



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

December 16, 2019

This will be the last edition of the Weekly Round Up for the decade.
Happy Holidays!

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:

Research!America [@ResearchAmerica](#)

[#DYK](#) More than 2 million people in [#NewYork](#), or 12.5% of the adult population, have [#diabetes](#). In addition, 5,412,000 people have prediabetes. Continued investment in research can lead to improved treatments and even a cure. [#CRsStopProgress](#)

Appropriators Reach Deal “In Principle,” FY 2020 Bill Text Expected Today

House Appropriations Committee Chair Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) December 12 announced that congressional negotiators reached a bipartisan deal “in principle” on all 12 FY 2020 spending bills. Chairwoman Lowey indicated that legislative text will be released, likely today, Monday, December 16. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) told reporters he hoped to bring the bills to the House floor for votes on Tuesday, December 17, and will continue discussions with Chairwoman Lowey on the number of minibus spending bill packages they will use to present all 12 bills.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has been involved in the spending bill negotiations, and White House adviser Kellyanne Conway told reporters that she does not expect a government shutdown, though the White House has not officially commented on the spending bill negotiations. The current CR is set to expire December 20 at midnight.

House Passes Drug Pricing Legislation Including Investments in Research

The House of Representatives December 12 passed [HR 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act](#), by [a vote of 230-192](#). While the bill's main purpose is to decrease the high costs of prescription drugs, it would also reinvest generated savings into medical research, including \$10 billion for the NIH over 10 years. One provision includes a modified version of [HR 4667, the Biomedical Innovation Expansion Act](#), to extend funding for four research programs established in 21st Century Cures as well as two new initiatives. HR 3 also includes \$2.5 billion in funding for a new clinical trials pilot to support phase II and III clinical trials of “high need cures.”

Sen. Warren, Rep. Clarke Re-Introduce the National Biomedical Research Act

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Representative Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.) December 11 re-introduced the National Biomedical Research Act. According to [the press statement](#), the bill would “provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with predictable, supplemental funding for biomedical research” through the creation of a Biomedical Innovation Fund. The Fund would be able to provide up to \$10 billion per year for 10 years for specific initiatives at the NIH and FDA.

House Approves NDAA Conference Report, With Foreign Influence Measures

The House of Representatives December 11 passed the [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2020](#) (NDAA, S. 1790), a bill to authorize \$735 billion in spending for the Department of Defense (DOD), by a [vote of 377-48](#). The [final conference report](#) includes two sections related to foreign government influence in research. Sec. 1746 includes text of [H.R. 3038](#), the Securing American Science and Technology Act, which would “establish an interagency working group to coordinate activities and develop policy guidance to protect federally funded research and development from foreign interference.” Sec. 5713, Oversight of Foreign Influence in Academia, requires the Director of National Intelligence to submit a report to Congress related to foreign influence in research and its impact on national security.

NIH Advisory Committee to the Director Meets

The [NIH Advisory Committee to the Director \(ACD\) met December 12-13](#) on the NIH campus to hear updates from several ACD Working Groups, including groups on diversity and sexual harassment, foreign influence on research, and the NIH-wide strategic plan for FY 2021-2025. Following the final report of the Working Group on Changing the Culture to End Sexual Harassment, [NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, released a press statement](#) summarizing NIH’s work to implement the working group’s interim recommendations, and plans to work quickly in partnership with the grantee community to further pursue the final recommendations. Presentations from each of the updates are available on [the ACD website](#).

All of Us Program Announces New CEO

NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, announced [Joshua Denny, MD., MS, as Chief Executive Officer of the All of Us Research Program](#) on December 11. Dr. Denny currently serves as Professor in the Departments of Biomedical Informatics and Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. According to the press release, Dr. Denny has been involved in All of Us from its inception, first as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Director Precision Medicine Initiative Working Group, through to his current role as principal investigator for the All of Us Data and Research Center.

Upcoming Hill Briefings and Other Events

Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering Workshop Sponsorship Registration – December 20

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Office of Government Relations’ 7th annual CASE Workshop: Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering will take place March 29-April 1, 2020 in Washington, DC. Created by a coalition of scientific and engineering societies, universities, and academic organizations, CASE presents an exciting opportunity for upperclassmen and graduate students in science,

mathematics, and engineering disciplines to learn about science policy and advocacy. We invite you to be a sponsoring institution for the upcoming 2020 CASE Workshop, which includes a \$250 registration fee, travel, and accommodation costs per sponsored student. To sponsor students from your institution, please send an email containing the name, email address and phone number for the person who will serve as your institution's point of contact to govrelations@aaas.org and cc jcarney@aaas.org with the subject line: "2020 CASE Sponsoring Institution." REMINDER: The deadline to register as a sponsoring institution is **December 20, 2019**.

Last Call: Nominations for the 2020 Golden Goose Award Due 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.

NIH Draft Policy for Data Sharing and Management Public Comment – January 10

The NIH November 6 released for public comment in the [Federal Register](#) a Draft NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing along with supplement draft guidance. According to [a blog post authored by NIH Associate Director of Science Policy](#), Carrie Wolinetz, PhD, "The draft policy furthers NIH longstanding commitment to making available the results and products of the research we fund and conduct." NIH has established a [web-portal](#) where the public can provide their feedback. Responses must be submitted no later than January 10, 2020.

OSTP Extends Deadline for Comments on the American Research Environment – January 28

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [recently extended](#) the deadline for a [request for information \(RFI\) on the American Research Environment](#) originally published in 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 January 28 via email to the National Science and Technology Council Executive Director, Chloe Kontos at JCORE@ostp.eop.gov.

NIH Regional Seminar in Baltimore, MD: April 20-22, 2020

The NIH is hosting the Spring 2020 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration in Baltimore, MD, from April 20-22. [Visit the meeting website](#) to learn more about the program and to register; early bird registration rates apply through December 31.

Job Postings

March of Dimes Seeks Manager, Advocacy Mission Marketing

The March of Dimes seeks a Manager to lead the execution of advocacy campaigns to ensure March of Dimes issues are top of mind for policymakers at the state and federal level. Job responsibilities include managing the execution of March of Dimes grassroots advocacy efforts, communicating with supporters on the Advocacy Network, growing and acquiring new advocates to join our Advocacy Network email and mobile list, and more. Please visit the [job posting website](#) for more information and instructions on how to apply.

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.

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.*