Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
July 8, 2024

NEWS

House Appropriations Committee Set to Mark-Up NIH Spending Bill
On July 10, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a mark-up of the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill which would include $48.5 billion in total funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Following the June 27 Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee mark-up, the Ad Hoc Group issued a statement on the bill, expressing appreciation for the committee’s work to largely preserve medical research funding while urging that robust above-inflation increases for NIH must continue and reiterating the coalition’s recommendation of at least $51.3 billion for the NIH’s base program level in FY 2025. The statement also comments on the major structural and policy changes to NIH that was included in the spending bill and notes that integration of such changes would be premature “without the benefit of robust stakeholder input” and would be “disruptive to the scientific enterprise to implement such dramatic changes so abruptly.”

Open Mike Blog Highlights Support for Early-Stage Investigators in FY 2023
In a July 3 Open Mike blog post, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Deputy Director for Extramural Research Dr. Mike Lauer shared updated data on the number of early-stage investigators (ESIs) supported on R01-equivalent awards in fiscal year (FY) 2023. In FY 2023, there were 5,325 ESI applicants and 1,587 ESI awardees, slight decreases compared to FY 2022. In addition, the blog post included data on the age of principal investigators at the time of the application and award for R01-equivalent awards and data by gender, race, ethnicity, and disability status.

Upcoming Events
AAAS 48th Annual Science and Technology Policy Forum – July 12
Join AAAS for the 48th annual Science & Technology Policy Forum, “Actionable Insights: Seeding Our Way Forward in AI.” Gathering in person on Friday, July 12, in Washington, DC, the Forum will host dynamic discussions that move beyond mere awareness of AI issues but dig into the real work of developing tangible pathways to policymaking. Experts and practitioners will lead conversations about pressing issues including algorithmic justice, bias and inclusive participation; building trust, security and safety; and regulatory oversight and action. Register for the AAAS S&T Policy Forum by July 1.

ADA’s Health Equity and Inclusive Research Summit – July 13
The American Diabetes Association (ADA) will be hosting a summit with local community leaders and national experts to provide information about diabetes, chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, and clinical trial options for the DC community. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 13 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. ET at the Royal Sonesta – Capitol Hill (20 Massachusetts Ave NW). Free health screenings, resources, and an opportunity to connect with community organizations will be available following the discussion. For more information and to RSVP, please go here.

"Maternal Mortality in America” In-Person Capitol Hill Briefing – July 22
The Population Association of America and Association of Population Centers will be hosting an in-person briefing on Capitol Hill titled, “Maternal Mortality in America: Understanding the Challenges and Crafting Population Based Solutions.” The briefing will feature a panel of experts from the federal government and NIH-supported scientists from the University of Colorado, Harvard University, and the Population Reference Bureau. The briefing will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 P.M. ET in Room 2044, Rayburn House Office Building. Go here to learn more and to RSVP.

FASEB IdeA and EPSCoR Webinar Series – August 20 and October 15
FASEB is launching an IdeA and EPSCoR Webinar series aimed at highlighting the various states and scientists that have directly benefitted from these federal programs. The first three webinar of this series are as follows:

Webinar 2: How IDeA Co-Funding Supports Early-Career Investigators
Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Time: 1:00 P.M. ET
Zoom Registration Link here
Webinar 3: How Institutional Department Chairs Can Advocate for Researchers in IDeA/EPSCoR States
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Time: 12:00 P.M. ET
Zoom Registration Link here

Join the NCCIH Coalition for Whole Person Health
The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) Coalition for Whole Person Health is currently accepting applications from eligible organizations seeking membership. The coalition is comprised of independent U.S.-based nonprofit organizations with a national reach. Organizations eligible for membership include those with 501©3, 501©4, and 501©6 status, which can demonstrate their engagement with the NIH and/or NCCIH, as well as their ongoing support for the missions, vision, and strategic plan of these organizations. To learn more about eligibility and to apply, please go here.

2024 Rally for Medical Research – Sept. 19
Join advocates from around the country for the 2024 Rally for Medical Research! Capitol Hill visits will take place on Thursday, September 19, with advocates meeting their congressional representatives and their staff. The evening before, on September 18, Rally for Medical Research will host a reception on Capitol Hill to celebrate medical research with all partners and participants. The goal is to 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. The registration deadline is September 4. Go here to register today.

Requests for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities

Request for Information from the NIH Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office
The Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO) is developing the Fiscal Years (FYs) 2026 – 2030 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Sexual and Gender Minority Health (SGM) Research. NIH is soliciting input from the scientific research community, clinical practice communities, patient and family advocates, scientific or professional organizations, federal partners and other interested constituents on topics to consider for the next strategic plan to optimize NIH’s research investments. All responses should
be submitted electronically by 5:00 P.M. ET on July 15, 2024. Go here to learn more and to submit a response.

**Request for Information on Draft NIH Intramural Research Program Policy: Promoting Equity in Access Planning**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is proposing to develop and implement a new policy within the NIH’s Intramural Research Program, the internal research arm of the agency. The policy would require organizations partnering with NIH through a patent licensing agreement that succeed in bringing certain products to market to submit a plan outlining steps they intend to take to promote patient access to any resulting drug, biologic, vaccine, or device. NIH seeks input on this draft policy and accompanying draft license agreement language that incorporates patient access in the commercialization process for NIH-owned inventions.

Comments on the draft must be submitted by July 22, 2024, for consideration. The NIH will use the responses to this request to develop a final policy. Questions may be sent to SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov.

**Reps. DeGette, Bucshon Request for Information on Next-Generation Cures Bill**

Reps. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) and Larry Bucshon, MD (R-Ind.) issued a request for information (RFI) seeking input on ideas to further the work of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255), passed in 2016, and the Cures 2.0 Act (H.R. 6000), introduced by Rep. DeGette and former Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.) in 2021. To further the goals of the legislation, Reps. DeGette and Bucshon are seeking input on key questions, including whether the policies included in Cures 2.0 and advanced through legislation or executive action meet needs that the bill aimed to address, what other elements are missing that are needed for further progress, and what additional reforms, support mechanisms, or incentives are required in order to enhance or improve the effectiveness of the steps already taken, including any structural reform to agencies, offices, or programs.

Responses to the RFI are due August 2, 2024, and comments can be sent to cures.rfi@mail.house.gov.

**Request for Information: Strategies for Maximizing Public Engagement in NIH Supported Clinical Research**

NIH is seeking information to assist the agency in developing additional engagement strategies that ensure public voices are meaningfully incorporated in NIH-supported
clinical research studies. Patients, communities, and members of the public are essential partners to the success of clinical research. However, meaningfully engaging people and communities is not a one-size-fits-all approach. NIH believes that engagement should be tailored to the needs and experiences of people and communities, and that they should guide the direction of research that is impactful to them. This engagement should be done on an ongoing basis so that members of the public can become active leaders in all stages of the research process.

For the purposes of this RFI, NIH is specifically seeking input about engaging the public throughout all stages of clinical research and not focused solely on recruitment or participation in clinical research and trials. The responses NIH receives to this request will help inform the development of the NExTRAC’s recommendations on incorporating public perspectives in clinical research.

All comments must be submitted electronically by going here. Responses must be received by no later than August 14, 2024.

**House E&C Chair McMorris Rodgers Request for Information on NIH Framework**

House E&C Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) released a framework of recommendations for new policies at the NIH, along with a request for information from stakeholders. The framework includes recommendations to combine the current 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs) into 15 new ICs; initiate a congressionally mandated commission to review NIH’s performance, missions, objectives, and programs; encourage public-private partnerships; introduce term limits for IC leadership; require ICs to issue biennial reports; enforce financial disclosure requirements; address misconduct; and improve transparency from NIH partners, among other recommendations. The Committee has invited comments on the framework via NIHReform@mail.house.gov by August 16.

**NIH Releasees Draft Public Access Policy and Draft Supplemental Guidance for Public Feedback**

NIH is releasing a draft of its updated Public Access Policy to enhance access to NIH-funded research results. The policy outlines steps to address the Administration’s 2022 Memo on Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research. NIH is also proposing supplementary draft guidance on government use licenses, rights, and publication costs. Public comments on the draft policy and guidance will be accepted until August 19, 2024. Go here for more information and to submit your comments.
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**

**Assistant Director, Federal Strategy, John Hopkins University**

Johns Hopkins University is seeking an Assistant Director, Federal Strategy who will report to the Assistant Vice President, Federal Strategy. The Assistant Director will track and be responsible for federal issues/trends of importance to the University and Health System, including higher education, research and health care policy. This position is part of a team of professionals who together conduct federal government relations activities on behalf of the University and Johns Hopkins Medicine. As a registered federal lobbyist for the institution, the Assistant Director advocates for federal legislative and regulatory action to advance Johns Hopkins' mission of teaching, research and patient care. The Assistant Director conducts and initiates policy and political analysis of key issues, prepares issue briefs, and conveys institutional positions and activities to internal constituencies, Congress, the executive branch, and the public.
The Assistant Director will be based in Washington, D.C., with frequent travel to Baltimore. Go 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.