Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
November 2, 2020

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:

Research!America @ResearchAmerica – November 2

Election day is nearly here! Support for research is key, now more than ever, to improving health, strengthening the economy, and sustaining leadership. Visit #VoteScienceStrong to support elevating research in #2020Election. Learn more at http://VoteScienceStrong.com. #VoteForScience

House Leaders Set Dates for Leadership Elections for 117th Congress

House Democrats are scheduled to hold leadership elections for the next Congress from November 18-19, per a “Dear Colleague” letter from Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) described October 15 in Roll Call. Committee Chairmanship elections are scheduled for the week of November 30. House Republicans are scheduled to hold elections for leadership positions for the 117th Congress on November 17, as reported October 28 in The Hill.

80 Years of the NIH Bethesda Campus

October 31, 2020 marked the 80th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s dedication of the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md. NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, shared the president’s 1940 remarks, touching on the importance of science in providing health security in an October 29 blog post. Collins added, “Today, in the midst of another national crisis—the COVID-19 pandemic—a similar vision is inspiring the work of NIH. With the aim of defending the health of all populations, we are supporting science to understand the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and to develop tests, treatments, and vaccines for this disease that has already killed more than 225,000 Americans and infected more than 8.6 million.”

NHGRI Releases 2020 Strategic Vision

NIH’s National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), on October 28 published its “Strategic vision for improving human health at The Forefront of Genomics” in the journal
Nature. This vision describes the most compelling research priorities and opportunities in human genomics for the coming decade. "Genomics is now prevalent across the research landscape, and so NHGRI focused its strategic attention on the most cutting-edge aspects of the field. Our criteria for inclusion was that future advances must be widely beneficial and have the greatest impact on understanding genome biology and facilitating the implementation of genomic medicine," said NHGRI Director Eric Green, MD, PhD, in a press statement. The four focus areas of the strategic vision include: guiding principles and values for human genomics; sustaining and improving a robust foundation for genomics research; breaking down barriers that impede progress in genomics; and compelling genomics research projects in biomedicine.

“All About Grants” Podcast – Human Subjects’ Protection and Monitoring Plans

NIH Inclusion Policy Officer Dawn Corbett, MPH, shared why human subjects’ protection and monitoring plans are important in an October 29 All About Grants podcast. Corbett also discussed what should be included in human subjects’ protection and monitoring plans as part of grantees’ applications, what should be left out, what are risks and what are benefits to study participants, how reviewers assess it all, and much more.

Ad Hoc Group, Coalition for Health Funding Host Virtual Briefings with IC Directors

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research and Coalition for Health Funding continued the joint series of virtual briefings with directors of NIH’s institutes and centers to discuss how research to date and ongoing work can inform our response to the coronavirus, as well as the impact the pandemic is having on existing research across the agency’s broad portfolio. Recordings of the third and fourth briefings in the series with National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Director Garry Gibbons, MD, and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Director Griffin Rodgers, MD, MACP, are available.

Upcoming Events

NExTRAC Meeting – November 9-10

On November 9-10, 2020, NIH will be hosting a virtual meeting of the Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee (NExTRAC). The NExTRAC provides recommendations to the NIH Director and serves as a public forum for the discussion of the scientific, safety, and ethical issues associated with emerging biotechnologies. More information about the meeting will be posted, as it becomes available, to the NExTRAC page of the OSP Website.

NEW NIH Council of Councils Meeting – November 13

The NIH Council of Councils will meet on Friday, November 13, from 2-3pm for a presentation and discussion of the draft NIH-Wide Strategic Plan (2021-2025). The virtual meeting will be webcast.
March of Dimes Briefing on Maternal and Infant Health – November 17

March of Dimes invites you to join "Making the Grade on Maternal and Infant Health: 2020 March of Dimes Report Card Virtual Briefing," on Tuesday, November 17 from 10:00am—11:30am. The briefing will explore a comprehensive view on the current state of maternal and infant health. The Report Card has new and exciting features, including key data on infant and maternal mortality, and disparity ratio data to delve into the causes and possible policy solutions to solve the maternal and infant health crisis. Register here—spaces are filling quickly! For questions about the briefing please contact Venicia Gray at: vgray@marchofdimes.org.

AEVR Briefing on Thyroid Eye Disease – November 19

Please join the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR) as it continues its series of educational briefings on November 19 at 12:00pm with a virtual briefing, “Thyroid Eye Disease: What Have We Learned Through Research?” Please see attached flyer for additional information and register here to receive information for joining the webinar.

Apply for HIV Clinical Training Opportunities – January 19, 2021

The HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Foundation are accepting applications for the 2021 HIV Clinical Fellowship Program. For the first time, the program is supporting one year of HIV clinical training for full or half-time effort awards to allow greater flexibility for physicians to train in community-based settings. The award supports a stipend of $33,000 for half-time training or $65,000 for full-time, plus funding to cover fringe benefits. Physicians whose communities are underrepresented in medicine or who 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 HIVMA Clinical Fellows. The deadline to apply is Jan. 19, 2021. For more information, please email HIVMA.

SOBC Capstone Conference – February 22-23

This capstone research conference will celebrate ten years of the NIH Science of Behavior Change (SOBC) Common Fund Program. The goal of the SOBC program is to advance behavior change research through a focus on mechanisms of change and the integration of basic research with applied/interventional research. The capstone conference will highlight innovative examples of behavior change research consistent with SOBC principles, from use-inspired basic research to mechanisms-focused intervention science. The capstone conference on February 22-23 will be virtual, open to the public, recorded, archived, and proceedings summarized in a publicly accessible report. The agenda, speaker information, and a link to registration will be available on this website in the coming months.

Requests for Public Comment

NIH Seeks Feedback on NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research
NIH released an October 28 Request for Information (RFI) to solicit feedback on the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research, released in July. The plan outlines how NIH is implementing five priorities, guided by three crosscutting strategies to improve basic understanding of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, and to develop the necessary tools and approaches to better prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19. Responses are due December 7, 2020.

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.

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

Job Postings

Epilepsy Foundation Seeks Research Program Manager

The primary responsibilities of the Research Program Manager include: Coordinating the development and delivery of the Epilepsy Digital Engagement Navigator (EDEN); developing engagement strategies, and work with our platform partner to ensure data is entered in the platform in an interpretable manner under the direction of the Director of Innovation and the CMIO; working with research clinical coordinator in the Human Epilepsy Project 2 study; assisting with analysis of research data sets by pulling and analyze various query requests from research data sets existing within the Foundation; and maintaining the web informational research tools such as the pipeline tracker. Click here to see the full job posting and apply.

ASM Seeks a Regulatory Affairs Specialist

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM)’s Policy and Advocacy Department seeks an experienced Regulatory Affairs Specialist to strengthen its presence with federal agencies, specifically CMS and FDA, and proactively identify opportunities for ASM federal policy engagement on clinical and regulatory matters. This person will monitor, analyze, and report on regulatory activity that has the potential to affect the microbial
sciences and clinical microbiology community in assigned policy areas, and work with ASM members and staff to develop position statements, testimony, and regulatory comments. View the full job description and apply here. For more information about ASM, go to: www.asm.org

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.