Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
February 7, 2022

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:

Endocrine Society @TheEndoSociety – Feb. 4
It is critical that your senators and representative hear from you about the need to provide robust, sustained, and timely funding for the @NIH. Join our #FundHealth campaign (link), and utilize our social media toolkit (PDF Toolkit). @NIHFunding

DeLauro Introduces CR Through March 11, House Expected to Vote This Week
House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) on Feb. 7 introduced the short-term Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act, a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government at FY 2021 funding levels through March 11. In her statement, DeLauro added that the House would take up the measure on Feb. 8, in advance of the current Feb. 18 CR deadline. The Senate is expected to take up the updated short-term spending measure following House action. The Feb. 7 Punchbowl update added that lawmakers will still need to come to agreement on topline spending levels for FY 2022 and negotiate policy riders before subcommittees for the 12 spending bills can finalize their bill text before the expiration of the CR.

Energy & Commerce to Hold ARPA-H Hearing
The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee is expected to hold a Feb. 8 hearing focused on President Biden’s Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) proposal. The hearing, “ARPA-H: The Next Frontier of Biomedical Research,” will begin at 10:30am EST and will be livestreamed on the committee website. White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Eric Lander, PhD, is expected to testify.

Biden Reignites Cancer Moonshot
President Joe Biden announced a series of new steps to “reignite” the Cancer Moonshot initiative on Feb. 2, with the goal of “ending cancer as we know it” by halving
the number of cancer deaths in the United States in the next 25 years. The Cancer Moonshot originally was established in 2016 by then-President Barack Obama to support cancer research and enable progress in treatment and care, including funding for the National Cancer Institute. The expanded Moonshot program will include initiatives for early cancer screening and detection and new research, as well as the formation of a Cancer Cabinet with leading health agencies, the departments of Defense, Energy, and Veterans Affairs, the Office of the First Lady, and others.

**Feedback Requested: NIH-Wide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Strategic Plan**

NIH Director of Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, authored a Feb. 4 blog post announcing the NIH-Wide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Strategic Plan and seeking stakeholder feedback. “We strongly believe that an inclusive and diverse pool of highly talented individuals is key for the country to remain a global leader in scientific discovery and innovation. This means we must actively consider factors that address DEIA principles and appropriately embed them within NIH and the wider scientific community. Embracing this DEIA vision will enhance our ability to drive biomedical innovation and serve an increasingly diverse US population,” Lauer wrote. Stakeholder feedback to the NIH-Wide DEIA Strategic plan will be accepted through April 3.

**Upcoming Events**

**AACR Virtual Briefing on COVID-19 and Cancer – Feb. 9**

Please join the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) for a virtual congressional briefing to release the AACR Report on the Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Research and Patient Care. This report will describe the significant impact the pandemic has had on patients with cancer and the field of cancer research; highlight how cancer researchers have responded to the challenges posed by COVID-19; and document lessons learned during the pandemic that can be used to improve cancer research and patient care moving forward.

The briefing will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 1:00 pm EST. Speakers will include Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), among others. The briefing will also feature a live panel discussion with survivors of cancer whose stories are included in the report. Please register for the briefing here.

**Requests for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities**

**NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Strategic Plan for FYs 2022-2026 – Feb. 10**

The NIH’s Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity (COSWD) seeks feedback on its draft FY 2022–2026 strategic plan, which includes a description of how COSWD will
advance its mission to be the agency’s thought leader in the science of scientific workforce diversity, using evidence-based approaches to catalyze cultures of inclusive excellence. COSWD seeks stakeholder feedback on the plan’s three key goals — to build, disseminate, and act on the evidence to advance scientific workforce diversity — as well as objectives and cross-cutting strategies to support the goals. Stakeholders should submit responses to the request for information to COSWDStrategicPlan@nih.gov by Feb. 10.

NIH Issues RFI on Genomic Data Sharing Policy – Feb. 28
On Nov. 30 NIH published a Request for Information (RFI) on potential updates to the NIH Genomic Data Sharing (GDS) Policy to keep pace with evolving scientific opportunities and stakeholder expectations. Comments will be accepted through February 28, 2022. NIH will use the responses to the RFI to consider options to update the GDS Policy and to harmonize with the NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy.

For questions, please contact the NIH Office of Science Policy by email at SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov

NIH Funding for Research and Capacity Building Efforts Related to Bioethical Issues – March 17
The NIH seeks to fund research on ethical considerations related to biomedical research and projects that support capacity building in bioethics. Over the past three years, the NIH Office of the Director has partnered with all of our Institutes and Centers to support projects spanning the wide range of intersections between bioethics and biomedical research. Note that this opportunity applies to both basic and clinical research (and everything in between), from ethical considerations surrounding emerging technologies to developing capacity to further engage research participants as partners in research. Applications will be accepted until March 17, 2022.

Interested in collaborating with a bioethicist or a biomedical researcher to apply? Check out this symposium for tips on establishing partnerships.

NEW RFI on NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for DEIA – April 3
The NIH seeks stakeholder feedback on the framework for the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Diversity Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA). According to the request, The purpose of the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for DEIA is to articulate NIH’s vision for embracing, integrating, and strengthening DEIA across all NIH activities to achieve the NIH mission. The Strategic Plan will capture activities that NIH will undertake to meet the vision of the Strategic Plan, and will be organized around accomplishments, needs, opportunities, and challenges in addressing DEIA in the NIH workforce, its structure and culture, and the research it supports. Feedback on the plan should be submitted electronically on this website by April 3.

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.

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.

Job Postings

Director of Policy, ISSCR
The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) is seeking a full-time Director of Policy with experience in health policy issues to lead the ISSCR’s international policy and regulatory advocacy program. The ISSCR proactively engages in policy discussions concerning stem cell research and its translation to regenerative medicine at the state, federal, and international levels. The ISSCR’s Policy Director will draw on the organization’s articulation of rigorous professional standards for the conduct of stem cell research and clinical translation and will guide the ISSCR in the deliberation of new policy and regulatory issues. Additional details and application instructions can be found here.

Legislative Analyst, AAMC
The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) seeks a Legislative Analyst who, in collaboration with the Senior Director, Government Relations & Regulatory Affairs, will supervise, track, and analyze activities of Congress and federal agencies primarily related to health equity, diversity, and inclusion policies as well as other education, student financial aid, and health workforce related advocacy initiatives affecting AAMC member medical schools, teaching hospitals, physicians, and the patients they serve. Examples include health equity infrastructure, social determinants of health grants, and Title VII health workforce development and diversity programs at
the Health Resources and Services Administration. Additional details and application instructions can be found here.

**Advocacy and Training Assistant, SfN**
The advocacy and training assistant will provide support to all efforts of the SfN Advocacy and Training department. Supports committee activities, provides administrative support to SfN programming such as correspondence and scheduling, payment processing, and supports communication efforts regarding advocacy, policy positions, and training initiatives of the Society. Liaises across the organization for interdepartmental collaboration. To learn more about the position and apply, please click here.

**Policy Fellow, AMP**
The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) is accepting applications through Feb. 28 for the Policy Fellowship Program, which provides opportunities for early career scientists or professionals to gain skills and experience in and exposure to a variety of policy issues and aspects affecting molecular laboratory medicine. This is an ideal opportunity for someone who was recently awarded a masters or doctorate degree in the life sciences (within 5 years of application) with a strong interest in public policy as it relates to genomics, molecular or precision medicine. The fellow position is for 12 months, with a potential extension of an additional 6-12 months, and will report to the Senior Manager of Public Policy & Advocacy. A full position description, including fellowship activities, qualifications, and application requirements can be found here. The online application can be accessed here.

**Advocacy & Engagement Specialist, AAMC**
The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is seeking an advocacy and engagement specialist that will work with researchers, data experts, and policy analysts across the association to facilitate research, data gathering and story collection to complement lobbying efforts. The Specialist is an expert professional who will support the advancement of the AAMC advocacy agenda by helping identify and implement activities that engage AAMC members, staff, and partners to provide a strong foundation for AAMC lobbying and advocacy. In collaboration with the Senior Director for Advocacy and Engagement, the Specialist is a catalyst to the work of the Office of Government Relations. Learn more about the Association of American Medical Colleges here. To learn more about the position and apply, please click here.

**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.