



## The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

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

April 13, 2026

#### NEWS

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#### **House Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee to Hold Hearing with HHS Secretary; House Appropriations Committee Releases Markup Schedule**

The House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations (LHHS) Subcommittee will hold a [budget hearing](#) on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at 2:00 p.m. HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will testify.

The hearing will take place in Room 2358-C of the Rayburn House Office Building (RHOB) and will also be available to watch virtually.

Today, April 13, the House Appropriations Committee [released its mark-up schedule](#). The House Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee will markup the fiscal year (FY) 2027 Labor–HHS–Education bill on June 5, with full committee markup on June 9.

#### **OMB Director to Testify Before House and Senate Budget Committees**

Congressional committees in both chambers will convene this week to hear Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russ Vought discuss the President’s FY 2027 budget request.

On April 15, the House Budget Committee will hold a [hearing on the President's FY 2027 budget request](#) at 10:15 a.m. in Room 210 of the Cannon House Office Building. Members are expected to examine the administration's topline proposals and fiscal outlook.

On April 16, the Senate Budget Committee will follow with [a hearing to examine the President's FY 2027 budget proposal](#) at 10:00 a.m. in Room 608 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. This hearing will provide an additional forum for senators to review and inquire about the administration's budget priorities.

Both hearings will also be available to watch virtually on the Committee websites.

### **Research Organizations, Institutions Prevail in Federal Litigation on 2025 NIH Indirect Cost Rate Change**

Litigation has concluded in a lawsuit against the NIH following a Feb. 7, 2025, notice from the agency that announced “a standard indirect rate of 15% across all NIH grants for indirect costs in lieu of a separately negotiated rate for indirect costs in every grant.” The U.S. Department of Justice declined to seek Supreme Court review of the First Circuit Court of Appeals' January 6, 2026 decision in favor of the plaintiffs, including the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, and the Greater New York Hospital Association, as well as a companion case brought by the Association of American Universities, American Council on Education, and Association of Public and Land Grant Universities. As a result, the district court's injunction permanently blocking the policy remains in effect.

Find more on the Association of American Medical Colleges [Research-related Litigation page](#).

Upcoming Events

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### **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 p.m. 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 shape the future of the research community through continuous input.

The series consists of biweekly sessions on Tuesdays running from January through December 2026. The next date is April 20. [Register here](#) and please complete all requested fields.

### **Register for PCORI's Congressional Briefing**

Join the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)'s upcoming [Congressional briefing](#), an in-person event bringing together researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore important topics in substance use disorder (SUD) research. The briefing will take place on Tuesday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m. in RHOB 2168. Please register [here](#).

This session will feature four PCORI-funded researchers and a patient sharing insights on intersecting areas including veterans and PTSD, telehealth, mental health, and pain management. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of current research efforts and their real-world impact, along with opportunities to connect with others interested in advancing patient-centered outcomes research. Breakfast will be provided.

Sign-On Letters

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**Sign-on Opportunity: Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) Research Roundtable  
FY 2027 Appropriations Sign-On Letter**

Join the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other medical, public health, and research organizations in endorsing the **GVP Research Roundtable FY 2027 Appropriations Sign-On Letter** supporting funding for gun violence prevention research in FY27. The deadline to sign on is **Friday, April 10**. To add your organization, [sign the letter](#) by [filling out this form](#). Please share this opportunity with your partners and affiliates.

Request for Public Comment & Funding Opportunities

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### **NIH Announces Pause on New Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry Submissions and Seeks Input on Reducing Reliance on hESCs**

The NIH on Jan. 23 released a [notice](#) announcing a temporary pause on the review and approval of new human embryonic stem cell (hESC) lines for inclusion in the NIH Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry, while the agency assesses the contemporary scientific utility of hESCs in NIH-supported research. Previously approved hESC lines remain eligible for use in funded research, and derivation of new hESCs from embryos continues to be prohibited in NIH-supported projects.

The notice also includes a request for information seeking input on the use of currently approved hESC lines, circumstances in which additional hESC lines may be needed, and the potential use of alternative models, including induced pluripotent stem cells and adult stem cells. Information submitted will inform NIH's assessment related to future registry activities.

The deadline to submit comments is April 24, 2026. Questions regarding the proposal may be directed to [SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov](mailto:SciencePolicy@od.nih.gov).

### **NIH Seeks Public Input on 2027–2031 Strategic Plan**

The NIH is seeking public feedback on its proposed Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2027–2031 ([NOT-OD-26-047](#)). The framework outlines priorities across three core areas: advancing research (including foundational science,

prevention, and treatment development), strengthening research capacity (through workforce development and infrastructure), and improving research operations (with a focus on decision-making, transparency, and public trust).

Input is invited from researchers, clinicians, advocates, and the general public. Comments must be submitted electronically by May 26, 2026, at 11:59 pm ET.

## Job Postings

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### **AAMC Hiring Sr. Legislative Analyst**

The Association of American Medical Colleges is hiring a Senior Legislative Analyst to support its federal advocacy work on medical research, public health, higher education, and Veterans Affairs. The role focuses on analyzing legislation, advising leadership, leading advocacy efforts with Congress and federal agencies, and managing key coalitions such as the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research. This Washington, DC–based remote-eligible position requires 5–7 years of relevant policy experience.

### **NIH Announces Several Open Leadership Positions**

The NIH announced openings for several key leadership positions. We encourage you to share these opportunities widely with qualified and interested candidates. All applications are due by Monday, April 20, 2026.

Open positions include:

- [Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#)
- [Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases](#)
- [Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke](#)

**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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