

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up –November 12, 2018

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:

FASEB [@FASEBorg Nov 8](#)

Sharpen your [#advocacy](#) skills with our slide deck on the value of biological research ft. key facts & figures making the case to [#FundScience!](#) [#RT](#) to spread the word & check it out at <http://ow.ly/WpRz30mxKee>

1. FY 2020 House Funding Predictions for NIH

Following the mid-term elections, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) shared her thoughts on a potential FY 2020 funding scenario for the NIH ([more here](#), CQ subscription required). She noted that it may be difficult for the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee to provide continued robust and sustained funding increases for NIH if Congress does not come to an agreement on raising statutory budget caps for FY 2020.

2. New Application Requirements for Institutional Training Grants

The NIH Nov. 7 [issued a notice](#) stipulating that institutional training grant applications with due dates of Jan. 25, 2019 or later must include a letter "signed by a key institutional leader that describes the institutional commitment to ensuring that proper policies, procedures, and oversight are in place to prevent discriminatory harassment and other discriminatory practices." The notice is also described in a [Nov. 9 post](#) from the NIH Office of Extramural Research.

3. NIH Requests Comments on Opioid R&D Draft Report

The NIH Nov. 5 published [a draft report](#) on opioid research and development (R&D) in the [Federal Register](#) titled, "Health Research and Development to Stem the Opioid Crisis: A Federal Roadmap." The report highlights seven areas of opioid R&D and gives research recommendations for each area, which include: 1) the biology and chemistry of opioid addiction and pain, 2) non-biological contributors to opioid addiction, 3) pain management, 4) prevention of opioid addiction, 5) treatment of opioid addiction and withdrawal, 6) overdose prevention and recovery, and 7) community consequences of opioid addiction. The NIH is requesting comments on the report by Dec. 5.

4. NCI: Reflections on My First Year as NCI Director

NCI Director Ned Sharpless, MD, reflects on his first year in the position in a Nov. 1 [blog post](#). Dr. Sharpless shares his gratitude for Congressional interest and understanding of cancer research. He continues, "We are extremely grateful for the bipartisan congressional support for cancer research that was reflected in the fiscal year (FY) 2018 and 2019 appropriations for NCI, which provided increases over the previous years' appropriations. In fact, the FY 2019 budget was the first on-time budget for NCI in more than 20 years, which is very helpful in allowing us to plan for and make decisions earlier rather than later in the fiscal year."

5. Op-Ed on Strengthening Peer Review

In a Nov. 5 [New York Times op-ed](#), Aaron Carroll, MD, shares his views regarding the shortcomings of the journal peer review process. According to Dr. Carroll, peer reviews' problems include: reviewers' inconsistency; being overworked and underprepared; and bias. Carroll concludes that peer review is still better than alternatives, and offers the suggestion of more formal training in peer review, and blinded reviews as potential ways to improve the system.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Events

6. AAMC/FASEB Host Webinar Series on 2018 NASEM Reports

The AAMC, FASEB, and National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) are hosting a [new webinar series](#) titled, "The Impact and Implementation of the NASEM 2018 Reports on the Biomedical and Medical Workforce." With an interactive webinar format, we invite you to bring your questions and experiences to share as we discuss how to implement these findings at an institutional level. The series will begin with an overview of how NASEM develops its reports, followed by additional webinars to discuss each of the five reports, featuring NASEM study directors. The series begins Nov. 19, 1:00-2:00 PM ET.

7. NIH ACD Meeting – Dec. 13-14

The NIH Advisory Council to the Director (ACD) will hold a public meeting Dec. 13 from 8:30am-5:30pm and Dec. 14 from 9am – 12pm at the NIH. Details are available through a [Federal Register notice](#), and will become available on the [NIH ACD website](#). Agenda items include the NIH Director's report and ACD Working Group reports.

Job Postings

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Seeks Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation seeks a motivated individual to join a policy team committed to making a difference in the lives of people with paralysis and/or mobility impairments. The [Policy and Advocacy Coordinator role](#) will offer an opportunity to learn more about the issues and initiatives that the Reeve Foundation is working on to address the difficulties faced by people with paralysis and their families and help support and advance that work. The role will also offer an opportunity to oversee the Reeve Foundation's Regional Champions grassroots advocacy education program. To apply, please send resume along with cover letter by email to Felice Fullem at: ffullem@christopherreeve.org.

COSSA Seeks Candidates for Staff Assistant

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is seeking to fill the position of Staff Assistant. The Staff Assistant will provide critical support to COSSA team members on a variety of activities and tasks. The primary functions of this position fall into two categories: (1) Administrative and Membership Support; and (2) Research and Policy Support. The position reports directly to the Executive Director and requires close collaboration with the entire team. This is a full-time, exempt position. In addition to salary, benefits include medical, dental, life and disability insurance, paid annual and personal leave, and employee pension once eligibility requirements are met. Additional details are in the attached flyer. Interested applicants should send a resume, cover letter and salary history to jobs@coffa.org by December 7, 2018.

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.