Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
December 7, 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:

**United for Medical Research @UMR4NIH – December 4**

Last year, NIH-funded research supported 24,788 jobs & $4.453 B of economic activity in Maryland. Learn about the impact of @NIH research in your state and #keepNIHstrong! [https://unitedformedicalresearch.org/nih-in-your-state/](https://unitedformedicalresearch.org/nih-in-your-state/)

**Lawmakers Expected to Vote on One-Week CR Thru Dec. 18**

Lawmakers are likely to vote on a one-week continuing resolution (CR) during the week of December 7, according to CQ (subscription required). The new CR is expected to extend the current CR from December 11 to December 18 to allow lawmakers to finish negotiations on outstanding issues for a FY 2021 omnibus. Lawmakers also continue to discuss the possibly of adding a limited COVID-19 stimulus package onto the omnibus, which is not expected to include supplemental funds for the NIH.

**Nearly 350 Groups Join Ad Hoc Group Letter to President-elect Biden**

350 members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research sent a December 4 letter to [President-elect Biden](https://www.whitehouse.gov/) expressing gratitude to Biden for his support for science and medical research throughout his career. The letter also urged attention to three near- and long-term issues to bolster scientific discovery and improve the nation’s health and economy: foundational principles that promote both a thriving scientific enterprise and public trust in science; emergency supplemental funding to allow the NIH to continue making progress against COVID-19 and to resume pre-pandemic research; and sustained, robust growth for the NIH’s base budget across scientific disciplines and disease areas.

**Biden Announces HHS Secretary Nominee**

[President-elect Biden announced his nomination](https://www.whitehouse.gov/) of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to be the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on December 7. Becerra previously represented California in the House of Representatives, including serving on the Committee on Ways and Means. In the same press release, National institute of Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci, MD, was formally named to serve as Chief Medical Adviser on COVID-19.
Community Sign On Letter on Finalizing FY 2021 and Emergency Funds
The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) invite you to join a science and research stakeholder letter to Congress, urging swift action to complete work on the fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations bills. The letter also calls on Congress to consider emergency supplemental funding for research relief due to the extraordinary disruptions to research labs in the wake of COVID-19. The purpose of the letter is to bring the science and research stakeholder community together to speak with one voice on behalf of all federal R&D, including NIH, and to advocate for timely, meaningful increases for federal science agencies. To view the letter online and sign on by COB December 7, please go here: https://forms.gle/1n7P861vEpKuJUVb9.

Extended NIH Guidance for Applicants
NIH Office of Extramural Research staff published a December 1 update for grantees preparing applications during the COVID-19 pandemic. The notice corresponds to the extension of guidance instructing grant applicants not to include contingency plans outlining steps needed to recover from decreased productivity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance, NOT-OD-21-122, is extended until further notice.

FAQS on Charging PPE to NIH Grants
NIH Office of Extramural Research staff published a December 2 update for grantees, noting that FAQs have been published on NIH’s policy for charging personal protective equipment (PPE) to NIH grants. The FAQs are meant to clarify the policy on the PPE issue, NOT-OD-20-164, published in September.

Upcoming Events

American Lung Association Town Hall on COVID-19 Disparities – December 9
The American Lung Association is hosting a Town Hall Series on COVID-19. The next event, Disparities in COVID-19: Unjust, Unacceptable & Correctable, will take place on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. EST. The time is now to address health inequities. Differences in health status, along with barriers to accessing healthcare, contribute to racial and ethnic minority groups experiencing increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19. Please join the conversation as top experts discuss how the pandemic highlights many long-standing disparities in health outcomes and offer up actionable steps that would protect all Americans where they live, work and play. Please register here.

NIH ACD Meeting – December 10-11
The NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) will virtually meet in a public meeting on December 10-11. The meeting is expected to cover many topics including various COVID-19 updates on December 10 followed by updates from ACD working groups and a discussion on NIH’s strategic plan on December 11.
The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) will host a webinar briefing on Wednesday, December 16, at 10:00 Eastern. Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry (St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital) will moderate a panel discussion with Dr. Peter Hotez (Baylor College of Medicine) and Dr. Susan Weiss (Penn Medicine) on the role of fundamental microbial research in building the foundation upon which extraordinary progress on a COVID-19 vaccine has been made. Special guest remarks by Senate Appropriations Labor HHS Education Subcommittee Chairman Roy Blunt (R-MO). Seen more details in the attached flyer and register to attend here.

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.

Apply for Medical Student HIV, Infectious Diseases Research Grants – February 5
The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Foundation and HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) seek applications for the G.E.R.M (Grants for Emerging Researchers/Clinicians Mentorship) Program for the 2021-2022 cycle. The program provides grants to medical students to support a mentored clinical learning and/or research project for up to a year, on infectious diseases and HIV related topics under the mentorship of an IDSA or HIVMA member. Applicants must be medical students (first, second or third year) from an accredited allopathic or osteopathic medical school in the U.S. Application information is available from the IDSA Foundation website. Awardees receive a $4,000 stipend to complete their project. The deadline to apply is February 5, 2021. Please email HIVMA staff with questions.

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
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

AAMC Seeks Senior Science Policy Analyst

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) seeks a Sr. Science Policy Specialist, to work closely with leadership in the Scientific Affairs team to provide up-to-date information on policy developments affecting biomedical research at member medical schools and teaching hospitals, prepare presentations and communications, and assist in the development of positions and responses to federal requests, especially on National Institutes of Health (NIH) matters. Key issue areas include medical/clinical research infrastructure, training and workforce development and on the issues promoting diversity and combatting sexual harassment in the STEMM workforce. Please visit the full job post for more information and to apply.

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.

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.