

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

October 28, 2019

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:

American Academy of Neurology @AANMember

The AAN is proud to join the [#medicalresearch](#) community in urging action to finalize the FY20 budget. [#AANadvocacy](#) [#FundNIH](#)

Little Progress Made On FY 2020 Appropriations as CR Deadline Nears

The Senate the week of October 21 began consideration of a spending package of four bills that passed unanimously out of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and is expected to complete debate on the package this week. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) announced that after the first four-bill package, the Senate would again attempt consideration of another package, including the Labor-HHS spending bill, that failed to gather enough votes to advance in September.

The federal government is currently under a continuing resolution (CR) that expires on November 21, and Senate Appropriations Committee Chair [Richard Shelby \(R-Ala.\) October 23 told reporters](#) (CQ, subscription required) that a second CR extending into February or March is a likely possibility. The [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research October 24 sent a letter](#) with over 300 signatories to House and Senate Appropriations leadership stating, "To enable passage of a bipartisan spending package that maximizes investment in NIH, we strongly urge you to provide a meaningful increase in the allocation for Labor-HHS-Education appropriations and complete the spending bill as soon as possible."

Time: NIH Director Lays Out Vision of the Future of Medical Science

Time Magazine featured an [October 24 commentary](#) by NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, laying out his vision for the future of medical science. Dr. Collins writes, "Our world has never witnessed a time of greater promise for improving human health. Many of today's health advances have stemmed from a long arc of discovery that begins with strong, steady support for basic science." He highlights that despite much progress in improving human health, "much more remains to be done," including through the use of gene editing, cancer immunotherapy, mapping the human brain, and improving the uses of personalized medicine. Dr. Collins also emphasizes the importance of applying such breakthroughs ethically and equitably.

NIH Launches Collaboration on Gene-Based Cures for Sickle Cell and HIV

[The NIH October 23 announced a new collaboration](#) with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with the goal of developing gene therapy cures for sickle cell disease (SCD) and HIV, with the intent of providing the cures around the world in the next seven to 10 years. The NIH and Gates Foundation will invest \$100 each towards this goal. NIH Director Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, noted, "This unprecedented collaboration focuses from the get-go on access, scalability and affordability of advanced gene-based strategies for sickle cell disease and HIV to make sure everybody, everywhere has the opportunity to be cured, not just those in high-income countries."

NIH Researchers Author Commentary on Path to Ending HIV

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease Director Anthony Fauci, MD, co-authored an October 24 *Clinical Infectious Disease* commentary on ending the HIV pandemic. According to the [NIH press release](#), despite significant advancements in HIV treatment and prevention with antiretroviral therapy (ART) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), gaps still remain in implementing these diagnostic and treatment tools. The statement notes, "Researchers are pursuing multiple approaches to achieve durable control of HIV without daily ART, including pursuing a cure that would eradicate HIV from the body or keep it at very low levels, and developing long-acting ART and broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs) that could be dosed once every few months or less often," to improve use of these clinical tools in diverse patient populations.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

Congressional Briefing - Liver Cancer Drivers and Disparities - October 31

Please join Global Liver Institute, American Gastroenterological Association, Hepatitis B Foundation, Hep B United, AAPCHO, NVHR, and NASTAD as they host a Congressional briefing titled, "Liver Cancer Drivers and Disparities." Learn from our nation's leading clinicians and patient advocates about the steps needed to combat the most rapidly rising cancer since 1980, and how response strategies must begin with modernizing the systems in place to better meet the needs of impacted populations. The briefing will be held Thursday, October 31, from 10:30am-12:00pm in 121 Cannon House Office Building. Please see [attached briefing flyer](#) for addition information, and RSVP to ascott@globalliver.org.

Congressional Briefing on Consequences of Disability Prejudice — November 5

Please join the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues at a Congressional briefing titled, "Ableism: The Causes and Consequences of Disability Prejudice." The briefing will take place on Tuesday, November 5, from 12:00-1:15pm in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for additional detail, and RSVP to Sarah Mancoll (smancoll@spssi.org).

NIH Fall Regional Seminar — November 6-8

The NIH is hosting the Fall 2019 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Phoenix, AZ, from Wednesday, November 6 through Friday, November 8. [Visit the website](#) to learn more about the program and to [register](#).

Congressional Briefing on Thyroid Eye Disease — November 14

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) as they host the first ever briefing on thyroid eye disease. The briefing will take place on Thursday, November 14, from 12:00-1:15pm in 2075 Rayburn House Office Building. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for additional details and RSVP to Dina Beaumont @ 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com

NCATS Workshop on Repurposing Off-Patent Drugs — December 5-6

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) is hosting the Cures Acceleration Network Review Board Workshop titled, "Repurposing Off-Patent Drugs: Research & Regulatory Challenges" on December 5-6, 2019 in Rockville, Md. The workshop will assess challenges around finding new uses for drugs that are already on the market but lack commercial and regulatory incentives for research and development. Please visit the [Federal Register notice](#) for additional information and to register by December 2.

Call for Nominations for the 2020 Golden Goose Award — December 20

[Nominations are open for the Golden Goose Award](#), which honors federally funded researchers whose work may sound silly, odd, obscure, wasteful of taxpayer funding, or serendipitous, but has had a major, if not unintended, positive impact on society. [Fill out the nomination form](#) by **December 20** for the best chance to be considered for the 2020 award. In addition, please consider spreading the word about the nomination process in your organization's newsletter or email list, in a social media post, and/or [consider a donation or sponsorship](#) to support the award in 2020. [Contact us here](#) or visit our website for more information.

Job Postings

HIVMA Clinical Fellowship Program Application Open

The HIV Medicine Association awards grants to support one-year of HIV clinical training to up to two fellows per year. Grants are made to the institution to support the fellow's stipend, to offset administrative costs, and to provide for additional educational opportunities. One of the program's goals is to increase the diversity of the HIV clinical workforce particularly from populations and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by HIV. Physicians who are underrepresented in medicine or interested in working in the Southeastern US are strongly encouraged to apply. The application deadline is January 7, 2020. For more information, please contact [Asha Farrah](#) or [visit the fellowship website](#).

AAU Seeks Assistant/Associate VP for Federal Relations

The Association of American Universities seeks applications for the position of Assistant/Associate Vice President for Federal Relations. This position reports to the Executive Vice President & Vice President for Federal Relations. Applicants should have: (1) strong leadership, advocacy, negotiating, analytic, strategic planning, and communication skills; (2) expertise and/or experience with federal research policy and funding issues, especially related to research sponsored by the National Science Foundation and NASA; (3) experience engaging with Congress, the Executive Branch, and/or policymakers at other levels of the federal government; (4) the ability to work effectively and collegially with representatives of member universities, other organizations, and coalitions; and (5) the ability to succeed in a dynamic, fast-paced work environment involving many individuals with different backgrounds and interests. To read a more detailed list of job duties please [click here](#). Applicants should submit [required materials](#) to jobs@au.edu by October 28.

AACR Seeks Senior Manager, Congressional Relations

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) seeks an experienced professional to serve as Senior Manager of Congressional Relations in its Washington, DC office. This position plays an integral role in advancing the AACR's science policy and advocacy work on Capitol Hill. The position assists the Associate Director of Congressional Relations in the communication of the AACR's policy priorities and positions to congressional offices, develops persuasive and informational materials, assists in the development and execution of advocacy strategies, and coordinates special events such as Capitol Hill lobby days and congressional briefings. For more information and to apply, please visit the [AACR Career Portal](#).

HCM Strategists Seeks to Fill Three Positions to Support the *All of Us* Research Program

HCM Strategists seeks to fill three new positions to support our work as an engagement awardee to the National Institutes of Health *All of Us* Research Program, a historic effort to gather data from one million or more people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health. HCM's engagement work is focused on ensuring that the *All of Us* participant community is reflective of the

diversity of our country. We do this by reaching, educating and motivating communities historically underrepresented in biomedical research — directly and in partnership with key stakeholders and community influencers — to learn more about the program and enroll. [Please visit HCM's website](#) to learn more and apply for the Director, Stakeholder Engagement; Senior Associate, Community Engagement; and Project Manager positions.