Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
August 5, 2024

The Weekly Round Up will be on hiatus while Congress is in summer recess and will return on September 9.

NEWS

Ad Hoc Group Issues Statement on Senate Labor-HHS Spending Bill
On August 1, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced its fiscal year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill by a bipartisan vote of 25-3. The bill would provide a total of $48.851 billion for the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH’s) base, including funding provided through the 21st Century Cures Act and $1.2 billion in emergency funding. The funding level would represent a $2.05 billion in new discretionary spending for NIH’s base, and a net increase of $1.770 billion over the comparable FY 2024 level on account of a scheduled $280 million decrease in Cures funding in FY 2025, which the bill would restore among increases in other specific areas. Additionally, the bill would maintain funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) at the FY 2024 total of $1.5 billion, bringing the combined total for the two agencies to $50.351 billion. The bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee on July 10 would maintain overall funding for NIH and ARPA-H at the FY 2024 funding level of $48.581 billion. The Senate bill does not include the structural reforms or other new policy provisions that were included in the House committee’s bill that would restrict certain types of research and related activities.

Following the committee mark-up, the Ad Hoc Group issued a statement applauding the committee in its “efforts to bolster medical research with approximately $2 billion in new funding for the NIH.” In addition, the statement notes that the Ad Hoc Group is “grateful that the bill invests in the NIH by reversing scheduled cuts to funding from the 21st
Century Cures Act and restores funding for Cures initiatives to FY 2023 levels” and “appreciate[s] the Committee's bipartisan commitment to avoiding problematic policy provisions.”

**Continued Trends in FY 2023 for Mentored Career Development Grant (K) Funding Rates by Race and Ethnicity**

In a July 29 [Open Mike blog post](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-by-topic/science-workforce/diversity-and-inclusion), NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research Dr. Mike Lauer and Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Dr. Marie A. Bernard provided new data on the number of Black and Hispanic mentored career development (K) applicants and awardees. This data includes additional race and ethnicity information on designated principal investigators (PIs) from fiscal year (FY) 2023. The blog post shares tables and figures that detail characteristics according to race and ethnicity of scientists who were designated as a PI on at least one K application in FY 2011 and in FY 2023, the number of K applicants according to race and ethnicity by fiscal year, funding rates for K applicants according to race and ethnicity by fiscal year, and the total number of applicants and awardees for K99 and MOSAIC programs in FY 2022 and FY 2023.

**NIH Director Issues Blog on Osteoporosis Research**

On August 1, NIH Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli, [issued a blog post](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-by-topic/bone-joint-musculoskeletal-conditions/osteoporosis) on how researchers supported by NIH have discovered a hormone that maintains and rebuilds bone strength in lactating females. The findings suggest that the newly discovered hormone, or a drug that acts similarly, could be key to treating osteoporosis and preventing and healing broken bones. Dr. Bertagnolli notes that in future studies, researchers plan to explore the hormone’s potential for treating bone loss in people at increased risk, including post-menopausal women, breast cancer survivors taking estrogen blockers, and those with other conditions leading to unhealthy bone mass, such as genetic bone disorders, chronic kidney disease, or premature ovarian failure.

**Upcoming Events**

**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 501c3, 501c4, and 501c6 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: 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, 2024.

NIH Releases 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 Seeks Feedback on Implementing Recommendations to Re-envision the Postdoctoral Experience**

The NIH is continuing its efforts to reimagine the postdoctoral experience to help the biomedical research field retain and attract top scientific talent and stay competitive internationally. The NIH is asking for public input to guide the potential implementation of Advisory Committee to the NIH Director (ACD) recommendations on re-envisioning NIH-supported postdoctoral training. Feedback can be submitted electronically until October 23, 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**
Vice President of Health Government Relations, University of Southern California

USC seeks a Vice President of Health Government Relations to serve as the day-to-day health government relations leader for USC, including the USC Health System. Reporting to the Senior Vice President of University Relations, the Vice President will develop and advance strategies to influence health-related public policies at the local, state, and federal levels. This includes issues that impact USC’s hospital system, the university's health schools, patients, community members, and the university as a major private employer. The Vice President will also develop and maintain external relationships with public officials and staff, regulators, advocacy associations, civic organizations, and other stakeholders. The Vice President will also collaborate closely with and advise the USC Health System leadership including the Senior Vice President, Health Affairs, the CEO of Keck Medicine of USC, and the Dean of the Keck School of Medicine. The position is based in Los Angeles with regular travel to Sacramento and Washington, DC. 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.