

## Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

November 25, 2019

### Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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:

#### Vanderbilt Government Relations [@Vanderbilt](#) GR

It's vital for Congress to complete the annual spending bills which empower scientific discovery & progress! Temporary funding measures mean lack of funding certainty with long-term projects stalled hindering discovery. [@fundNIH](#) [@AAUniversities](#) [@UMR4NIH](#) [@CoalitionNSF](#) [@ESC\\_DC](#)

### President Signs CR Through December 20; Lawmakers Reach Agreement on 302(b)s

President Trump November 21 signed the [Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Health Extenders Act of 2019 \(H.R. 3055\)](#), a continuing resolution (CR) that temporarily extends the FY 2019 funding levels for discretionary spending, including the NIH, through December 20. The [House passed the measure, 231-192](#), on November 19, followed by [Senate passage by a vote of 74-20](#) on November 21. The legislation averts a government shutdown, as none of the FY 2020 spending bills have been signed into law. The legislation is the second CR since the fiscal year began October 1.

On November 23, media outlets reported that Appropriations Committee chairs Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) reached an agreement on topline funding levels, or 302(b) allocations, for all 12 spending bills ([CQ, subscription required](#)). This agreement includes a spending level for the Labor-HHS spending bill, which includes NIH funding. Appropriations leaders hope to finalize all FY 2020 spending bills by the CR's December 20 expiration.

### Sign-On Opportunity - Completing FY 2020 Spending Bills for R&D Programs

The American Society for Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science invite organizations and institutions to join a [multi-society/stakeholder letter](#) urging Congressional leaders to complete work on the FY 2020 appropriations bills as soon as possible. The deadline to sign the letter and [complete this form](#) is close of business on **Tuesday, November 26**. If you are interested in signing but need more time, please email Mary Lee Watts at ASM ([mwatts@asmusa.org](mailto:mwatts@asmusa.org)) or Erin Heath at AAAS ([eheath@aaas.org](mailto:eheath@aaas.org)).

More than two dozen federal departments and agencies fund scientific and research and development programs that touch every aspect of our lives and are critical to our nation's economy and security. With the passage of a second short-term CR, we encourage organizations and institutions to join the Ad Hoc Group in signing on to the letter and

sending a unified message to Congress that federal funding is the lifeblood for research, discovery and innovation in the United States. The failure to pass appropriations bills in a timely manner slows scientific progress.

### **Senate Committee Holds Hearing on China's Talent Plans and Threats to US Research**

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations November 19 held a [hearing titled, "Securing the US Research Enterprise from China's Talent Recruitment Plans."](#) The subcommittee, in conjunction with the hearing, released a bipartisan subcommittee staff report, [Threats to the US Research Enterprise: China's Talent Recruitment Plans](#). The study details efforts by the Chinese government to obtain information and technology from US research laboratories, primarily through the Thousand Talents Program. NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, testified regarding NIH's efforts to promote research integrity. Subcommittee Chair Rob Portman (R-Ohio) shared his interest in drafting legislation on the issue, encouraged continued interagency collaboration, and suggested a common application for all federal research grants as a first step to increase harmonization between federal agencies.

### **OSTP Seeks Comments on the American Research Environment**

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) November 25 filed a [request for information \(RFI\) on the American Research Environment](#) via the [Federal Register](#). On behalf of the Joint Committee on the Research Environment (JCORE), OSTP seeks comments on "actions that Federal agencies can take, working in partnership with private industry, academic institutions, and non-profit/philanthropic organizations, to maximize the quality and effectiveness of the American research environment." Comments are due by December 23.

### **Science Editorial: CRISPR's Unwanted Anniversary**

Jennifer Doudna, PhD, a pioneer of CRISPR-Cas9 and the Li Ka Shing Chancellor's Chair in Biomedical and Health Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley, [wrote an editorial in Science](#) on the one-year anniversary of Chinese scientist He Jiankui's "risky and medically unnecessary work" using CRISPR-Cas9 to edit the genomes of two human embryos. Dr. Doudna supports international efforts for development of thoughtful and effective policies to shape ethical application of CRISPR technology.

## **Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events**

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### **NIH Inaugural NExTRAC Meeting - December 5-6**

The Novel and Exception Technology and Research Advisory Committee (NExTRAC) to the NIH Director will hold its inaugural meeting December 5-6 on the NIH Campus in Bethesda, MD. Additional details about [the agenda](#), attending the meeting, or viewing the videocast are available on the [NIH Office of Science Policy website](#).

### **NCATS Workshop on Repurposing Off-Patent Drugs - December 5-6**

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) is hosting the Cures Acceleration Network Review Board Workshop titled, "Repurposing Off-Patent Drugs: Research & Regulatory Challenges" on December 5-6, 2019 in Rockville, Md. The

workshop will assess challenges around finding new uses for drugs that are already on the market but lack commercial and regulatory incentives for research and development. Please visit the [Federal Register notice](#) for additional information and to register by December 2.

### **Call for Nominations for the 2020 Golden Goose Award - December 20**

[Nominations are open for the Golden Goose Award](#), which honors federally funded researchers whose work may sound silly, odd, obscure, wasteful of taxpayer funding, or serendipitous, but has had a major, if not unintended, positive impact on society. [Fill out the nomination form](#) by **December 20** for the best chance to be considered for the 2020 award. In addition, please consider spreading the word about the nomination process in your organization's newsletter or email list, in a social media post, and/or [consider a donation or sponsorship](#) to support the award in 2020. [Contact us here](#) or visit our website for more information.

## **Job Postings**

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### **ASBMB Seeks Federal Affairs Manager**

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) seeks a Manager, Federal Affairs to join the Public Affairs team. The federal manager will assist in the development and execution of ASBMB public affairs programs with respect to federal science funding agencies; help manage Public Affairs Advisory Committee operations, and work closely with ASBMB public affairs leadership in developing, articulating, communicating and implementing public policy positions on behalf of ASBMB. Visit the [posting of the full job description](#) to learn more and review application instructions.

### **ASM Seeks Federal Affairs Specialist**

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) seeks a Federal Affairs Specialist to work with the Director of Federal Affairs to advance microbial sciences, focusing on agricultural, energy, and environmental legislation and public policy. The position requires working collaboratively with internal departments to gather input from and communicate to stakeholders—including members, organizational partners, and media—about policy and advocacy efforts. Visit the ASM website for the [full job description](#). Please submit salary requirements, cover letter and resume to [HR@asmusa.org](mailto:HR@asmusa.org).

### **HIVMA Clinical Fellowship Program Application Open**

The HIV Medicine Association awards grants to support one-year of HIV clinical training to up to two fellows per year. Grants are made to the institution to support the fellow's stipend, to offset administrative costs, and to provide for additional educational opportunities. One of the program's goals is to increase the diversity of the HIV clinical workforce particularly from populations and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by HIV. Physicians who are underrepresented in medicine or interested in working in the Southeastern US are strongly encouraged to apply. The application deadline is January 7, 2020. For more information, please contact [Asha Farrah](#) or visit the [fellowship website](#).

### **AACR Seeks Senior Manager, Congressional Relations**

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) seeks an experienced professional to serve as Senior Manager of Congressional Relations in its Washington, DC office. This position plays an integral role in advancing the AACR's science policy and advocacy work on Capitol Hill. The position assists the Associate Director of Congressional Relations in the communication of the AACR's policy priorities and positions to congressional offices, develops persuasive and informational materials, assists in the development and execution of advocacy strategies, and coordinates special events such as Capitol Hill lobby days and congressional briefings. For more information and to apply, please visit the [AACR Career Portal](#).

***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](mailto:chwagner@aamc.org) or Tannaz Rasouli at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).*