Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
November 15, 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:

University of California Newsroom @UC_Newsroom – November 14

Blending experts from molecular genetics, chemistry and health sciences, researchers at @ucsd have created a rapid diagnostic technology that detects SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. @acs_sensors https://bit.ly/3bPwrws

Senate Appropriations Chair Leahy Will Not Seek Reelection in 2022
Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced on Nov. 15 that he will not see reelection in 2022. Leahy is also the president pro tempore of the Senate and longest-serving member in the chamber, having been first elected to the Senate in 1974. Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and Labor-HHS Subcommittee Ranking Member Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) both previously announced they also would not run for reelection in 2022.

Schumer “Dear Colleague” Outlines End of Year Agenda
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) sent a Nov. 14 “Dear Colleague” letter to Senate Democrats outlining the work ahead for the remainder of the calendar year. Regarding FY 2022 appropriations, Schumer noted his disappointment that a bipartisan deal had not been struck on topline funding. “I am hopeful that we can reach an agreement soon so that the Committees can finalize their bills and we can consider a FY2022 Omnibus bill later this year,” Schumer said, before adding that an additional continuing resolution beyond December 3 would likely be needed.

Upcoming Events
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

**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](https://www.aamc.org). To learn more about the position and apply, please [click here](https://www.aamc.org).

**Science Policy Analyst, American Physiological Society**
The American Physiological Society (APS) is seeking a Science Policy Analyst that will report to the Director of Science Policy and Government Relations to help fulfill APS’s advocacy role by tracking legislative and regulatory issues related to federal funding for biomedical research, the use of animals in biomedical research, biomedical research workforce, and other science policy issues, helping develop and implement advocacy strategies in support of Society positions on research funding, animal research, and other science policy issues, supporting the American Physiological Society’s Science Policy (SP) and Animal Care and Experimentation (ACE) Committees, representing APS in meetings with external scientific and advocacy organizations and coalitions, and represent the department in internal APS activities and projects, writing about science policy for the Society’s website, news magazine and social media and contribute to other communications efforts. To learn more about APS, please visit their [website](https://www.aps.org).

Please e-mail your cover letter and resume to apply for the position.

*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.*

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