



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Weekly Roundup

July 14, 2025

NEWS

House Appropriations Committee Removes Notice to Mark Up NIH Spending Bill

The House Appropriations Committee, according to the committee's [schedule](#), has removed notices to mark up the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bills, which provide funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The House Labor-HHS subcommittee was originally expected to mark up the spending bill on July 21, and the full committee was scheduled to consider the bill on July 24.

NIH Issues Notice on Grants Appeals Process

On July 7, the NIH [issued a guide notice](#) to provide the research community with direction on closing out grants and cooperative agreements currently undergoing the [NIH appeals process](#). The agency noted that the process of reviewing appeals for recent grant terminations is ongoing. It stated that “in cases where a recipient has submitted an appeal, but has not yet received a response, NIH will not take action to initiate unilateral closeout while the appeal is under review. We ... ask that the community use this notice as supporting documentation to prevent an audit finding related to closeout.”

NIH Announces Update on Research Proposals and Animal Research

At a July 7 [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)-NIH meeting on reducing animal testing](#), officials from both agencies spoke about plans to reduce the use of animals in research and to shift to increased use of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs). Nicole Kleinstreuer, PhD, NIH acting deputy director for Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, stated at the end of her session that “all new NIH funding opportunities moving forward should incorporate language on consideration of NAMs. NIH will no longer seek proposals exclusively for animal models.” On July 10, NIH [announced](#) that it will “no longer issue NOFOs exclusively supporting animal models or limit/specify the types of models that must be used.” The agency announced in April that it would [prioritize human-based research technologies](#) and “publicly report on research spending annually to measure progress toward reduction of funding for animal studies.”

Coinciding with the announcement, Dr. Kleinstreuer joined NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, in an episode of the [Director’s Desk podcast](#) to discuss the policy and the evolving role of animal testing in biomedical research.

Trump Administration Disbands NIH Advisory Committee to the Director

The Trump administration has disbanded the NIH’s top advisory committee and it will reconvene with new membership, according to a [report](#) by *Science*. The [Advisory Committee to the Director \(ACD\)](#) is charged to provide advice to NIH and HHS leadership “on matters related to planning, execution, conduct, support, and evaluation of biomedical research, medical science, and biomedical communications.” The article notes that it is not uncommon for new administrations to replace some members of the body, but a “complete sweep may be a first.”

Upcoming Events

Gun Violence Prevention Research Roundtable Sessions

The [Gun Violence Prevention Research Roundtable](#) is inviting coalition members, partners, and others who are interested in joining a gun violence prevention (GVP) Research Media & Advocacy ECHO. During the six-session bi-

weekly course, which begins on July 17 at 11:30 AM ET, participants will learn communication strategies, advocacy tools, and messaging skills to support federal funding for firearm injury prevention research. This ECHO is open to medical, public health, research, community partners, and others interested in this work. Registration is available [here](#). Please contact Ella Mathews (emathews@aap.org) or Jessie Leffelman (jleffelman@aap.org) with any questions.

Request for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities

NIH Issues Requests for Information on Artificial Intelligence Strategy

On June 3, the NIH [issued an RFI](#) inviting comments on the NIH Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy. The RFI states that “NIH is developing an institute-wide AI strategy that charts a progression from today’s data-science-driven analytics through semi-autonomous AI agents to fully autonomous, self-documenting biomedical AI beings.” The RFI invites comments on themes, pillars, and specific actions that should inform the AI Strategic Plan and the accompanying one-year action plan. The deadline to respond to the RFI is July 15, 2025.

NIH Issues Requests for Information on Biomedical Informatics and AI and Cancer Research

On May 14, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the National Cancer Institute separately released two RFIs due on July 14 and July 29, respectively. [NLM seeks input on biomedical informatics and data science](#) research gaps and opportunities that NLM can address through its extramural research programs; and the NCI seeks input on artificial intelligence benchmarks in the advancement, development, evaluation, and validation [of AI applications in cancer research and care](#).

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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