



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

May 20, 2024

NEWS

Nearly 60 Senators Urge NIH Funding Growth

A bipartisan group of nearly 60 lawmakers submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee a May 14 letter requesting appropriators [maintain a strong commitment to funding](#) for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in fiscal year (FY) 2025. Led by Sens. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), the letter noted that “sustained NIH funding allows scientists to do what they do best — discover tomorrow’s therapies and cures.” The Senate letter follows a similar effort in the House which aligned with the [FY 2025 funding recommendation](#) set forth by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research.

Representative Cole Releases Appropriations Allocations and Markup Timeline

On May 16, Representative Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, [previewed](#) the interim subcommittee allocations for the fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills and released a [timeline](#) for committee markups. According to Chairman Cole, the allocations were developed using the overall discretionary spending caps outlined in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-H) Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over funding levels for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will receive an allocation of nearly \$184.5 billion, which would represent a roughly \$40 billion cut from current enacted levels. In addition, the Labor-H subcommittee markup of FY 2025 appropriations legislation is slated to take place on Thursday, June 27, with the full committee mark-up taking place Wednesday, July 10. Following the release of the allocations and markup schedule, Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee and Labor-H Subcommittee issued a [statement](#) and [fact sheet](#) opposing the allocations and anticipated cuts.

NIH Releases Strategic Plan for Research on the Health of Women

On May 15, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) issued the [NIH-Wide Strategic Plan for Research on the Health of Women 2024-2028](#). The plan focuses on five strategic research goals aimed to advance research that examines multiple factors that influence the health of women, including the intersection of those factors; improve data science and data management practices to prevent and treat conditions affecting women; foster women scientists' career development and promote scientific workforce training and education that advances the health of women; support basic and translational research to advance women's health across the life course; and advance community-engaged science across the research and practice continuum. In addition to the release of the report, NIH Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli [released a video](#) sharing her vision for the future of research on women's health.

NIH Updates FY 2023 Categorical Spending Data are Now Available

On May 14, the NIH announced recent [updates to the annual categorical information with fiscal year \(FY\) 2023](#) actual spending data and estimates for FY 2024 and 2025. This covers the annual support levels for different research areas, conditions, and disease categories; totaling 324 public categories. Twelve new categories were added, including Biodefense and Medical Countermeasures, Building Research Capacity at Institutions with Limited NIH Funding, Fentanyl Misuse and Addiction, Primary Health Care, Health Disparities and Racial or Ethnic Minority Health Research, and more. There were also two existing categories that were renamed including: Vascular Cognitive Impairment/Dementia (VCID) is now called Vascular Contributions to Cognitive Impairment/Dementia (VCID); and PASC including Long COVID is now called Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC) Including Long COVID.

Open Mike: Updating NIH Minority Health and Health Disparities Categories to Improve Accuracy and Transparency

In a May 14 Open Mike [blog post](#), Dr. Mike Lauer, Deputy Director for Extramural Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), shared information on how the NIH is adapting its methodology for reporting on expenditures in [the categories of Minority Health, Health Disparities, and Biodefense](#). Those three categories will be replaced with five new automated categories. These changes aim to improve accuracy and transparency, in line with NIH's efforts to provide accurate reports of expenditures for NIH Research, Conditions, and Disease Categorization (RCDC) categories. The goal is to transition the remaining manually coded RCDC categories to an automated system

to better reflect their complexity and unique characteristics. The minority health and health disparities categories were among the few remaining manually coded categories until recently. Dr. Lauer noted that NIH is committed to better understanding and improving reporting for health disparities and minority health research.

NIH Director Issues Blog on Rare Genetic Disorders and Artificial Intelligence

On May 16, Dr. Monica Bertagnolli, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a [blog](#) on how artificial intelligence (AI) is helping to speed the diagnosis of rare genetic disorders. The blog highlights a new AI tool, funded in part by the NIH, called AI-MARRVEL (AI-Model organism Aggregated Resources for Rare Variant ExpLoration). AI-MARRVEL relies on a machine learning approach and integrates genetic information from six human databases and seven model organism databases into one site and includes more than 3.5 million known genetic variants. Dr. Bertagnolli stated that there is some early evidence that AI-MARRVEL could also be utilized to make new discoveries that link novel gene variants to diseases for the first time.

Upcoming Events

2024 State of Personalized Medicine Luncheon – May 23

The Personalized Medicine Coalition will host the 2024 State of Personalized Medicine Luncheon at the National Press Club on May 23, 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M ET. During the event, Dr. Monica Bertagnolli, Director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, will introduce her vision for the future of personalized medicine and the next frontier in biomedical research. [Go here](#) for more information and to register. Contact cwells@personalizedmedicinecoalition.org for questions.

NEW NIH Webinar on Updates to Training Grant Applications – June 5

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Extramural Research (OER) is holding a webinar to discuss upcoming changes to the National Research Service Award (NRSA) Training Grant Program applications. The webinar will include an introduction, overview of upcoming changes, and a live Q&A with NIH policy experts. The webinar will take place Wednesday, June 5, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. ET. Register and learn more [here](#).

NIH Scientific Workforce Diversity Seminar Series (SWDSS) – June 20

SAVE THE DATE: The NIH SWDSS will host the final session of the 2023-2024 season titled *How Are Institutions Transformed to Foster Cultures of Inclusive Excellence?* The session will discuss strategies to enhance inclusion and create a culture of equity within

the scientific workforce at academic institutions and methods for assessing culture change. Save the date for June 20, 1:00 - 2:30 P.M. ET. Additional event details will be shared in the coming weeks. [Learn more here](#).

Requests for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities

NIAID's Request for Comments on Strategic Plan

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has issued a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) on their institute-wide strategic plan. Specifically, they are seeking feedback on their Research Priorities and Objectives. In addition, NIAID is seeking input on additional cross-cutting themes such as diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), women's health, health disparities, research inclusivity, and global health. Other topics of interest include infrastructure and research facilities, data science and sharing, and workforce training. Responses must be received by May 27, 2024, and should be submitted in Word or PDF format to NIAIDStrategicPlanRFI@niaid.nih.gov.

FDA-NIH Request for Comment on New Resource for Terminology in Clinical Research

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have partnered on an initiative to clarify clinical research terms related to innovative clinical study designs, including studies using real-world data (RWD) to generate real-world evidence (RWE).

They have issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking community feedback on any or all the following topics: (1) The terms included for comment; (2) Whether any terms should be removed; (3) Other pertinent terms that are inconsistently used within the scientific community.

Comments on the draft glossary can be submitted until June 24, 2024. For more information, including how to view the glossary and how to provide comments, please visit: <https://osp.od.nih.gov/comment-form-fda-nih-resource-on-terminology-for-clinical-research/>

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

Legislative Analyst, AAMC

AAMC’s Office of Government Relations seeks a Legislative Analyst to assist the Director of Government Relations in monitoring activities of Congress and relevant Federal agencies primarily related to the HRSA Title VII and VIII health professions education/workforce programs, public health and preparedness, health equity, diversity, immigration (Conrad 30 program), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and research; and assist in preparation and dissemination of information on legislation. A basic understanding of the legislative and policymaking process, especially with health workforce, public health, and research issues, and the appropriations process, is desirable. Responsibilities include assisting with managing a coalition, covering hearings, preparing reports and summaries (often with a short turnaround), and creating and updating materials for the advocacy section of the AAMC website. [Go here](#) for more information and to apply.

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.

Deputy Director, NIH Office of Science Policy

The NIH Office of Science Policy (OSP) is seeking an expert candidate to be its next Deputy Director. This position, in combination with the Associate Director for Science Policy, will provide executive level leadership of an office with an operating budget of \$12M containing almost 70 employees. The incumbent will also be responsible for ensuring that OSP has robust procedures in place that ensures that OSP promotes a thriving, diverse, intellectually stimulating workforce for the present and the future. [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.*

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