Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
November 22, 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:

**Dana-Farber Cancer Institute @DanaFarber – November 21**

Dana-Farber joined @FundNIH to urge Congress to work swiftly to secure bipartisan agreement on spending allocations - additional CRs past Dec. would create inefficiencies & uncertainty for medical research and future cures.

**Congress In Stalemate on FY22, Ad Hoc Group Urges Swift Passage of Funding For NIH**

The current continuing resolution (CR) funding the federal government is scheduled to expire on Dec. 3, but lawmakers have not yet agreed to topline spending levels for FY 2022, leading the appropriations process to stall. Over 300 members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research sent a Nov. 15 letter to Appropriations Committee leaders urging swift passage of $46.4 billion for the NIH base budget for FY 2022. Additionally, the Office of Management and Budget released a Nov. 12 fact sheet outlining the investments at risk if Congress is unable to reach agreement on FY 2022 spending.

House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and other House Appropriations Committee Democrats issued several materials during the week of Nov. 15 which cited the Ad Hoc Group letter and correspondence from other industries, including defense organizations, describing the consequences of prolonged CRs. These included a Nov. 16 letter to House Democrats and Nov. 17 press statement on the FY 2022 appropriations process, as well as a Nov. 19 press statement citing a “broad coalition of social services, national security, and veterans advocacy groups” that support swift passage of final FY 2022 spending bills.

On Nov. 19, DeLauro told reporters she would be pushing for a short-term CR after Dec. 3 in hopes of Congress coming together to complete an end-of-year omnibus to finalize FY 2022 before the end of the calendar year (refer to CQ, subscription required).

**Open Mike: Long-Term Trends of Age at First NIH R01-Equivalent Award**
NIH’s Director of Extramural Research, Mike Lauer, MD, described the 25-year trend of age of researchers supported for the first time on NIH R01-equivalent awards in a Nov. 18 Open Mike blog post. In describing the trend toward a greater age at first award, Lauer noted, “The biomedical research workforce is aging over the past several decades due to demographic trends and the end of mandatory retirement in academia. Difficulties faced by early-career investigators may include prolonged training, advantages of incumbency, and cost-shifting to universities.” Regarding data from 1995-2020 on age at first R01-equivalent grant, Lauer noted that there are no differences between men and women, and “while age has been continuously increasing, the rate of increase has slowed over the last 10 years.”

NIH’s Cohort Models to Enhance Diversity – Upcoming Events
NIH’s Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Marie Bernard, MD, authored a Nov. 16 blog post on upcoming events on faculty cohort recruitment programs and other strategies to foster diversity in the scientific workforce. On Dec. 8 at 1pm EST, NIH will host a seminar titled “Achieving Equity in Faculty – Pros and Cons of Cohort Recruitment.” This seminar is a precursor to a planned Feb. 2022 virtual forum titled “Fostering Cohort Recruitment.” The virtual forum is free and registration will be available in the new year.

Upcoming Events

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
NEW AAMC Research and Action Institute Seeks Inaugural Fellow In Residence – Dec. 15

The Association of American Medical College (AAMC) Research and Action Institute, which builds upon a long-standing AAMC strength of conducting and disseminating research and analyses and informing policy in U.S. health care, seeks a fellow in residence to join us in 2022. The fellow will help with an in-depth health care workforce study in partnership with colleagues across the association. The fellow in residence will also work with the Research and Action Institute on timely topics in health policy as a part time contractor, bringing expertise on the physician workforce, health workforce research, and/or labor economics. Please share this opportunity with any researchers who might be interested. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through Dec. 15. Learn more about the opportunity here.

NEW ASHG ACGT Program – Jan. 7

The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) is accepting applications for the new Advocacy Certificate for Human Genetics and Genomics Trainees (ACGT) program. ACGT is a competitive, year-long program aimed at providing trainee ASHG members pursuing a research or clinical career with an introduction to the world of science policy and human genetics and genomics advocacy. As part of the program, trainees will have the opportunity to participate in various key activities such as contributing to the development of advocacy materials, attending networking and mentoring workshops, and participating in a Hill Day.

The program is open to ASHG members who are currently completing an undergraduate or graduate degree, postdoctoral fellows, or early career researchers in a human genetics and genomics or related field. More information about the ACGT program and the application instructions can be found here.

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

NEW Policy & Advocacy Specialist or Manager, ASHG
The American Society of Human Genetics seeks a Policy & Advocacy Specialist or Manager to manage and support programs and activities of ASHG’s Policy and Advocacy Department. Most of the individual’s time in this position is split between managing the development of programs and resources to support ASHG member advocacy, and supporting implementation of ASHG committee projects and activities in policy, advocacy and professional practice. They also track policy issues and draft Society statements. A Bachelor’s degree and two years of experience in science advocacy and a demonstrated interest in advancing science and health policy is required; an advanced science or public policy-related degree is a strong plus. Title and salary for this position commensurate with experience. Please visit Jobs at ASHG for further details. To apply, please send your resume and cover letter in an email titled “ASHG Policy and Advocacy Manager Role” to Adrienne.orourke@marcumllp.com.

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](#).

**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](#).

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.*