NCI Director Discusses NCI’s Fiscal Year FY 2024 Appropriations
On April 4, Dr. W. Kimryn Rathmell, Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), issued a blog post discussing the impacts of the fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations on NCI paylines. Given the FY 2024 appropriation, NCI will set the payline for competing R01 and R21 grants to established and new investigators at the 10th percentile, above the previously set interim grant paylines at the 9th percentile. Recognizing challenges for early-stage investigators, NCI will retain the FY 2023 payline of the 17th percentile, an increase from the interim payline of the 14th percentile. Dr. Rathmell highlights that the increased payline, coupled with prioritizing funding for training, reflects NCI’s commitment to developing and supporting early career researchers to help ensure that NCI builds and sustains the next generation of the cancer research workforce. In addition, in FY 2024, NCI will pay most continuing, noncompeting grants at 95 percent of the committed level, an improvement on the interim policy of 90 percent. Dr. Rathmell also states that NCI is making cuts internally and starting to plan for FY 2025, understanding that Congress will again be navigating budget caps.

Dr. Mike Lauer Discusses Changes Coming to Applications and Peer Review in January 2025
On April 4, Dr. Mike Lauer, Deputy Director for Extramural Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), issued an Open Mike blog post detailing upcoming changes to applications and peer review in January 2025. The post includes the accompanying guide notice and a video that provides an overview of the upcoming changes. Upcoming changes include a simplified reviewed criteria for most research project grants, which was announced in October 2023 followed by a November 2023 webinar. Dr. Lauer issued a separate April 4 blog post discussing what the change means for
funding opportunities, and NIH will hold another webinar on April 17. Later this spring, NIH will publish updates to the National Research Service Award (NRSA) training grants applications and will be hosting a webinar regarding the updates on June 5. The January 2025 changes also include revisions to the fellowship application and review process, and NIH will be hosting a webinar on September 19 regarding the updates. Additional changes include updates to reference letter guidance, updated application forms (FORMS-I), and updates to common forms for biographical sketch and current and pending (other) support in order to comply with disclosure requirements as outlined in the National Security Presidential Memorandum – 33. To assist the community with the upcoming changes, NIH developed a centralized webpage on Changes Coming in January 2025 and will continue to update as details of each change and resources are developed and released.

**Pathways to Prevention (P2P)’s Postpartum Health Initiative Issues Two New Reports**

On April 8, the Pathways to Prevention (P2P) Postpartum Health Initiative issued two new reports describing current research activities and outlining resources and opportunities for advancing research to predict and prevent poor postpartum health outcomes. The reports are part of the P2P workshop *Identifying Risks and Interventions to Optimize Postpartum Health* which aims to address the maternal health crisis by identifying and closing current research gaps in postpartum health. The P2P initiative and workshop are led by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) in partnership with the National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute (NHLBI); Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD); National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD); and NIH’s Office of Disease Prevention (ODP).

**Upcoming Events**

**2024 Social Science Advocacy Day – April 8 – 9**

The annual Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) Social Science Advocacy Day will bring together social and behavioral scientists and other science advocates from across the country to engage with Congress about issues important to communities, such as federal research funding. During these meetings, advocates are encouraged to discuss the importance of federal government support for social and behavioral science research, and how their institutions can serve as resources to elected officials. A prep seminar will be held the day before on April 8th, where
participants will receive all necessary materials, including a meeting schedule tailored to their state group. This educational event is a must for anyone within the social and behavioral science community who cares about sustainable funding for their fields and believes that research should help inform sound public policy. Learn more here.

Cancer Moonshot Seminar Series — April 25
The Cancer Moonshot Seminar Series will showcase research from different Cancer Moonshot initiatives that support the 10 recommendations of the Blue Ribbon (BRP) Report. These presentations will inform the community about the progress of Cancer Moonshot–funded projects, provide outreach related to Cancer Moonshot projects, enhance discussions and collaborations related to Cancer Moonshot research, and promote the sharing of data from Cancer Moonshot initiatives. Find more information here and register.

Celebrate NIMH’s 75th Anniversary – May 2
The Friends of NIMH Coalition, which is dedicated to supporting the mission of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to transform the understanding of mental health and the treatment of mental illnesses through basic biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research, to best inform prevention, early intervention, recovery, and cures, is holding a reception to celebrate NIMH’s 75th anniversary. The reception titled, “The Evolution of Mental Health Research: Improved Science, More Effective Treatments, and Broader Impacts,” will be held in 562 Dirksen Senate Office Building on May 2. RSVP here. If you have questions, please contact info@fabbs.org.

NIDCR 75th Anniversary Reception – May 7
The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) and Friends of NIDCR are hosting a reception on Capitol Hill on May 7, 2024, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) – a milestone recently commemorated through a bipartisan resolution enacted by the U.S. Senate (S.Res.605). The reception will be held in 385 Russell Senate Office Building and will feature remarks from NIDCR Director Dr. Rena D’Souza, members of Congress, and leaders from the oral health community. If your organization would like to help sponsor the reception and be appropriately recognized, please contact Yehuda Sugarman. RSVP here.

NIH Scientific Workforce Diversity Seminar Series (SWDSS) – June 20
SAVE THE DATE: The NIH SWDSS will host the final session of the 2023-2024 season titled *How Are Institutions Transformed to Foster Cultures of Inclusive Excellence?* The session will discuss strategies to enhance inclusion and create a culture of equity within the scientific workforce at academic institutions and methods for assessing culture change. Save the date for June 20, 1:00 p.m. -- 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Additional event details will be shared in the coming weeks. Learn more here.

**SIGN-ON LETTERS**

**Gun Violence Prevention Research Funding Appropriations Letter FY25**

As the process for FY25 appropriations gets under way, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), along with other medical, public health, and research partners, is inviting organizations to join in a letter supporting funding for gun violence prevention research for FY25. Last year, the FY 2024 letter was signed by 409 organizations (read it here).

To sign your organization on to the letter please fill out this form before the end of the day on Friday, April 19th. You are also welcome and encouraged to share this opportunity widely with your partners and state and local affiliates.

**Requests for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities**

**NIAID’s Request for Comments on Strategic Plan**

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) on their institute-wide strategic plan. Specifically, they are seeking feedback on their Research Priorities and Objectives. In addition, NIAID is seeking input on additional cross-cutting themes such as diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), women’s health, health disparities, research inclusivity, and global health. Other topics of interest include infrastructure and research facilities, data science and sharing, and workforce training. Responses must be received by May 27, 2024, and should be submitted in Word or PDF format to NIAIDStrategicPlanRFI@niaid.nih.gov.

**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 trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about NIH research and our 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.

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 Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.