

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – October 22, 2018

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:

United4MedResearch [@UMR4NIH](#)

"Streaming now: the latest edition of our [#AmazingThings](#) Podcast - a discussion with [@NIHDirector](#) Francis Collins [#ThisIsNIH](#) [#keepNIHstrong](#)"

1. President Directs Cabinet to Consider 5% Cuts, FY 2018 Budget Deficit Report Released

Press reports note that President Trump Oct. 17 shared his instructions to Cabinet secretaries to cut 5% from their agencies' budgets just before a cabinet meeting at the White House. The president's comments follow the Oct. 15 [press release](#) from the U.S. Treasury and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) showing a deficit of \$779 billion in FY 2018, \$113 billion (17%) more than FY 2017 and the highest in six years. The joint report shows a 3.2% increase in outlays from FY 2017 to FY 2018.

2. Ad Hoc Group Sends Thanks to Congress for NIH Funding Support in FY 2018

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research thanked Members of Congress for their efforts to secure robust funding for NIH in FY 2019. Letters were sent to chairs and ranking members from the Labor-HHS Subcommittees and the Appropriations Committees, as well as Congressional leadership. All House and Senate members voting in favor of the Labor-HHS and Defense package also received a note of thanks. Additionally, Ad Hoc joined in a community letter led by Research!America to thank Appropriations Subcommittee leadership. All correspondence can be found on Ad Hoc's [Correspondence page](#).

3. Science: China Narrows Gap with U.S. in R&D Spending

An Oct. 10 [story in Science](#) summarizes a recent report from the Chinese government, detailing a 12.3% increase in spending on R&D in 2017, up to a record \$254 billion. Increased spending was reported across multiple categories including business spending, basic research, and scientific communication. China's longer-term plan "sets a spending target for R&D of 2.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2020, up from 2.13% in 2017. By comparison, the United States spent 2.7% of GDP in 2016."

4. NIH Issues Notice on Institutions' Responsibilities in Communicating Research Misconduct

The NIH this week issued [a notice](#) (NOT-OD-020) reminding NIH-funded institutions about their responsibilities to report research misconduct. If a recipient institution "finds, learns of, or suspects research misconduct," the institution has primary responsibility to "work with NIH to assess the effect on the ability to continue the project" as well as protect the privacy of those involved while investigating and protect the integrity of the research. The notice also clarifies "the requirement for recipient and subrecipient institutions, foreign or domestic, to hold assurances with the ORI [Office of Research Integrity] and outlines procedures for recipient

institutions to communicate matters related to research misconduct proceedings to the NIH and ORI." Inquiries may be directed to NIHResearchIntegrity@mail.nih.gov.

5. NIH to Develop Uniform Standards, Seek Independent Input for Relocation of At-Risk Chimpanzees

The NIH Oct. 18 [released](#) a "Decision on Recommendations from the NIH Council of Councils Working Group on Assessing the Safety of Relocating At-Risk Chimpanzees." NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, Oct. 18 commented on the [NIH website](#) that, based on the recommendations, "NIH will oversee the development and implementation of standardized approaches for assessing each chimpanzee based on its health, behavior, social, and environmental requirements" in hopes of retiring all chimpanzees to Federal sanctuaries. Additional details are available in an Oct. 18 [STAT news article](#).

6. NIH Director Interviewed in UMR's *Amazing Things* Podcast

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, participated in a discussion with United for Medical Research (UMR) in an Oct. 15 [Amazing Things podcast](#). In the interview, Dr. Collins covered his selection of today's most exciting biomedical advances including the BRAIN Initiative, CRISPR-Cas technology, and immunotherapy. The conversation is summarized in a [one pager](#) from UMR.

7. NIH Podcast on Planning for Development

The NIH Office of Extramural Research Oct. 16 released a new episode in the ["All About Grants" podcast](#), focusing on private investments. In the podcast geared towards small business innovators, NIH's Entrepreneur-In-Residence Ethel Ruben, PhD, "shares insights on who these investors are, how they decide on what innovations to invest in the biomedical commercial space, and some valuable tips and tricks to improve the accuracy of your investor pitch."

8. SACHRP Discusses Implementation of Revised Common Rule

The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) October 16 convened a [public meeting](#) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP) to discuss the implementation of the revised Common Rule. This was SACHRP's last meeting before the revised regulations go into effect on January 21, 2019. SACHRP continued the discussion from its July meeting on new informed consent requirements and finalized recommendations to HHS on issues relating to informed consent in the transition of ongoing research from the current to the revised regulations.

9. National Academies Elects 85 New Members

The National Academy of Medicine Oct. 15 [announced](#) the election of 85 new members to the Academy. According to the press release, "election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service." This year's inductees include six researchers from the National Institutes of Health, including NIMH director Joshua Gordon, MD, PhD.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

10. PCORI Annual Meeting – Oct. 31- Nov. 2

Join colleagues from across the health care community at PCORI's fourth Annual Meeting, an opportunity to learn more about PCORI-funded studies of which care options work best for whom, based on outcomes patients care about. PCORI's Annual Meeting brings payers together with patients, caregivers, researchers, providers, employers, and others to explore how we can create a health care system that provides greater value to all. There is no registration fee for this year's event. Please visit the [meeting website](#) to register and view a detailed schedule.

11. NIH Webinar on Data Sharing Proposed Provisions – Nov. 7

The NIH [will host a webinar](#) for the Request for Information (RFI) on Proposed Provisions for a Draft NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy on Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 11:30am-1pm.

12. Research!America Post-Election Briefing – Nov. 8

Join Research!America for a briefing on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. ET as we look at the impact of mid-term election outcomes on the 116th Congress and implications for U.S. research and development (R&D). There is no fee to attend, but registration is required. [Click here](#) to see a detailed agenda and to register.

13. NASEM: Meeting on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Academia – Nov. 9

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will [convene leaders](#), including “academic leaders, Title IX and diversity officers, ombudsmen, researchers in sexual harassment, and leaders from professional societies, foundations, and federal agencies, to discuss strategies and share promising practices” to discuss sexual harassment in academia. The meeting will be held Nov. 9, 2018, from 9:00am – 5:00pm at the National Academies in Washington DC and will focus on developing strategies on how to prevent sexual harassment in academia.

14. Learn Serve Lead – Nov. 2-6, 2018

Learn Serve Lead 2018 - the AAMC Annual Meeting - is open for registration. The Nov. 2-6 event takes place in Austin, Texas, and will draw 4,500-plus attendees including a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to [four plenary sessions](#), including Grit author and researcher Angela Duckworth, PhD, and civil and women's rights leader Anita Hill, JD, there are more than 130 concurrent sessions. Some of the slated sessions include:

- Improving Population Health Through Learner-Engaged Research
- Rightsizing Research Infrastructure
- Achieving Health Equity through Research: Innovations From NIMHD-Funded Science
- Unhealthy Politics: The Battle over Evidence-Based Medicine

[Registration](#) is available online through Thursday, Nov. 1.

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.