

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Weekly Roundup

November 3, 2025

NEWS

Senate HELP Committee Holds Hearing on Future of Biotech

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held an Oct. 29 hearing titled "The Future of Biotech: Maintaining U.S. Competitiveness and Delivering Lifesaving Cures to Patients." Committee Chair Bill Cassidy, MD (R-La.), opened the hearing by highlighting the transformative impact of American medical innovation, citing examples ranging from vaccines to gene therapies. "That is the power of innovation," Cassidy said, emphasizing that the United States must "pick up our game" to remain a global leader in biotechnology. He called for structural reforms to eliminate regulatory barriers, modernize drug approval processes, and ensure fair international competition to sustain U.S. leadership in lifesaving research.

Lawmakers from both parties underscored the need to strengthen domestic biotechnology innovation amid growing international competition, particularly from China. Several Democrats on the committee raised concerns that proposed funding cuts and workforce reductions at the NIH and other agencies could slow clinical trials and drug approvals, while other senators emphasized the economic importance of the life sciences sector and called for policies that sustain U.S. leadership in research and manufacturing. Witnesses urged modernization of drug approval processes, highlighting advanced regulatory

tools, adaptive trial designs, and stronger coordination between agencies to ensure timely patient access to new therapies.

NIH-Supported Study Shows Alzheimer's Drug Appears to Protect Some in a High-Risk Population

An Oct. 29 article published by NPR focused on a study of a newly developed Alzheimer's pill that demonstrated beneficial results in a "subgroup of 125 people who had only mild memory problems when they started taking the drug." According to one measure, the drug slowed cognitive decline by 52% in people with mild cognitive impairment and appears comparable with benefits from two Alzheimer's drugs currently on the market. The findings were published in the journal *Drugs*, and the study was supported by a \$47 million grant from NIH.

Upcoming Events

NEW Register for Friends of NIAID November Meeting – Nov. 14

The Friends of NIAID Steering Committee will hold its November meeting on Nov. 14 at 12:00 PM ET. The meeting will focus on NIAID appropriations, looming NIH-wide issues including forward funding, the NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative, agency and Congressional engagement and more. Please contact Nicole Zimmerman(nzimmerman@asmusa.org), Senior Federal Affairs Officer at the American Society for Microbiology with any questions. Register for the meeting here.

Register for FASEB's Advocacy Town Hall Meetings

Join the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)'s Advocacy Town Hall meetings — a recurring virtual space where researchers and advocates come together twice a month (first and third Tuesday from noon to 1:00 PM ET) to: receive updates from Capitol Hill and the latest science policy news from NIH, NSF, and other federal agencies; share experiences or

express opinions on important science policy issues; contribute to grassroots mobilization efforts; and help share the future of the research community through continuous input. The remaining 2025 dates are Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16. Register here, and please complete all requested fields.

Job Postings

ACT for NIH Seeks President

ACT for NIH, a Washington, DC-based non-profit dedicated to increasing Federal biomedical research funding to spare millions from the ravages of disease, seeks a President who is an experienced executive, is a skilled advocate with deep Hill and advocacy expertise and is knowledgeable about NIH. The President reports to the ACT for NIH Chairman and directs the organization's efforts to increase NIH funding. The President leads the development and execution of an advocacy strategy, directs the ACT for NIH team to achieve the organization's mission in advocacy and education, helps lead in the broader advocacy community to increase NIH funding, and manages the enterprise's operations. Successful candidates will share a passion for our cause, have a record of at least ten years of significant relevant accomplishments, have a vision for success going forward given these tumultuous times, have demonstrated skill in leading high-performing teams, and display excellent persuasive skills. Go here to learn more.

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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