Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
May 23, 2022

The Round Up will be on hiatus during the Memorial Day recess and will resume publication in June.

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:

Karen Fisher, JD, AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer
@KarenFisherDC – May 17

Nearly 400 organizations & institutions of @FundNIH recommend at least $49B for the @NIH’s base to advance medical research on prevention, diagnostics, and cures that save lives and help patients everywhere. @SenateApprops
http://ow.ly/hQ6w50Ja4gu

NIH Leadership Testifies at Senate Appropriations Hearing
On May 17, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on the president’s fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request for the NIH. Ranking member Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) expressed concerns about the proposal’s lack of funding increases for the NIH’s base budget priorities and relatively larger investments in ARPA-H. In his testimony, NIH Acting Director Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD, emphasized how the president’s proposal will support the science that helps tackle many health challenges, while investing in transformational innovations in health. He explained that the budget will build upon Congress’s initial investment for ARPA-H and support the Cancer Moonshot initiative.

House Labor-HHS Subcommittee Seeks Outside Witness Testimony
The House Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee will hear testimonies from public witnesses regarding FY 2023 appropriations at a Public Witness Day hearing on May 26 at 10am ET via Zoom. The deadline to submit a request to testify is May 16 at 8pm ET, and the deadline to submit written testimony is May 26. Subcommittee submission instructions are available here.

House Energy & Commerce Committee Advances ARPA-H Legislation
On May 18, the House Energy and Commerce Committee marked up and advanced 6 pieces of legislation, including an amendment in the nature of a substitute to the Advanced Research Project Agency-Health (ARPA-H) Act (H.R. 5585). The substitute amendment further defines the scope and mission of the new agency. The amendment was agreed to by a voice vote, and the underlying legislation was agreed to by a roll call vote of 53-3.

**NIH Council of Councils Discussion Updates – May 19 – 20**

On May 19, the NIH Council on Councils met to discuss updates on the Common Fund, Office of Research Infrastructure Programs Concept Clearance, Working Group on Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Integration, Office of Disease Prevention Concept Clearance, and Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office.


Additional information and meeting recordings can be reviewed here. The next meetings will take place September 8 – 9, 2022.

**NIH-Funded Study Suggests That Depression and Loneliness Associated with Increased Hospitalization Risk After COVID-19**

The NIH issued a May 19 media advisory reporting on a new research study funded by several NIH institutes and centers suggesting that psychological risk factors may increase hospitalization risk following a COVID-19 diagnosis as much as physical risk factors, such as high cholesterol and hypertension. People who reported in a survey that they felt worried, depressed, or lonely had a greater chance of being hospitalized after a COVID-19 diagnosis. The study analyzed survey data from more than 54,000 female nurses and their offspring.

**NIH Announces Antiviral Drug Development Awards**

NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has awarded approximately $577 million to establish nine Antiviral Drug Discovery (AViDD) Centers for Pathogens of Pandemic Concern. The AViDD award recipient centers will conduct research on the early-stage identification and validation of novel viral targets, with an eye to identify small molecules and biotherapeutics that directly block viral targets.

**Cancer Death Rates Among Black People Declined Over Time, But Remain Higher Than Other Racial and Ethnic Groups**

The NIH issued a May 19 news release detailing that from 1999 to 2019, rates of cancer deaths declined steadily among Black people in the United States. Nevertheless, in 2019, Black people still had considerably higher rates of cancer death than people in other racial and ethnic groups, a large epidemiologic study has found. Wayne R. Lawrence, Dr.P.H., of the National Cancer Institute, who led the study, noted that the overall declines in cancer death rates in Black people could be due to some combination of improved access to screening, earlier detection, advances in treatment, and behavioral changes, such as declines in cigarette smoking.
“The disparity in deaths likely reflects systemic and preventable barriers to getting quality care,” Dr. Lawrence explained. He noted possible limitations of the study include the broad groupings used for race and ethnicity, which could make it harder to tease out differences among people who are racially categorized as Black, as well as the potential misclassification of race and ethnicity and of underlying cause of death recorded on death certificates.

**Scientists Identify Characteristics to Better Define Long COVID**

The NIH issued [a May 16 news release](#) summarizing research from scientists, who used machine learning techniques to analyze electronic health records (EHRs) to better identify who has long COVID. Exploring de-identified EHR data in the [National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C)](#), a national, centralized public database led by NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), the team used the data to find more than 100,000 likely long COVID cases as of October 2021. The new research is part of a related, larger trans-NIH initiative, [Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER)](#), which aims to improve the understanding of the long-term effects of COVID-19, called post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC).

In the study, scientists “trained” computational methods to rapidly sift through large amounts of data to reveal new insights about long COVID. The models focused on identifying potential long COVID patients among three groups in the N3C database: All COVID-19 patients, patients hospitalized with COVID-19, and patients who had COVID-19 but were not hospitalized. The models proved to be accurate, as people identified as at risk for long COVID were similar to patients seen at long COVID clinics.

**Requests for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities**

**National Eczema Association Research Grant – June 1**

The 2022 National Eczema Association (NEA) [research grant cycle is now open](#). As the largest private nonprofit funder of research for adult and pediatric eczema, NEA has invested over $2.3 million to date and supports research of innovative scientists at 36 institutions in the U.S. and abroad. For the 2022 funding cycle, NEA has multiple grants available in a variety of categories, with funding ranging from $5,000 up to $150,000.

For the full program description, [click here](#). For additional information, please review answers to [frequently asked questions](#) or email grants@nationaleczema.org.

**NIH Request for Public Comments on Draft Supplemental Information to the NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing – June 27**

NIH is releasing a request for comment on [protecting the privacy](#) of research participants when data is shared. NIH is seeking comments on this draft guidance through [June 27, 2022](#). Full information, including how to comment can be found on the NIH’s [Office of Science Policy (OSP) website](#), and additional background is provided in a May 12 blog post from NIH’s Acting Associate Director for Science Policy and Acting Director of the NIH OSP Lyric Jorgenson, PhD.

**NIH Invites Comments on the Development of a Prize Competition for Institutional Excellence – July 28**
NIH is seeking suggestions and guidance on the development of a prize competition for institutional excellence in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. This Request for Information (RFI), led by the Office of the NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, is an outcome of the NIH UNITE initiative, which was established to identify and address structural racism within the NIH-supported and greater scientific community. Please read the RFI to learn more and to submit your comments. Responses must be received by July 28, 2022.

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.
Assistant Director, Government Relations, AACR
The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) seeks a government relations professional to serve as Assistant Director, Government Relations. This individual will be central to the AACR’s legislative planning and engagement activities, including coordinating Hill Days and advocacy events, analyzing legislation, and working with stakeholders to promote cancer prevention and research initiatives. To learn more about the position, please visit: https://careers-aacr.icims.com/jobs/1378/assistant-director%2c-government-relations/job.

Legislative Assistant, Federal Advocacy, AAP
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is seeking a Legislative Assistant, Federal Advocacy. This individual will assist with and provide support for AAP’s advocacy efforts to Congress, regulatory, and judicial bodies and to other advocacy groups. Working with the Director of Federal Advocacy and Child Welfare Policy, this individual will monitor, analyze, and report on legislative and regulatory activities within a wide-ranging and fast-paced legislative issues portfolio, including gun violence prevention, paid leave, safe sleep and product safety, environmental health and climate change, and the foster care system. They will represent the AAP at meetings with various interest groups, task forces, and child and health care coalitions as well as assist the Director with drafting and editing testimony, correspondence, legislative amendments and responses to regulatory rule making, background papers, etc.

To learn more about the organization, see a full job description, and/or apply for the position, please visit https://www.aap.org/employment.

Grassroots Advocacy Manager, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is seeking a Grassroots Advocacy Manager who will develop, coordinate, and implement grassroots activities for Reeve’s grassroots advocates, in coordination with internal departments and consultants, to further advance the organization’s mission and grow community engagement. The role will manage and oversee all aspects of the Reeve Foundation’s Regional Champions grassroots advocacy education program and lead efforts to increase recruitment and engagement of nearly 10,000 online advocates. Please use this link to access the job description. To apply send a cover letter and resume to hr@christopherreeve.org.

Public Policy Manager, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is seeking a Public Policy Manager who will develop and deepen Reeve Foundation’s health policy expertise and will serve as the key liaison on behalf of the Foundation for 6-8 Coalitions focused on disability policy and advocacy initiatives. In this new role, the candidate will manage a federal policy portfolio including relevant disability-related issues such as: health care, health and racial equity, caregiving, long-term care and services, transportation, employment, safety-net programs, and others as assigned. Please use this link to access the job description. To apply send a cover letter and resume to hr@christopherreeve.org.

Vice President, CRD Associates
The ideal candidate has 5 to 7 years of relevant professional experience on Capitol Hill, in a federal agency, or in advocacy work and demonstrated knowledge in one or more areas of public policy relevant to our clients, which include public health associations, provider organizations, patient advocacy organizations, and coalitions. The ideal Vice
President candidate should have a demonstrated ability to execute tasks independently, interact with clients, and produce professional written and oral material. The applicant should have a firm grasp of the Congressional legislative process, Administration rulemaking, and regulatory activity. Experience working on Capitol Hill or at a federal agency strongly encouraged. Please send ONE PDF that includes your resume, cover letter, and a one-page writing sample to info@dc-crd.com. Attention: VP, Administration & Finance.

**Regulatory Director, CRD Associates**

The ideal candidate will have a strong interest in public health and health care policy and have 7 to 10 years of experience working at a relevant federal agency, an association in a similar policy space, or a government relations firm with clients in this space. The Director will lead the firm’s regulatory practice and work closely with other team members to coordinate the firm’s regulatory work across clients who include physician and provider specialty societies, patient advocacy groups, public health organizations, scientific societies, for-profit corporations, and coalitions. Please send ONE PDF that includes your resume, cover letter, and a one-page writing sample to info@dc-crd.com. Attention: VP, Administration & Finance.

**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.

**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.