Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
August 1, 2022

The Weekly Round Up will be on hiatus for the next several weeks while Congress is in summer recess.

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 – July 25

Did you know? The inflation rate for @NIH-funded research (BRDPI) was higher than the general rate of inflation from 1998 until 2012; since then, the inflation rate has been similar to or even lower than the general rate of inflation.

Senate Democrats Unveil FY 2023 Spending Bills, Including Proposal of $47 Billion for the NIH Base Budget

On July 28, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) released drafts of the committee’s 12 fiscal year (FY) 2023 spending bills. The draft Labor-HHS spending bill would provide $47 billion for the NIH base budget in FY 2023, a $2 billion (4.5%) increase in existing NIH institutes and centers compared to the president’s proposed $275 million increase and the House committee’s $2.5 billion increase. The bill also provides a $1 billion investment in the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health “as a standalone agency within NIH” (same funding level as FY 2022), which would be available through Sept. 30, 2025. This results in what the committee reported as a total program level of $48 billion for the NIH in FY 2023.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued a July 29 press statement in response to the Senate draft bill, recognizing a proposed eighth straight year of funding growth for the NIH and urging expeditious passage of robust funding growth for the agency.

“To make continued progress against the myriad diseases and disorders affecting patients across this country, prepare for future public health threats, and support the research workforce and local economies, it will be essential to maximize the nation’s investment in medical research,” the coalition stated.

The House did not advance its Labor-HHS spending bill to floor consideration before leaving for August recess. Neither chamber is expected to take additional action on
their FY 2023 spending bills until after members return from recess in September, when lawmakers likely will need to pass a continuing resolution. Funding for the current fiscal year is set to expire on Sept. 30.

NIH Discovery Reveals Details About Rare Eye Disorder
A July 28 blog post examines how the National Eye Institute (NEI), part of the NIH, has used a new imaging technique to determine that retinal lesions from vitelliform macular dystrophy (VMD) vary by gene mutation. VMD is an inherited genetic disease that causes progressive vision loss through degeneration of the light-sensing retina. “The NEI's long-term investment in imaging technology is changing our understanding of eye diseases. This study is just one example of how improved imaging can reveal subtle details about pathology in a rare eye disease that can inform the development of therapeutics,” said NEI Director Michael F. Chiang, M.D.

NIA Statement on Amyloid Beta Protein Dementia Research
In a July 29 statement, the Director of the National Institute of Aging (NIA), Richard J. Hodges, MD, reviewed NIA’s Alzheimer’s Disease research portfolio, including work on the amyloid beta protein (Aβ). Hodges noted the institute’s increasing diversity of research approaches, including studies investigating genetic and environmental causes “as well as the involvement of inflammation, fat droplets, the vascular system ...and much more.” Hodges added, “Of NIA-funded late-phase clinical trials relevant to Alzheimer’s, five of eight are focused on amyloid, contrasted with only 13 of 61 early phase trials.”

NIH Amongst Agencies Receiving Recommendations from GAO on Research Reliability
In a July 28 report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) shared recommendations suggesting that NIH and other research agencies implement practices to increase research transparency and rigor. The study reported that the NIH, National Science Foundation, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration do not evaluate the rigor and transparency of the research they fund to help identify strategies for improvement, thus putting the agencies at an information disadvantage when making changes to the grant making process and research funding priorities.

GAO presented two recommendations to the NIH: to collect information on relevant indicators of rigor to assess the research projects the agency funds, and implement steps, as needed, to promote strong research practices in future work; and the NIH should take steps to collect information to determine whether current policies and requirements are adequate to achieve transparency by ensuring research results and data are findable, accessible, and usable, and implement programmatic or policy changes, if needed.

Upcoming Events

NIH Hosting Two-Part Webinar on Implementing the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy – Aug. 11 & Sept. 22
The first webinar, Understanding the New NIH Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Policy will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2022, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET and focus
on DMS policy expectations, the applicability of the policy, how to prepare a Data Management and Sharing Plan, and considerations for responsible data sharing.

Part two, Diving Deeper into the New NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy, will take place Thursday, September 22, 2022, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET and dive deeper into specific topics and questions we’ve heard from the community, such as privacy protections for sharing data from human participants.

Registration is required for each webinar. To learn more about the webinar series, how to register, and how to submit questions about the DMS Policy please visit the webinar series website. The webinars will also be archived for future viewing.

**NIA Webinar on the FY24 Alzheimer’s Bypass Budget – August 11**

On Thursday, August 11 from 11:00 am—12:00 pm ET, the NIA Office of Legislation, Policy, and International Activities will hold a webinar on the FY 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Professional Judgment, or “Bypass” Budget. During the webinar, we will review the Bypass Budget, including new features for FY 2024, and answer your questions. To register, please visit the webinar registration page.

**Register for the 2022 Rally for Medical Research**

Join advocates from around the country for the 2022 Rally for Medical Research! The Hill Day will take place on Wednesday, September 14, with advocates meeting their congressional representatives and staff. The evening before, on September 13, we will host a reception to celebrate medical research with all partners and participants. Together, we will continue to call on our nation’s policymakers to make funding for NIH a national priority and raise awareness about the importance of continued investment in medical research that leads to MORE PROGRESS, MORE HOPE and MORE LIVES SAVED. Please register here.

**NIH COVID-19 Resources**

**NIH resources** related to the RECOVER (Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery) Initiative.

**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.

**Funding opportunities specific to COVID-19** lists active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research.

**NIH COVID-19 Research Website** provides a central location for up-to-date information about NIH research and its strategic role in COVID-19 research.
HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations.

Combat COVID website including information for those who have never had COVID-19, have been infected, have recovered, and for health care providers.

Job Postings

Assistant Director, Government Affairs, COSSA
The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is seeking to fill one position for Assistant Director of Government Relations. The desired candidate will have at least five (5) years of professional advocacy, policy, or related experience. Previous lobbying experience or experience working on Capitol Hill is preferred. The Assistant Director of Government Relations works with the Executive Director to develop and implement strategies that advance the advocacy, funding, and policy goals of COSSA and its membership. The Assistant Director is responsible for managing COSSA’s legislative and executive branch outreach and advocacy activities, as well as engaging in direct lobbying on issues of importance to the COSSA membership and the social and behavioral science community. Please use this link to access the job description. Interested applicants should send a resume, cover letter, and salary requirement to wnaus@cossa.org.

Director of Congressional and Federal Relations, American Psychological Association
The American Psychological Association is seeking a Director of Congressional and Federal Affairs to serve as the primary advocacy liaison to one or more federal science funding agencies (e.g. CDC, NSF, or areas of research, represent APA on coalitions, and lead on advocating in support of psychological science within the agency/agencies and Congress). This non-supervisory position will cover NICHD, NIDA, NIAAA and other agencies as assigned. Competitive candidates will have a Masters or JD and a few years’ experience lobbying or Hill staff work. Click here to learn more.

Health Policy Director, The National Kidney Foundation
The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is seeking a Health Policy Director to join its Washington, D.C. Government Relations team. The Health Policy Director is responsible for identifying, developing, and advancing federal regulatory policies to improve outcomes and opportunities for kidney patients, to enhance health professionals’ abilities to prevent, identify, and treat chronic kidney disease, and to meet the needs of transplant patients, organ donors, and other care partners. The Director reports to the Senior Vice President of Government Relations. Apply for Health Policy Director here.

Advocacy Coordinator, The National Kidney Foundation
The National Kidney Foundation is seeking an Advocacy Coordinator to support NKF’s public policy agenda to improve the lives of individuals living with chronic kidney disease, kidney transplant recipients, living organ donors, family care partners, kidney health professionals, and the one in three American adults at risk for kidney disease. In collaboration with the Director of Grassroots Advocacy and other Government Relations team members, the Advocacy Coordinator will (1) assist in the advancement of NKF’s
kidney health agenda with public decision makers; (2) help to develop and distribute advocacy communications; (3) help execute grassroots and grasstops strategy at the federal and state levels; and (4) conduct policy information gathering as needed. Click here to apply.

**Government Relations Associate, COSSA**
The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is seeking to fill one (1) position for Government Relations Associate. The desired candidate will have at least 1-2 years of professional advocacy, policy, or related experience. Previous lobbying experience or experience working on Capitol Hill, including internships, is preferred, though not required. Please use this link to access the job description. Interested applicants should send a resume, cover letter, and salary requirement to wnaus@cossa.org. Click here to learn more about the Team.

**Director, Government Relations, RSNA**
The Radiological Society of North America is seeking a knowledgeable professional to serve as the Director, Government Relations, responsible for the strategic direction of direction of RSNA’s public policy positions and government engagement. The Director: Government Relations will serve as staff liaison for the society’s government relations committee and participate in various external forums, as well as research and communicate all newly enacted laws and regulations to internal stakeholders. Click here for more information.

**Director, ASRM**
The American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) recently announced the creation of the ASRM Center for Policy and Leadership (CPL) and seeks a Director. The Director promotes the mission and vision of the ASRM’s CPL and maintains its focus on the organization’s goals, plans and policies. The Director will provide inspirational and collaborative leadership, strategic planning and management to drive the CPL’s impact at the state and national level. Reporting to the Chief Advocacy and Policy Officer the Director will have overall accountability for the strategic, operational and programmatic affairs of the CPL. To learn more about the position or to apply, please e-mail publicaffairs@asrm.org or view the job description.

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**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.