

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – October 9, 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:

Foundation for Biomedical Research ([@ResearchSaves](#))

Join the [@LaskerFDN](#) campaign and share why medical research is important to you! Find out how at <http://bit.ly/2wSmzPw> #ResearchSavedMe

1. Nobel Prize Winners Worry About the State of Science Funding

On Oct. 4, the Boston Globe [published](#) an article celebrating two of the newest Nobel Prize winners and the impact of federal support on their success. However, the article also highlights scientists' concerns with the future of federal support for research. Deirdre Fernandes, author of the article, writes that "Michael Rosbash, the Brandeis professor who was part of a trio that won a Nobel Prize this week for their study into the body's circadian rhythm, said he isn't sure in the current climate that the NIH would have funded their research."

2. NIH Grantee Wins 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

On Oct. 4, the NIH [shared](#) that the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Joachim Frank, PhD. Dr. Frank, a researcher at Columbia University, was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize with Jacques Dubochet, PhD, from the University of Geneva and University of Basel, and Richard Henderson, PhD, from Cambridge University for the development of cryo-electron microscopy which simplifies and improves the imaging of biomolecules. Through the press release, Dr. Collins said, "The work of these Nobel laureates has been game-changing in our understanding of life's processes and identifying molecular targets for drug development."

3. We All Need to Stand Up For the Medical Science that Yields the Miracles

On Oct. 3, Claire Pomeroy, MD, MBA, president of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, [wrote](#) a piece in the Huffington Post that talks about the state of medical research funding saying that "recent dialogue and debate about funding for medical research is fraught with threats of cutbacks." Dr. Pomeroy highlights that "Medical advances and public health improvements can not only reduce health spending, they stimulate the economy through improved worker productivity, formation of new jobs, and innovation that creates new markets."

4. #ResearchSavedMe Campaign

Over 80 advocacy organizations representing patients are participating in an advocacy campaign aimed at sharing stories about how research has saved patients throughout the United States. Using #ResearchSavedMe on social media, the effort helps make the case for robust support for

medical research. To find out more, visit the Lasker Foundation [website](#), which has materials and instructions for posting testimonials and examples from others who have shared their stories.

5. NIH Director's 2017 High-risk Research Awards Announced

On Oct. 5, the NIH [announced](#) that the High-Risk, High-Reward Research program is funding 86 awards towards innovative approaches to tackle major challenges in biomedical research. As part of the NIH Common Fund, the High-Risk, High-Reward program “accelerates scientific discovery by supporting high-risk research proposals that may not fare well in the traditional peer review process despite their potential to advance the field.”

6. Briefing on Environmental Exposures and Autoimmune Disease – Oct. 12

On Oct. 12, the Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, American Thoracic Society, and Endocrine Society will host a Capitol Hill lunch briefing entitled, “Individually Rare, Collectively Common: How Environmental Health Science Helps Us Understand and Prevent Autoimmune Disease.” This briefing will feature expert speakers that will discuss how NIEHS research helps us understand the connection between environmental exposures and autoimmune disease. The lunch briefing will take place from noon to 1:30pm in 385 Russell Senate Office Building. Please RSVP by emailing dcrsvp@thoracic.org or calling 202-296-9770. More information is available in the attached flyer.

7. Congressional Kidney Caucus Briefing – Oct. 12

On Oct. 12, the Kidney Cancer Action Network (KCAN), in conjunction with the Congressional Kidney Caucus, will host a congressional lunch briefing. This briefing will include a panel overview of kidney cancer, immunotherapy, and research. This lunch briefing will take place from noon to 1:30pm in 2043 Rayburn House Office Building. To RSVP please email bryan.lewis@kcan.org. More information is available in the attached flyer.

8. 14th Annual AERA Brown Lecture In Education Research – Oct. 19

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.

9. SfN Invites You to Its Neurobiology of Disease Workshop – Nov. 10

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.

10. Global Liver Institute Announces "Advanced Advocacy Academy" – Nov. 10-11

Even though half a billion people are affected with liver disease world-wide, awareness for liver diseases is low. Knowing that patients often have some of the most valuable perspectives on health care, the [Global Liver Institute](#) has designed a two-day workshop to train patients and family members to take the knowledge they have gained from their health care experiences and use it to have an impact through advocacy. With the help of expert patient advocates, policy-makers, physicians, and communicators, participants are offered the opportunity to gain skills from multiple learning tracks, including legislation, drug development, patient-centric value frameworks, health care delivery and media to cater to the different skill-sets and interests. Find out more at globalliver.org/advanced-advocacy-academy.

11. FasterCures Convenes “Partnering for Cures” in San Francisco – Nov. 14

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.