Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
December 4, 2023

NEWS

Schumer Dear Colleague Letter on the Upcoming Work Period
On November 26, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) sent a Dear Colleague letter outlining his plan for the final work period of the first session of the 118th Congress. This included negotiations on long-term government funding, the national security supplemental, President Biden nominee confirmations, the NDAA and other bipartisan legislation, and more.

The Amazing Brain: Turing Conventional Wisdom on Brain Anatomy on its Head
In a November 28 blog post, the director of the NIH’s Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, and guest columnist John J. Ngai, Ph.D. highlighted the winning photo of the Show Us Your BRAINs! Photo and Video Contest. The photo depicted the largest neurons in the mammalian brain, known as Purkinje cells. These cells connect to nerve fibers that ascend from the brain stem, which links the brain and spinal cord to regulate breathing, heart rate, balance, and other functions. Recent research suggests that understanding the role of Purkinje cell connections may have implications for certain neurological and developmental disorders, such as autism and cerebellar ataxia, a movement disorder. Although humans also have Purkinje cells, the cells in the photo are from a mouse's brain.

Upcoming Events

New Congressional Artificial Intelligence Caucus’ “Use of Artificial Intelligence in Radiology: Impact on Pediatric Patients” -- December 5
On Tuesday, December 5th at 12:30 p.m., the Congressional Artificial Intelligence (AI) Caucus will be hosting the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Radiology: Impact on Pediatric
Patients session. Dr. Richard A. Barth, M.D., Pediatric Radiologist and Professor of Radiology at Stanford University School of Medicine, and Dr. Marla Sammer, M.D., Pediatric Radiologist and Professor at Baylor College of Medicine will present their research and lead an important discussion to educate Congress about the benefits of AI in radiology, the health equity issues that occur when AI systems are not developed safely and with the correct data, and what Congress can do to address the inadequacies in pediatric AI development. It will be located in Room 2325 in Rayburn. For information and to RSVP, please contact Stuart Styron (stuart.styron@mail.house.gov) in Representative Anna Eshoo’s office.

2024 AACR Early-career Hill Day – February 26 - 27
The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Early-career Hill Day is an annual event that brings a group of AACR Associate members to advocate for robust, sustained and predictable funding for cancer research and biomedical science through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI), on behalf of early-career cancer researchers. Over the course of more than 50 total congressional visits during a single day, participants will stress the importance of investing in cancer research and provide personal perspectives as the investigators whose careers are impacted by this essential funding. Participants receive support from AACR staff and are accompanied by one or more established investigators with significant advocacy experience. This event is an important opportunity for the AACR’s Associate members to engage in advocacy at the federal level and educate lawmakers on the progress and promise in cancer research. Click here to learn more and to register.

Sign-On Letters

**New** AIMBE Sign-on Letter on Health AI Reimbursement – December 9
AIMBE has drafted and encourages your organization to sign a letter urging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand and strengthen pathways for the reimbursement of artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine. The letter emphasizes the potential of AI to positively transform health care in the United States and advocates for its deployment and utilization in clinical settings. The deadline to sign on is Saturday, December 9, by the end of the day. Click here to review the letter. For more information, please contact Sarah Mandell at smandell@aimbe.org.

Request for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities
NIH Seeking Comment on Draft Resource Informed Consent for Research Using Digital Health Technologies -- December 12

NIH is seeking comments on a draft resource, Informed Consent for Research Using Digital Health Technologies: Points to Consider and Sample Language, which is focused on bolstering consent language for research involving digital health technologies. The draft resource can be viewed here. Comments will be accepted until December 12, 2023, and must be submitted through the form found at: https://osp.od.nih.gov/comment-form-developing-consent-language-for-research-using-digital-health-technologies/

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.

Job Postings
Advocacy Coordinator, Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences

FABBS is seeking a motivated individual who is interested in science advocacy and non-profit management to join their small team. This position offers tremendous opportunities for growth. As the Advocacy Coordinator, you will be involved in all aspects of FABBS activities, and will work closely with the Executive Director, Board of Directors, member societies, and individual scientists. The ideal candidate should have a good understanding of the Congressional legislative process, Administration rulemaking, and regulatory activity, or at least show keen interest in these areas. Experience working on Capitol Hill or at a federal agency is preferred. The deadline to apply is December 8. [Click here](#) for more information and to 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 Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.