Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
December 14, 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:

**American Society of Nephrology Advocacy @ASNAAdvocacy – December 7**

@ASNKidney along with 349 organizations signed on to @fundNIH’s letter thanking President Elect @JoeBiden for supporting increased medical and scientific research funding for the @NIH in his Build Back Better plan. Read the full letter here: http://asn.kdny.info/iCYy30rnxqu @Transition46

**President Signs CR Through Dec. 18**

President Trump signed a one-week continuing resolution (CR) into law on December 11, extending FY 2020 funding levels as written in the ongoing CR through December 18. The Senate passed the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021, and Other Extensions Act (H.R. 8900) by unanimous consent on Dec. 11, following the 343-67 vote passage in the House of Representatives on Dec. 9. As reported in CQ (subscription required), “The new stopgap law gives lawmakers an extra week to negotiate an omnibus spending package for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 .... Lawmakers also want to attach to any omnibus whatever coronavirus relief can be negotiated in time.”

**NIH Director Interviewed in Science Rules! With Bill Nye**

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, participated in a December 8 Science Rules! podcast interview with Bill Nye. In the episode titled, “Coronavirus: America’s King of Health Is Skipping Christmas … and So Should You,” Collins discusses the science behind COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics and gives a prognosis for the next few months of the pandemic and future of health research.

**Highlights from NIH’s ACD Meeting**

The NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) met for a virtual quarterly meeting on December 10-11, covering a wide range of topics including COVID-19 vaccines and the ACTIV partnership, RADx Initiative, and COVID-19 disease presentation, to updates from ACD working groups on the HeLa genome data access and animal research. Recordings of the webcasts and pdfs of the presentations are available at https://acd.od.nih.gov/meetings.html.
**NIH’s *All of Us* Research Program Returns First Genetic Results to Participants**

NIH’s *All of Us* research program has begun returning personal genetic data results to research participants who provided biospecimens and completed the extensive informed consent process, describes a [December 10 NIH news release](https://www.nih.gov/inclusion-all-us/research-program-returns-first-genetic-results-research-participants-who-provided-biospecimens-and) “Participants are our most important partners in this effort, and we know many of them are eager to get their genetic results and learn about the science they’re making possible. said Josh Denny, MD, *All of Us*’s chief executive officer. The release notes that the program has recruited more than 270,000 people to provide biosamples, more than 80% of which come from communities that are historically underrepresented in biomedical research. NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, also highlighted the return of results in a [December 10 blog post](https://www.nih.gov/blog/2020/12/10/nihs-all-us-research-program-returns-first-genetic-results-research-participants).

**Open Mike: Updates from the Inclusion Across the Lifespan Workshop**

NIH Office of Extramural Research Director Michael Lauer, MD, provided a summary of the [September Inclusion Across the Lifespan](https://www.nih.gov/almanac/2019/inclusion-across-lifespan) workshop in a [December 10 blog post](https://www.nih.gov/blog/2020/12/10/nihs-open-mike-updates-from-inclusion-across-lifespan-workshop). The workshop allowed for additional conversations on the theme of the inclusion policy. “Including appropriate participants in research leads to sound science that informs clinical practice,” noted Lauer. The workshop focused on four central themes: Inclusion and exclusion criteria; study designs and metrics; recruitment, enrollment, and retention; and data analysis and study interpretation. Additional details are available from the [meeting report](https://www.nih.gov/article/2020/12/10/meeting-report-inclusion-across-lifespan-workshop).

**Some Postmenopausal Women with Common Breast Cancer May Forgo Chemotherapy**

A [December 9 NIH news release](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/postmenopausal-women-common-breast-cancer-may-forgo-chemotherapy) described results from a Phase III clinical trial indicating that postmenopausal women with a certain breast cancer diagnosis do not benefit from chemotherapy in addition to hormone therapy. The findings for women with HR-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer “may save tens of thousands of postmenopausal women each year the time, money, and harmful side effects that come with chemotherapy infusions,” states the release. The international clinical trial was supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and conducted by the NCI National Clinical Trials Network.

**The Atlantic: How Science Beat the Virus, and What It Lost in the Process**

A [December 14 story in The Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/12/breast-cancer-chemo/619857/) by science writer Ed Yong gives an overview of how medical research has reacted and been impacted by the novel coronavirus, and how the conduct of research can improve. The story discusses the research community’s pivot to coronavirus research, the unprecedented speed to developing a COVID-19 vaccine, the importance of COVID-19 research in preparing for the next pandemic, the detrimental impacts of the pandemic on non-COVID-19 research, and how science can learn from this pandemic and “self-correct” to better serve the common good more equitably.

**Upcoming Events**


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) and Senator Rob Portman (R-OH). See more details in the attached flyer and register to attend here.

**R!A Fireside Chat with Journalist Frank Sesno – December 16**
Research!America is honored to announce that Bill Novelli is joining us for a fireside chat with nationally recognized journalist and media expert Frank Sesno. The discussion, “How Science Can Talk, Fight, and Win to Change the World: A Conversation between Bill Novelli and Frank Sesno,” on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. ET. Don’t miss this conversation between two extraordinary communicators about strategies that overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to achieve major policy, advocacy, and business objectives. Visit the R!A website for more details, and register 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 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

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.