Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
October 3, 2022

The Weekly Round Up will be on hiatus for the next several weeks while Congress is in October recess.

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:

UMass Chan Medical School @UMassChan – October 3

The Structural Racism Effect Index that MD/PhD student Zach Dyer built is one of the first to use an explicit framework of structural racism. Read how he will use a @NIMHD grant to get it in front of decision makers: https://bit.ly/3e4P2Jx @UMassMDPhD @TweetWorcester

Biden Signs Continuing Resolution Through Mid-December
On the final day of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, President Joe Biden signed H.R. 6833 into law, the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, a continuing resolution to temporarily extend fiscal year (FY) 2022 spending levels until Dec. 16. The bill was signed following House passage by a vote of 230-201 on Sept. 30 and Senate passage on Sept. 29 by a vote of 72-25. Appropriators and congressional leaders are expected to reengage in negotiations to finalize federal spending for FY 2023 following the November midterm elections.

Monica Bertagnolli Begins Work as 16th Director of NCI
The NIH announced on Oct. 3 that Monica Bertagnolli, MD, began working as the new director of the National Cancer Institute. Bertagnolli is the institute’s first female director and joins NCI from Harvard Medical School where she served as the Richard E. Wilson Professor of Surgery in the field of surgical oncology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. “Dr. Bertagnolli brings exceptional experience to NIH as a surgical oncologist, professor, scientist and leader in the cancer research community,” said Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD, who is performing the duties of the NIH director.

Bertagnolli added, “I see our work as aimed at three broad goals: understanding how cancer arises and what biological processes it disrupts; developing and testing new prevention and therapy approaches; and partnering with patients to develop ways for all people to receive the care that best meets their needs and, if they wish, to participate in
research. With the passion and commitment of the President and his administration to the Cancer Moonshot, I believe the opportunities before us to improve the outlook for cancer patients are unprecedented.”

NIH Chief Information Officer Andrea Norris Set to Retire in December 2022

In a Sept. 29 statement, Lawrence Tabak, performing the duties of NIH director, announced the retirement of the Director of the Center for Information Technology (CIT) and NIH Chief Information Officer (CIO) Andrea Norris on December 31, 2022. “For more than a decade, Andrea has led a $1.6 billion technology portfolio that supports the research of NIH’s 27 Institutes and Centers as well as researchers at more than 2,500 universities and medical centers across the country that receive NIH funding support,” Tabak stated. NIH will launch national searches for a new CIT Director as well as a new CIO soon.

NIH Releases Data on Number of Research Project Grants Per Principal Investigator

NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, authored a Sept. 26 Open Mike blog post providing new data on time-related trends of the number of research project grants (RPGs) supporting individual PIs. This post followed a January post which highlighted the inequities that well-funded Principal Investigators (PI) not only were supported by more money but also by a larger number of distinct grants. The September blog includes additional detail on: (1) the inequities in research project grant (RPG) support for extramural PIs, (2) breakdown by sex, (3) reverse perspective by showing the proportion of designated PIs supported on 3 or more RPGs, and (4) the proportion of designated PIs supported by four or more RPGs by sex.

GAO presented two recommendations to the NIH: to collect information on relevant indicators of rigor to assess the research projects the agency funds, and implement steps, as needed, to promote strong research practices in future work; and the NIH should take steps to collect information to determine whether current policies and requirements are adequate to achieve transparency by ensuring research results and data are findable, accessible, and usable, and implement programmatic or policy changes, if needed.

Upcoming Events

Join AAAS for the Forum on Science & Technology Policy!

The 47th annual AAAS Science & Technology Policy Forum will gather in person and virtually October 25-26, 2022 to discuss major current challenges affecting science, policy, and society. This is your opportunity to engage with some of the nation’s top S&T policy experts, strengthen existing relationships, and create new ones. View the agenda to see the lineup of speakers discuss this year’s themes.

The Forum is a public meeting in the U.S. Register now and contribute to valuable peer exchanges that will make a difference in science and technology policy. Deadline to register is October 21.

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

**Director of Congressional and Federal Relations, American Psychological Association**
The American Psychological Association is seeking a Director of Congressional and Federal Affairs to serve as the primary advocacy liaison to one or more federal science funding agencies (e.g. CDC, NSF, or areas of research, represent APA on coalitions, and lead on advocating in support of psychological science within the agency/agencies and Congress). This non-supervisory position will cover NICHD, NIDA, NIAAA and other agencies as assigned. Competitive candidates will have a Masters or JD and a few years' experience lobbying or Hill staff work. Click [here to learn more](#).

**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.