

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up – Nov. 6, 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:

Sen. John McCain (@SenJohnMcCain)

Speaking on Senate floor soon to thank @NIH & @MayoClinic for the great work they do for all cancer patients- watch: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?436559-2/us-senate-votes-5543-amy-coney-barrett-seventh-circuit-nomination>

1. Ad Hoc Group Sends Letter to Congressional Leadership

On Nov. 2, 216 patient, medical, scientific, academic, and research organizations of the Ad Hoc Group [sent a letter](#) to congressional leadership, urging the enactment of a bicameral, bipartisan budget agreement that raises the spending caps and enables a \$36.1 billion investment in NIH in FY 2018, as approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Signatories of the letter thank congressional leaders for maintaining the NIH as a key national priority but caution that “without relief from sequestration, final funding for critical federal agencies like the NIH could face significant hurdles.” The letter adds that while the United States is known for its outstanding medical research capacity, “discretionary spending caps imposed by sequestration will jeopardize our competitive edge in an increasingly innovation-based global marketplace. To maintain our leadership, we must reaffirm this commitment by providing the biomedical research enterprise the support needed to maintain our competitive edge.”

2. NIH Director Comments on Funding at University of Michigan Talk

On Nov. 2 at the University of Michigan, NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, spoke about NIH funding in the current political climate. According to [press reports](#), Dr. Collins stated, "While everything right now seems kind of polarized, this is one place where I think we've managed to escape that. This is not just a cost, but an investment - an investment in people's lives." Dr. Collins emphasized that biomedical research funding is a bipartisan priority among lawmakers.

3. NIH Funding and Partnerships Mentioned in Opioid Commission Report

On Nov. 2, the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis submitted its [final report](#), including recommendations regarding biomedical research. The report highlighted the partnership with the NIH and pharmaceutical companies to develop non-addictive painkillers and new treatments and instructs Congress and the Federal Government to “provide additional resources to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Mental Health, and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.”

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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>

7. 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.

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

Since 2009, [Partnering for Cures](#) (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.partneringforcures.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/>.

9. 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. ARBIR Capitol Hill Lunch Briefing on Diagnostic Innovations – Nov. 14

On Nov. 14, the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research will host a lunch briefing on Capitol Hill entitled, “Diagnosing Disease: How to Do it Better for Patients and Health Care.” This briefing will cover the future of diagnostic innovation and how scientific advancements can improve patients’ experiences. Featured speakers include Steven Seltzer, MD, chair emeritus of the department of radiology at Brigham & Women’s Hospital and Krishna Kandarpa, MD, PhD, of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). This event will take place in 122 Cannon House Office Building from noon to 1pm. Lunch will be provided. To RSVP, email ccappelletti@acadrad.org. See the attached flyer for more info.

11. Senate NIH Caucus Lunch Briefing on Cancer Immunotherapy – Nov. 14

On Nov. 14, the Senate NIH Caucus will host a Capitol Hill lunch briefing from noon to 1:30pm in 562 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Newly installed National Cancer Institute Director Ned Sharpless, MD, will introduce leading researchers in the field to discuss how these therapies work, what we know so far, and what we are still trying to learn about how this transformative treatment could be a new frontier to prolong and save lives. This briefing will also address how Congress can most effectively support this work. To RSVP, email RSVP@ACTforNIH.org. See the attached flyer for more details.

12. Research!America Capitol Hill Events – Nov. 15

On Nov. 15, Research!America will host a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Capitol Hill briefing and “Walk in My Shoes” interactive experience. Featured panelists include Gary Gibbons, MD, director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; David Mannino, MD, FCCP, FERS, U.S. respiratory medical expert for GlaxoSmithKline; Grace Anne Dorney,

JD, MA, president of the Dorney-Koppel Foundation and patient with COPD; and Jerry Kirshnan, MD, PhD, associate vice chancellor for population health sciences and professor of medicine and public health at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The briefing will take place in SD-G50 Dirksen Senate Office Building from 12:30 to 1:30pm. The interactive experience will follow. To RSVP, this [form](#) or email efruchterman@researchamerica.org. For questions, contact rweissman@researchamerica.org. See [this flyer](#) for more info.

13. 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.