Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up
July 31, 2023

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

News

Senate LHHS Appropriators Approve FY24 Labor-HHS Bill
On July 27, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved, 26-2, its bipartisan fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill (S.2624) and accompanying report (S. Rept. 118-84). For NIH, the bill would provide $47.7 billion, including $678 million in emergency funding to restore a scheduled reduction in funding from the 21st Century Cures Act. The total funding level would represent a net increase of $265 million (0.6%) over the comparable FY 2023 funding level, a stark contrast to the cuts proposed by the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Additionally, the bill would provide $1.5 billion in new funding to the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, as in FY 2023. Click here to review the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research’s statement.

Cryo-EM Scores Again
In a July 25 blog post, Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD, in performing the duties of the NIH director, highlighted an initiative to map the mechanics of human neurons to advance future studies of the brain and nervous system. NIH-supported researchers used cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) to produce the first highly precise 3D models of pores on a neurons surface. These pores are essential in how the cell communicates, operating as shutters that allow ions and other essential molecules to pass through it. The entire process explains how humans' sense, think, move, and respond to their environment. The information gathered may prove valuable in developing new drugs targeted at modifying the function of these cells in beneficial ways.

Open Mike: HHS Names Sheila Garrity Director of the Office of Research Integrity
In a July 25 blog post, Mike Lauer, MD, NIH deputy director for external research, announced and provided video of his discussion with Sheila Garrity, JD, MPH, MBA.
the new director of the HHS Office of Research Integrity (ORI). NIH and ORI work closely together to address research misconduct in NIH-funded biomedical research. “Research integrity, we cannot just put it into a little box; we have to put it into our daily lives,” Ms. Garrity mentions as her philosophy. The brief conversation included discussion of her interest, vision, and priorities to support research integrity.

Upcoming Events

**NEW** AIMBE “AI to Improve Health Care” Briefing – Aug. 11
Please join the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) for a congressional briefing on *AI to Improve Health Care* as we discuss the risks, opportunities, and challenges of Medical AI. The briefing will take place on Friday, August 11, Noon – 1:00 p.m., at 2044 Rayburn House Office Building. Boxed lunches provided. Speakers include Dr. Regina Barzilay (MIT), and Dr. Parisa Rashidi (University of Florida). Click [here](#) to register and learn more about the event.

**NEW** NIH to Host Workshop on Catalyzing the Development of Novel Alternatives Methods – Aug. 21
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) will hold a virtual workshop on August 21, 2023, on approaches, challenges, and opportunities relating to the development of Novel Alternative Methods (NAMs). The workshop will also feature discussion on identifying incentives and barriers to successful implementation of NAM technologies. Click [here](#) for information on the virtual workshop, including registration, agenda, and webcast information.

2023 Rally for Medical Research – Sept. 14
Join advocates from around the country for the 2023 Rally for Medical Research! The Hill Day will take place on Thursday, September 14, with advocates meeting their congressional representatives and their staff. The evening before, on September 13, we will host a reception on Capitol Hill to celebrate medical research with all partners and participants. Together, we will 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. [Register today](#).

Requests for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities

**NIDCD Request for Public Comment – August 1**
The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) recently published a [request for information](#) inviting input regarding research directions to support communication in minimally verbal/non-speaking people. Responses to this request will be used to guide future NIDCD actions and activities in this topic area. NIDCD invites anyone with interests in communication in minimally verbal/non-speaking people from a personal, service delivery, or research view to provide input [here](#) by **August 1, 2023**.
NIH Accepting Submissions for Institutional Excellence in DEIA in Biomedical and Behavioral Research Prize Competition – September 12

The NIH Institutional Excellence in DEIA Prize Competition aims to recognize transformative cultures, systems, projects, and processes developed by academic institutions to promote inclusive excellence and create environments that foster and value a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). NIH will award up to 10 prizes of $100,000 each through the competition, with up to half of the prizes set aside for consideration for limited-resourced institutions. To participate, registration is required by Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 5:00 pm ET. Please visit the prize competition website to learn more.

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

Communications Specialist, Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

The Academy is searching for a Communications Specialist to join our team. This position will be a key member of the Academy staff, contributing to the development and implementation of a comprehensive, organization-wide communications plan. This is an opportunity to develop and drive an organizational communications effort for a scientific professional society, including member and public-facing strategies. The
position reports to the Senior Director of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives. Click here for more information and to apply.

**Administrative Assistant, Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research**
The Academy is searching for a part-time Administrative Assistant to join our team. This position will be a key member of the Academy staff and report directly to the Executive Director. This role is on-site, 8 hours per day, 3 days per week. The office is located above the Farragut North metro. Click here for more information and to apply.

**Director, Health Equity Advocacy and Government Relations, AAMC**
The Health Equity Director will serve as an Office of Government Relations (OGR) staff lead on a portfolio of federal issues that are centered in diversity in health care and health equity advocacy issues. In collaboration with the OGR team and reporting to the Chief Public Policy Officer (CPPO), the Director will provide strategic mentorship, developing advocacy priorities, executing legislative and regulatory initiatives; and advancing legislation, policies, and programs that are meaningful to the organization and its members. Working with colleagues across the organization, including with the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) cluster and the AAMC Center for Health Justice, the Director leads advocacy on federal legislative issues before federal policymakers and officials to ensure the organization's interests are represented and promoted. Issues covered under this portfolio include diversifying the physician workforce, HRSA Title VII and Title VIII workforce development programs, and policies affecting student education / medical education. Click here for more information and to apply.

**Director, Government Relations, Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)**
RSNA is seeking a talented professional responsible for advocating for the interests of RSNA to government entities at various levels. The Director: Government Relations will serve as staff liaison for the society’s government relations committee, collaborating to advance the strategic direction of RSNA’s public policy positions and government engagement, and also participate in various external forums helping to develop and further RSNA’s positions. The Director: Government Relations shall generally research and communicate all proposed and newly enacted policies, legislation, and regulations to internal stakeholders. Click here for more information and to apply.

**Executive Director of Government Relations, Morehouse School of Medicine**
Morehouse School of Medicine seeks a health care policy expert for the position of Executive Director of Government Relations. The candidate will serve as the school’s legislative representative to a broad range of health-related higher education organizations and government entities, work collaboratively with the President’s Chief of Staff to manage and coordinate communications between the President and various stakeholders and constituent groups, represents the institution on public policy and legislative issues as well as monitoring legislative hearings, and more. Click here for more information and to apply.
Assistant Director of Government Relations, COSSA
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 submit a resume, cover letter, and salary range to wnaus@cossa.org. Additional detail is available here.

Director of Public Affairs/Communications Specialist, COSSA
This is an exciting opportunity for an individual who is passionate about translating the value of social and behavioral science research to external audiences, including policymakers and the public. She/He/They will help develop and execute a proactive, effective, and inspiring communications and media plan that engages key audiences in innovative and compelling ways. They will carry out creative marketing and communications assignments to build awareness about our initiatives and impact for various audiences. They will also provide support to the team in building communications materials such as presentation decks, website content, reports, and newsletter articles, to name a few. Please submit a resume, cover letter, and salary range to wnaus@cossa.org. Additional detail is available here.

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.