Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
November 8, 2021

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:

**Hopkins Medicine News @HopkinsMedNews – October 28**

Can #psilocybin help smokers quit? #NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse has funded @HopkinsMedicine Matthew Johnson, Ph.D., to find out. @Drug_Researcher

**Republicans Suggest Full-Year CR Without Bipartisan FY22 Agreement**

Chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees did not come to an agreement on topline spending for FY 2022 after an initial meeting on Nov. 2. According to CQ (subscription required), Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) told reporters that the four corners are at an “impasse” on FY 2022 topline spending and Congress will need to pass another CR to fund the government after Dec. 3, if not a full-year CR. Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) noted that a full-year CR would also be difficult for the defense industry. House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) told reporters that no exemptions would be made for the defense budget if negotiators cannot agree on new toplines for FY 2022 (refer to BGOV, subscription required).

**Fauci Testifies Before Senate HELP on COVID-19 Response**

NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, MD, testified before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee on Nov. 4 on the country’s ongoing COVID-19 response. Fauci discussed NIH’s $1.5 billion investment to study long COVID through the RECOVER research program, which was highlighted in a Nov. 2 NIH news release to detail work to study long-term effects of COVID-19 in pregnancy. Senators also questioned federal witnesses about availability of COVID-19 tests. While other agencies are focusing on getting tests to market, the NIH’s RADx program launched the [When to Test Calculator for Individuals](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/when-test-calculator-individuals) to provide guidance to individuals and organizations on when to test to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The online tool was launched on Nov. 3 and discussed in [an NIH news release](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/when-test-calculator-individuals).
Open Mike: Reaffirming NIH's Commitment to Workforce Diversity
NIH Director of Extramural Research Mike Lauer, MD, and Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Marie Bernard, MD, co-authored a Nov. 3 blog post on reaffirming NIH’s commitment to workforce diversity. The post describes the NIH’s recent decision to rescind a Notice of Special Interest related to encouraging researchers from underrepresented groups to apply for R01 grants, and the subsequent release of a new Notice stating the commitment of all 27 NIH institutes and centers to “ensuring a wide range of diverse perspectives in NIH-supported research.” Lauer and Bernard concluded, “By increasing the diversity of our research workforce, our funded science, and the nation’s health will be better for it.”

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Cardiovascular Science
The American Heart Association (AHA) released a presidential advisory outlining the impact of COVID-19 to the cardiovascular sciences on Nov. 1. The advisory highlights include the continued impact of the pandemic on scientific research through a variety of factors, the concern AHA’s leadership has for the future of cardiovascular and stroke research, and suggestions for immediate solutions to reinvigorate investments in scientific research.

New UMR Factsheet: Developing the Next Generation of Researchers
United for Medical Research released part four of its “Why Invest in NIH?” fact sheet series highlighting why it is essential that the United States maintain a strong NIH. Developing the Next Generation of Researchers profiles individuals whose career paths and groundbreaking studies have directly benefited from NIH-funded research, training, and career development awards. These examples illustrate research funding from NIH plays an important dual role – contributing to the knowledge and discoveries that will improve health and developing our next generation of physicians, scientists, entrepreneurs, researchers, and educators.

Upcoming Events

Congressional Briefing: Speaking with Keratoconus Patients About Research and Treatments - Nov. 10
The Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) is joining with the National Keratoconus Foundation (NKCF) to recognize World Keratoconus Day 2021. Keratoconus (KC) is an eye condition in which the normally round, dome-shaped cornea—the transparent front of the eye—becomes weak and irregular, resulting in vision distortion, double or blurry vision, and light sensitivity. Researchers believe that certain individuals have a genetic predisposition to develop it, and a 2021 study from Australia suggests prevalence of 1.2% of the population, meaning it affects the lives of more than 3 million Americans. Speakers Christopher Rapuano, MD (Wills Eye Hospital) and Christine Sindt, OD, FAAO (University of Iowa) will address how they speak with newly diagnosed KC patients about research and treatment options. The briefing will take place on Nov. 10 from 12-1pm EST. View the briefing flyer for additional information and RSVP to Dina Beaumont at dinabeau@aol.com.

Congressional Briefing: Better Understanding Thyroid Eye Disease - Nov. 17
Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) in conjunction with Research to Prevent Blindness Society for Women’s Health Research Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) will host Better Understanding Thyroid Eye Disease: Physician, Patient, and Caregiver Perspectives, with a Discussion on Women’s Vision Health on November 17th from 12pm – 1:15pm.

Thyroid Eye Disease (TED) is a serious, debilitating, and vision-threatening rare autoimmune disease where the immune system attacks muscles and other tissue behind and around the eyes. People living with TED frequently experience long-term functional, psychosocial, and economic burdens, including inability to work and perform activities of daily living that can result in depression and accelerated mortality. TED is often misunderstood and misdiagnosed due to the similarities of its symptoms to less-severe eye conditions, such as dry eye and allergies. While TED is most often seen in patients with Graves’ disease – affecting up to half of Graves’ patients – it is a distinct disease that requires separate treatment. A diagnosis of TED may even precede a finding of Graves’ and can serve as an early warning sign of impending thyroid dysfunction. TED is an ongoing condition with two phases and if left untreated may get worse over time.

Please RSVP to: 202-407-8325 or dinabeau@aol.com. Please access the event here.

Virtual Briefing: Braving the Storm: How Climate Change Will Affect How and Where We Live – Dec. 6

The Population Association of America will be hosting a virtual briefing on climate change on December 6 from 12pm – 1pm. As climate change accelerates, extreme weather events and natural disasters (hurricanes, drought, forest fires, polar vortexes) have proliferated, and long-term effects—including rising sea levels and other coastal hazards—are becoming more apparent. But what about the impact on demographic change? Who is at risk? What trends have already surfaced due to climate change, and what might be coming just over the horizon? Shifting migration patterns and emerging risks for vulnerable subpopulations in local communities are among the myriad issues that demographers are examining in the context of climate change. Join a panel of experts as they share their most recent research and respond to your questions. Please register here for the briefing.

Help End the HIV Epidemic: Clinical Fellowship Opportunity – Dec. 13

The HIV Medicine Association and IDSA Foundation are accepting applications for the 2022–2023 training year. The fellowship program supports up to two physicians who are not trained in infectious diseases to pursue one year of HIV clinical training under the mentorship of an HIVMA member at clinical sites serving medically underserved populations.

The award includes a stipend set according to the PGY-4 salary level at the training institution, funds to cover the fringe benefits provided by the sponsoring organization and an additional $5,000 to support educational opportunities or offset administrative costs. Physicians whose communities are underrepresented in medicine or who are 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 HIV clinical fellows. Email HIVMA staff with questions or for more information. Applications are now due by Dec. 13.

NIH COVID-19 Resources

**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.

**NIH COVID-19 Research Website** provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about NIH research and our strategic role in COVID-19 research.

**HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website** including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.

**Combat COVID website** including information for those who have never had COVID-19, have been infected, have recovered, and for health care providers.

**Job Postings**

**UPDATED** Assistant Vice President of Federal Research and Health Policy, CU
The University of Colorado seeks an **Assistant Vice President of Federal Research and Health Policy**. The Assistant VP of Federal Research and Health Policy will develop and lead strategy for federal advocacy for CU Anschutz Medical Campus, CU System, and University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) – determine federal priorities; pursue federal agency funding opportunities; maintain effective relationships with Colorado Congressional Delegation and staff, federal executive branch offices, and other health systems and higher education institutions. Along with specific institution focus, the Assistant VP will also serve as the lead on health policy, hospital, physical, and research issues; including the analysis and tracking of all related federal bills and advancement of budgetary, legislative, and policy priorities. For a full position description, please visit the [CU Careers Page](#).

Legislative Assistant, AAMC
The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is seeking a Legislative Assistant that will advocate on behalf of AAMC priorities and strengthen strategic alliances in collaboration with the Senior Director and other AAMC government relations and policy staff. With direction from the Senior Director, Government Relations & Legislative Advocacy, this role will supervise, track, and analyze activities of Congress primarily related to Medicaid and safety-net hospital and physician policies and other clinically related advocacy initiatives affecting AAMC member teaching hospitals, physicians, and the patients they serve. Learn more about the Association of American Medical Colleges [here](#). To learn more about the position and apply, please [click here](#).

**The Director, Government Affairs and Policy, The ALS Association**

The Director, Government Affairs reports to the Vice President, Public Policy and works as part of a team with the Associate Director of Grassroots Advocacy and the Public Policy Manager. The Director, Government Affairs designs and directs all aspects of government affairs including identifying legislative and regulatory opportunities, securing appropriations, and advancing legislation and policies through nonpartisan advocacy with members of Congress, congressional committees, and relevant federal agencies. The Director, Government Affairs is also responsible for collaborating with the Associate Director of Grassroots Advocacy to mobilize Association chapters and volunteers to achieve results and represents the association in national coalitions focused on the needs of people living with ALS. Bachelor's degree with 4-8 years of work experience in healthcare government affairs and advocacy or the equivalent combination of education and work experience. Click [here](#) to apply.

**IADR/AADR Seek Assistant Director of Government Affairs**

The International and American Associations for Dental Research are seeking an Assistant Director of Government Affairs to recommend and implement the Associations' policy priorities related to dental, oral and craniofacial research; the federal research enterprise, including the scientific workforce; scholarly publishing; international collaboration and more. Additional information and application instructions can be found [here](#).

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**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).