

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – October 30, 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:

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (@ASPET)

.@sciencemagazine: @TomColeOK04 tells @POTUS admin to back off on proposed overhead spending cap for @NIH bit.ly/2zU6kAI @ASPET

1. Lawmakers Tout Support for NIH During Subcommittee Hearings

On Oct. 24, the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee [held](#) an oversight hearing on “The Role of Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs in Supporting NIH-Funded Research.” In his [opening statement](#), Subcommittee Chair Tom Cole (R-Okla.) set the tone for the hearing by saying, “Based on many discussions with researchers, administrators, and other research funders both in Oklahoma and across the country, I am very concerned that the proposed F&A rate cut would drastically reduce the amount and quality of research conducted in the U.S., and that public universities would be particularly hard-hit.” The following day, the Labor-HHS Subcommittee [held](#) a hearing on “Down Syndrome: Update on the State of the Science and Potential for Discoveries Across Other Major Diseases.” Lawmakers [heard testimony](#) from two panels of witnesses about research on Down Syndrome and the potential for discoveries across other major diseases.

2. NIH Director Issues Statement on Combating Opioid Crisis with Science

On Oct. 26, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, [released](#) a statement in response to the White House announcement declaring the opioid crisis a public health emergency. Dr. Collins writes, “The National Institutes of Health is committed to bringing the full power of the biomedical research enterprise to bear on this crisis.” He also highlights the [Federal Pain Research Strategy](#) to “prioritize funding in support of effective solutions to chronic pain” and [public-private partnerships](#) between NIH and biopharmaceutical companies to help address the crisis, among other initiatives.

3. Open Mike Blog on the NIH Director's New Innovator Award

On Oct. 27, NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research [posted](#) a blog that discussed a recent [analysis](#) of the NIH Director's New Innovator (NI) Award program. The analysis by the Science & Technology Policy Institute found that the NI Award program “supports research that is more innovative, risky, and impactful than research that typically is reviewed and funded using the traditional R01 program.” Additionally, the report found that the NI Award “did not have a significantly more positive or negative impact on the careers of its awardees than did the ESI R01 Award.”

4. Cancer Research Symposium Hosted by Johns Hopkins – Nov. 1

Please join Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for a symposium in 902 Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C., on Wed., Nov. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to noon to hear from top scientists on how they recommend expanding and implementing the Blue Ribbon Panel's road map for cancer research. The speakers will discuss a report that will be published by the journal *The Lancet Oncology* and is co-edited by Elizabeth Jaffee, MD, deputy director of the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, and Chi Van Dang, MD, PhD, scientific director at Ludwig Cancer Research and professor at The Wistar Institute. Learn what you need to know about investing in research, prevention and treatment of cancer, the second leading cause of death in the U.S. RSVP for the symposium by emailing JHonthetheRoad@jhmi.edu. See the attached flyer for more info.

5. AEVR Briefing on National Keratoconus Day – Nov. 7

The Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) invites you to a luncheon briefing recognizing National Keratoconus Day 2017, which falls on Nov. 10. The briefing, entitled, "Spearheading Keratoconus Research: A Quest for Novel Treatments," will take place on Nov. 7 from 12 to 1:15pm in 2075 Rayburn House Office building. To RSVP, call Dina Beaumont 202-407-8325 or email dinabeau@aol.com. See the attached flyer for more info.

6. FABBS Congressional Lunch Briefing on Early Career Investigators – Nov. 7

On Nov. 7 from noon to 1pm, the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS), with support from SAGE Publishing, Inc., will host a congressional briefing entitled, "Research Contributions of Early Career Investigators in the Sciences of the Mind, Brain, and Behavior." The briefing will take place in 2044 Rayburn House Office Building and boxed lunches will be available for attendees. You may [RSVP here](#) and for questions, email FABBS at info@fabbs.org. More info is available in the attached flyer.

7. Coalition for Health Funding 2nd Annual Public Health Fair – Nov. 8

On Nov. 8 from noon to 3pm, the Coalition for Health Funding will host its Second Annual Public Health Fair. The fair will include booths from the federal Public Health Service agencies on hand. The event will take place in the Rayburn Foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building and ice cream will be served. To RSVP, email crdfellow3@DC-CRD.com and include "Health Fair" in the subject line. For more information, view the official flyer at <http://www.publichealthfunding.org/uploads/2017-ph-fair-invite.pdf>

8. SfN Workshop on Neurobiology of Disease – 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.

9. Global Liver Institute "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](http://globalliver.org) 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.

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

Since 2009, [Partnering for Cures](http://www.partneringforcures.org) (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](http://www.fastercures.org), 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/](http://www.partneringforcures.org).

10. AAU-APLU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Showcase – Nov. 14

On Nov. 14, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Universities, in partnership with the National Academy of Inventors and VentureWell, will host its inaugural exhibition and reception featuring startups from across the country that grew out of federally-funded university research and are fueling the innovation economy. This event will highlight the important role federally-funded university research plays in fueling entrepreneurship, innovation and impact across the nation. The event will take place from 5-7pm in the Rayburn Foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building. To RSVP, email showcaseRSVP@aplu.org. See the attached flyer for more info.

10. FASEB Submits Comments on HHS Strategic Plan

On Oct. 27, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) submitted feedback to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on its draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2018-2022. View FASEB's feedback in the attached letter.

11. Job Announcement - HIVMA Hiring Senior Advocacy and Policy Manager

The HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) is searching for a Senior Advocacy and Policy Manager who will lead HIVMA policy and advocacy efforts on key issue areas, including federal appropriations for HIV related programs, biomedical research, HIV criminalization, system and payment reform, and promoting science-based prevention and public health. For more information on the position, please visit <https://infectious-diseases-society-of-america.hiringthing.com/job/52141/senior-advocacy-and-policy-manager>

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.