



## The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

### **Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Weekly Roundup**

August 4, 2025

**The Weekly Roundup will be on hiatus while Congress is in summer recess and will return on September 8.**

### NEWS

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#### **Ad Hoc Group Press Statement on Senate Labor-HHS Spending Bill**

On July 31, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced its fiscal year (FY) 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill, which provides funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), by a [bipartisan vote of 26-3](#). The bill would provide \$47.201 billion for NIH's base budget, including funding provided through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act and \$1.4 billion in Public Health Service evaluation tap transfers. As the committee-prepared summary reports, the funding level would represent \$400 million in new discretionary spending for the agency, relative to the comparable \$46.801 billion total for the agency in FY 2025, including funding from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act. Additionally, the bill would maintain funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) at the FY 2025 total of \$1.5 billion. The FY 2026 President's budget request proposed an \$18 billion cut to NIH and an over \$500 million cut to ARPA-H.

Following the committee mark-up, the Ad Hoc Group [issued a statement](#) noting it is “grateful, particularly in the context of the current constrained fiscal environment, for the Committee’s bipartisan efforts to strengthen vital medical research with new funding for the NIH” and appreciates that the “bill rejects damaging cuts and harmful policy provisions that would stifle medical innovation.” In addition, the statement notes that “Investments in NIH aid researchers in achieving breakthrough discoveries that combat debilitating health challenges, including cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, diabetes, Parkinson’s, chronic health conditions, autoimmune diseases, and the full range of other conditions that affect patients, families, and communities.”

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to consider its version of the bill in early September.

### **Senate Nominations Deal Falls Apart, NIH Funding Discussed in Negotiations**

As the Senate was preparing to recess, according to [reporting](#) by *Politico*, a deal between Senate Republicans, Democrats, and the White House to move forward with the confirmation of dozens of Trump administration nominees in return for the unfreezing of certain agency funding fell apart. It is reported that the negotiations centered around unfreezing funds for foreign aid and the NIH.

### **Trump Administration Releases NIH Funding Following Temporary Pause**

According to [reporting](#) by the *Washington Post*, on July 29, the Trump Administration released National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding following a temporary pause. The pause occurred following the transmittal of a budget document to the NIH from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that included a footnote limiting what the NIH could fund, which included research grants, research and development (R&D) contracts, and training awards. Later in the evening, according to an OMB spokesperson, the funding had been released. [Senate Appropriations Committee Vice-Chair Patty Murray \(D-Wash.\)](#) and [House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa](#)

[DeLauro \(D-Conn.\)](#) issued statements as developments concerning the funding halt were unfolding.

### **Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research URL is Now [fundNIH.org](#)**

Visit [fundNIH.org](#) to browse the latest actions and materials of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research. The updated page features the Ad Hoc Group's recommendation, press statements, congressional testimony, and correspondence to Members of Congress and the administration, among other resources.

### **New Episode of “The Director’s Desk” Podcast Features Discussion with Associate Director for AIDS Research**

On July 25, the NIH released the [fourth episode](#) of “The Director’s Desk” podcast, hosted by NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, and featuring Geri Donenberg, PhD, NIH Associate Director for AIDS Research. Topics covered included Dr. Donenberg’s career journey in HIV research, emerging HIV treatments and technologies, NIH’s role in HIV/AIDS strategy, challenges and opportunities in combating HIV, and the future of public health innovation at NIH.

### **Elevate Fellow Scientists with *The Scientist* Peer Profile Program**

*The Scientist* [Peer Profile Program](#) provides an opportunity to showcase the exceptional work of fellow scientists who deserve recognition. Scientists can share information about their colleagues, including their areas of expertise and why their work is inspiring. The [August 2025 issue](#) of *The Scientist* includes articles on how household microbes could fuel scientific discovery, how video games based on scientific concepts can connect with the general public, and research on CRISPR and plant engineering, among others.

### **Upcoming Events**

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**Register for the 2025 Rally for Medical Research – Sept. 18**

Join advocates from around the country for the 2025 Rally for Medical Research! Capitol Hill visits will take place on Thursday, September 18, with advocates meeting their congressional representatives and their staff. The evening before, on September 17, the 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 8. [Go here](#) to register today.

### **Register for FASEB's Advocacy Town Hall Meetings**

Join the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology's (FASEB) 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 your experiences or express your opinions on important science policy issues; contribute to grassroots mobilization efforts; and help share the future of the research community through continuous input. The 2025 dates are Aug. 5, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 16, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16. [Register here](#), and please complete all requested fields.

Request for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities

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### **NEW NIH Issues Request for Information: Maximizing Research Funds by Limiting Allowable Publication Costs**

The NIH [issued a request for information](#) (RFI) regarding policy options to maximize research funds by limiting allowable publication costs. The NIH notes that while it “recognizes the value of disseminating and publishing findings, journals with large publishing fees can lead awardees to pay unreasonably high fees from their NIH awards that lessen the funds available for conducting research and which burden American taxpayers.” The RFI follows a July 8 [announcement](#) to establish new policies limiting allowable publication costs.

Comments must be submitted electronically to

<https://osp.od.nih.gov/comment-form-maximizing-research-funds-by-limiting-allowable-publishing-costs>. Responses will be accepted through **September 15, 2025**.

**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](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org).

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