



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up

October 15, 2020

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community and general updates. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner ([chwagner@aamc.org](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org)) for inclusion in the publication!

## Congressional and NIH News

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### Updates on COVID-19 Relief Funding Negotiations

House Speaker Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin continue to negotiate on the next comprehensive COVID-19 relief package, with Speaker Pelosi indicating that an agreement is “just about there,” as reported in [BGOV on October 22](#) (subscription required). Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has expressed opposition to a nearly \$2 trillion relief package, urging the White House not to finalize negotiations on COVID-19 relief before the election (see [Axios, October 20](#)). The Senate failed to advance two separate smaller COVID-19 relief packages, including a “skinny” package with funds for COVID-19 testing, vaccines, and therapeutics earlier in the week of October 19.

### NPR: Francis Collins on COVID-19 Vaccine Developments

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, participated in an [October 20 interview with NPR](#) to discuss the surge in U.S. coronavirus cases, and progress on vaccines and testing. Dr. Collins shared excitement for how quickly coronavirus vaccines have gone through development to this point, but emphasized the high standards being utilized to find a safe and effective vaccine. Dr. Collins also shared his regard for his colleague Anthony Fauci, MD, PhD, and encouraged the public to listen to consider sources when seeking public health information and listen to public health officials.

### NLM Director’s Blog: We’re “Going to Have to Science the \*\*\*\* Out of This!”

National Library of Medicine Director Patricia Brennan, RN, PhD, described NLM staff’s adaptability and methods of identifying innovative solutions to maintaining important resources for information sharing such as PubMed during the coronavirus pandemic. In her [October 20 blog post](#), Dr. Brennan also summarized new lines of research for the intramural research program and new partnerships to improve NLM services in the future.

### NIH to Continue Acceptance of Preliminary Data as Post-Submission Material

The NIH Office of Extramural Research updated grantees that specific NIH grant opportunities will continue to accept one-page updates with preliminary data as post-submission material for grant applications submitted for the August/October 2021 council. This [October 21 announcement](#) is a continuation of a COVID-19 flexibility issued in September.

## Upcoming Events

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### **Virtual Briefing on Career Pathways for Underrepresented Groups - October 23**

Increasing the role of underrepresented minorities (URM) in microbiology as well as other scientific disciplines leads to better scientific outcomes and in turn increases URM interest in the sciences. Please join the American Society for Microbiology as they host a virtual congressional briefing “Strengthening Career Pathways in Science for Underrepresented Groups” on Friday, October 23, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm ET. Please [see attached flyer](#) for details and click [here](#) to register.

### **NEW Congressional Briefing on Recent Neuroscience Discoveries – October 26**

The Society for Neuroscience and the American Brain Coalition, in cooperation with the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus, invite you to Exploring Recent Discoveries in Neuroscience Research. This congressional briefing will host esteemed neuroscientists discussing recent discoveries in neuroscience research. Panelists will review the transitional benefits provided by predictable federal funding of basic neuroscience research, to medical treatments and discoveries. Neuroscience topics to be discussed will include: pain management and addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder and dementia. [Register now](#) and join us at 2:00 pm EST on Monday, October 26 for an exciting discussion on neuroscience!

### **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](#).

## **Apply for HIV Clinical Training Opportunities – January 19, 2021**

[The HIV Medicine Association \(HIVMA\)](#) and the [Infectious Diseases Society of America \(IDSA\) Foundation](#) are accepting applications for the [2021 HIV Clinical Fellowship Program](#). For the first time, the program is supporting one year of HIV clinical training for full or half-time effort awards to allow greater flexibility for physicians to train in community-based settings. The award supports a stipend of \$33,000 for half-time training or \$65,000 for full-time, plus funding to cover fringe benefits. Physicians whose communities are underrepresented in medicine or who 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 HIVMA Clinical Fellows. The deadline to apply is Jan. 19, 2021. For more information, please [email HIVMA](#).

## **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 Research Program Manager**

The primary responsibilities of the Research Program Manager 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: [asm.org](http://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).*