Ad Hoc Group Weekly COVID-19 Follow Up
November 6, 2020

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be publishing an additional weekly update focused on COVID-19 to highlight related NIH actions and guidance as well as activities from the Ad Hoc Group community and general updates. As always, please forward any relevant items to Christa Wagner (chwagner@aamc.org) for inclusion in the publication!

Congressional and NIH News

McConnell Signals Interest in COVID-19 Package, FY21 Omnibus by End of Year

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) shared an interest in passing both additional COVID-19 relief and an omnibus package for all 12 FY 2021 spending bills before the end of the year in a Nov. 4 press briefing and reported in Roll Call. The current continuing resolution expires on December 11. McConnell did not provide details on the total cost of additional COVID-19 supplemental funds, but noted that additional funding for testing, treatments, and vaccines could be included.

Science: U.S. Elections Bring Wins and Losses for Research Community

A November 3 report in Science summarized science-related outcomes from the November 2 election. Specifically, the news report summarized election outcomes of scientists and physicians in Congressional races as well as science policy-related state ballot initiatives.

Open Mike: Continued Impact of COVID-19 on Biomedical Research

NIH Deputy Director of Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, published a November 4 Open Mike blog post on the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 to biomedical research. Lauer highlighted previous reports describing the stresses to the research enterprise and shared NIH’s priorities for support: early career scientists, meritorious established investigators at risk for losing all funding; and certain high-priority clinical trials.

NIH Virtual Seminar Available Through November 19

The NIH recently hosted a virtual seminar on program funding and grants administration. While the live event has concluded, the entire conference is still available on the event platform until November 19. Recordings of the presentations and related materials, as well as resources from the Institute and Center Exhibit Hall booths are available. The NIH Extramural Nexus post from November 4 provides additional details on how to view the content.
NIA Blog on CR and Interim Pay Lines for FY 2021

Director for the National Institute on Aging (NIA) Division of Extramural Research Kenneth Santora, PhD, updated the NIA community on interim pay lines for FY 2021 as a result of the ongoing continuing resolution in an October 21 blog post. The blog details recommendations to reduce pay lines for CSR-reviewed, NIA-reviewed, and certain Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias proposals.

NIH Exceptions to Use of a Single IRB During the COVID-19 Emergency

NIH’s Office of Extramural Research published a November 2 announcement highlighting a recent Guide Notice to inform the extramural research community how NIH is implementing the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP)’s determination of Exception to the Single IRB Review Requirements for Certain HHS-Conducted or -Supported Cooperative Research Activities Subject to the 2018 Requirements During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency.

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.

R!A 2020 Post-Election Briefing – November 10

Please join Research!America in a post-election briefing featuring journalist and political analyst Frank Sesno, former CNN Washington Bureau Chief and anchor, and Director of The George Washington University’s School of Media and Public Affairs, and Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director, American Public Health Association. The briefing will take place on Tuesday, November 10 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. ET. Please see additional information and register here.

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.

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: 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.