienceTwitter)

### House Passes Slimmed Down COVID-19 Relief Package

The House of Representatives passed another COVID-19 relief package ([H.R. 8406](https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/8406)) in a [214-207 vote](https://www.congress.gov/votes/116/207) on October 1, scaling back its original Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (Heroes) Act ([H.R. 6800](https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/6800)) that passed in May. The updated Heroes Act would spend \$2.2 trillion dollars on COVID-19 relief — down from \$3.4 trillion initially proposed in the previous version. Like the original version of the Heroes Act, the updated bill includes \$4.7 billion for the NIH, including \$3 billion for research relief. Release of the bill had renewed discussions between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who has reportedly floated the prospect of a \$1.62 trillion package, but negotiators have not reached an agreement.

### NIH Intramural, Extramural Researchers Win Nobel Prize

The 2020 Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology will go to three scientists who have contributed to the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus, the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet [announced today](https://www.ki.se/en/press-releases/2020-10-05). Recipients include Harvey Atler, MD, Senior Scholar at the NIH Clinical Center's Department of Transfusion Medicine; Michael Houghton, Ph.D., University of Alberta, Canada; and Charles M. Rice, Ph.D., Rockefeller University, who, according to the [NIH press release](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/press-releases/2020-10-05) on the recognition, has received more than \$67 million in continuous NIH funding since 1987, primarily from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

### NIH funds first nationwide network to study rare forms of diabetes

The NIH announced the launch of the [Rare and Atypical Diabetes Network](#) (RADIANT) on September 30, a multisite research program to work to discover the cause of rare forms of diabetes. The study aims to collect various health data from approximately 2,000 patients with diabetes that does not fit the definitions for types 1 or 2. “With help from participants and their families, we aim to develop a comprehensive description of the genetic and clinical characteristics of these rare forms of diabetes,” said study chair, Dr. Jeffrey Krischer, director of the Health Informatics Institute at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

### **Open Mike: Cyber Safety and NIH-Funded Research**

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, authored an [October 1 Open Mike blog post](#) reiterating NIH’s cybersecurity policies for grantees to protect sensitive and confidential data in recognition of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. “Cybersecurity risks in biomedical research are continually evolving, threatening the integrity of our science and the public’s trust in our findings,” Lauer states. “It’s up to each one of us to mitigate these risks by staying vigilant, working together, and following the policies that are in place to protect our people and our science.”

### **Friends of NIMH Coalition to Launch**

A [Friends of NIMH](#) coalition is forming for the first time. Interested Ad Hoc Group members are invited to join using the [form](#). Questions? Contact [Pat Kobor](#) of American Psychological Association (APA) or Juliane Baron of Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences (FABBS).

## **Upcoming Events**

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### **NEW Virtual Symposium on Scientific Integrity and COVID-19 Vaccine Development – October 6**

On Tuesday, October 6 from 1:30 – 4:45pm EST, Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and the University of Washington (UW) will jointly host an in-depth virtual symposium with leading experts on vaccine issues entitled, “[Preserving the Scientific Integrity of Getting to COVID-19 Vaccines: From Clinical Trials to Public Allocation](#).” The event will feature insights from global leaders in vaccine science, health metrics, policy, regulation, and communications. In addition to JHU and UW faculty, leading experts from the federal government will participate, including NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, MD. [Please register here](#).

### **ASBMB Webinar on COVID-19 Impacts to Research – October 6**

Non-COVID-19 research has taken a back seat during the pandemic as scientists everywhere scramble to better understand the Sars-CoV-2 virus and develop therapies and vaccines. But it remains important for the scientific community to strongly advocate for sustained investment into non-COVID research. Please join the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for a webinar to hear about impacts to non-COVID-19

research and discuss policy solutions to sustain this research. The webinar will take place on October 6 from 2-3pm EST. [Please register here](#).

### **Global Liver Institute's Advanced Advocacy Academy – October 26-30**

The Global Liver Institute's fourth annual [Advanced Advocacy Academy \(A3\)](#) will take place worldwide on October 26-30. This year's virtual event will offer liver patients, caregivers, and professionals the opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of drug development, clinical trials, state and federal legislation, media and communications, and liver health and disease. Live discussions with faculty members will enhance individual learning, foster engagement, and promote important conversations. Self-paced lessons can be customized to fit each attendee's personal learning style and schedule. Anyone impacted by liver disease and passionate about liver advocacy should [apply for A3 2020](#) online by October 1. For more information, see the [attached flyer](#) or contact [a3@globalliver.org](mailto:a3@globalliver.org).

### **Virtual NIH Regional Seminar – October 27-30**

The NIH is hosting a [virtual regional seminar](#) on program funding and grants administration from October 27-30. The event website includes a [detailed agenda](#) with keynote speakers and concurrent sessions. [Registration](#) is free and available on the event website.

### **NExTRAC Meeting – November 9-10**

On November 9-10, 2020, NIH will be hosting a virtual meeting of the Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee (NExTRAC). The NExTRAC provides recommendations to the NIH Director and serves as a public forum for the discussion of the scientific, safety, and ethical issues associated with emerging biotechnologies. More information about the meeting will be posted, as it becomes available, to the [NExTRAC](#) page of the [OSP Website](#).

## **Requests for Public Comment**

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### **NLM Seeks Feedback on 10 Year Strategic Plan – October 19**

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) to solicit public comments and assist NLM in its efforts to implement the NLM Strategic Plan 2017-2027. Specifically, NLM seeks feedback “on major opportunities or challenges relevant to the NLM mission that have arisen or become more important in the last five years and that have implications for the future of NLM in its capacity both as an institution conducting and supporting research and as a national library providing biomedical information products, services, training, capacity-building, and other resources to the world.” Comments are due no later than October 19 via [webform](#).

### **OLAW Seeks Feedback on Semiannual Animal Inspections – October 22**

The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare ([OLAW](#)) is seeking stakeholder input on flexibilities available for conducting semiannual animal facility inspections. Specifically, OLAW seeks input on flexibilities available to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees for conducting semiannual inspections of their animal facilities. Additional details are provided in the [request for information](#). Comments must be [submitted electronically by October 22](#).

## **NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process**

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the institute's strategic planning process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so through this form.

## **NIH COVID-19 Resources**

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[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.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.

## **Job Postings**

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### **Epilepsy Foundation Seeks to Fill Positions on Its Research Team**

- **Senior Director, Innovation, Research & New Therapies**, whose primary responsibilities include: directing the Epilepsy Foundation's Innovation and Entrepreneurship programs, working with the CMIO in setting the objectives and key results for the Research & New Therapies (R&NT) staff and assists in budget

preparations and quarterly monitoring for the R&NT team and providing supervisory and mentoring support to R&NT staff, as needed. [Click here to see the full job posting and apply.](#)

- **Research Program Manager**, whose primary responsibilities include: Coordinating the development and delivery of the Epilepsy Digital Engagement Navigator (EDEN); developing engagement strategies, and work with our platform partner to ensure data is entered in the platform in an interpretable manner under the direction of the Director of Innovation and the CMIO; working with research clinical coordinator in the Human Epilepsy Project 2 study; assisting with analysis of research data sets by pulling and analyze various query requests from research data sets existing within the Foundation; and maintaining the web informational research tools such as the pipeline tracker. [Click here to see the full job posting and apply.](#)

### **ASM Seeks a Regulatory Affairs Specialist**

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM)'s Policy and Advocacy Department seeks an experienced Regulatory Affairs Specialist to strengthen its presence with federal agencies, specifically CMS and FDA, and proactively identify opportunities for ASM federal policy engagement on clinical and regulatory matters. This person will monitor, analyze, and report on regulatory activity that has the potential to affect the microbial sciences and clinical microbiology community in assigned policy areas, and work with ASM members and staff to develop position statements, testimony, and regulatory comments. View the full job description and [apply here](#). For more information about ASM, go to: [www.asm.org](http://www.asm.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 Christa Wagner at [chwagner@aamc.org](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).*