

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board

Report Run Date: 04/25/2024 04:57:06 PM

|   |   |                                  |                              |
|---|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1. Department or Agency</b>  |   | <b>2. Fiscal Year</b>            |                              |
| Department of Veterans Affairs  |   | 2024                             |                              |
| <b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>   |   | <b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>     |                              |
| Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board   |   | 2019                             |                              |
| <b>4. Is this New Fiscal Year?</b>  | <b>5. Current Charter</b>                 | <b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>  | <b>7. Expected Term Date</b> |
| No  | 04/19/2022                                | 04/19/2024                       |                              |
| <b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>                                   | <b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b> |                                  | <b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>  |
| No  |   |                                  |                              |
| <b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>                            | <b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b> | <b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b> |                              |
| Continue  | Not Applicable                            | Not Applicable                   |                              |
| <b>11. Establishment Authority</b> Agency Authority                             |   |                                  |                              |
| <b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>                                     | <b>13. Effective Date</b>                 | <b>14. Committee Type</b>        | <b>14c. Presidential?</b>    |
| 38 USC 7303   | 08/18/1978                                | Continuing                       | No                           |
| <b>15. Description of Committee</b> Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board |   |                                  |                              |
| <b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b>   | No Reports for this Fiscal Year           |                                  |                              |
| <b>17a. Open</b>  | <b>17b. Closed</b>                        | <b>17c. Partially Closed</b>     | <b>Other Activities</b>      |
| 0   | 0   | 0                                | 0                            |
| <b>17d. Total</b>   |   |                                  |                              |
| 0   |   |                                  |                              |
| <b>Meetings and Dates</b>   |   |                                  |                              |
| No Meetings   |   |                                  |                              |

|   | <b>Current</b> | <b>Next</b> |
|---|----------------|-------------|
|   | <b>FY</b>      | <b>FY</b>   |
| <b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>                  | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>                      | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>                        | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>               | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>             | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>                 | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>                   | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>          | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b> | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>18d. Total</b>   | \$0.00         | \$0.00      |
| <b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>                          | 0.00           | 0.00        |

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The purpose of the Board and its Subcommittees is to provide high quality scientific peer review of proposed projects to improve the health and health care of our Nation's Veterans. These projects seek to develop and test interventions that have potential to enhance HIGH QUALITY AND ACCESSIBLE treatment options that are matched to the UNIQUE CLINICAL NEEDS and preferences of the Veteran; enhance VETERAN EXPERIENCES and strengthen foundational services in the VA through implementation of innovative strategies for optimal healthcare

delivery; enhance community care by BUILDING AND MAINTAINING TRUST between the Veteran and their healthcare providers through proven stewardship; enhance TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY; strive for excellence of care by examining different technologies and platforms to REDUCE BARRIERS TO ACCESS; aim to reduce Veteran HOMELESSNESS AND SUICIDE RISK; and to provide job training to Veterans to SUPPORT THEIR HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND INDEPENDENCE THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE JOURNEY. In 2023, the Board reviewed 430 proposals for scientific, programmatic and technical excellence. The Board accomplishes its work assisted by an information technology platform developed by the National Institutes of Health, utilizing ongoing system enhancements in continuous efforts TO STRIVE TOWARD EXCELLENCE IN ALL BUSINESS OPERATIONS—SYSTEMS, DATA AND MANAGEMENT. Each proposal was individually reviewed by at least three interdisciplinary Subcommittee members; a summary of discussions/recommendations and a summary statement of the assigned reviewer critiques from the Board was prepared for each proposal. Board recommendations have resulted in improved research plans and duplicate and unnecessary research was avoided. The Board advises the Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service and the Chief Research and Development Officer, on the scientific and technical merit, mission relevance, originality, protection of animal and human subjects, especially for those at risk of suicide and feasibility of rehabilitation research proposals. The Board merit review promotes ACCOUNTABILITY by ensuring effective allocation of RR&D resources, ensuring that research selected for funding has

the greatest potential to ultimately strengthen foundational services in VA and identifying areas for special oversight in funded projects. In addition, post-meeting briefings solicit important feedback for ongoing improvement of overall meeting processes. The annual comprehensive report provides TRANSPARENCY of all meeting actions and associated costs. All Board recommendations and comments were considered by the Director and only the most scientifically meritorious projects were funded. For additional details on the purpose and areas of FY2023 funding along with connections to the VA Strategic Goals, please see each Subcommittee meeting's description/purpose.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Board is representative of a variety of scientific, technical and medical disciplines in the area of neurological dysfunction/spinal cord injury; restoration rehabilitation surgery; orthopedic/vascular; amputations/prosthetics/orthotics; communicative, cognitive and sensory aids; spinal cord injury; serious mental illness; behavioral and mental health; geriatric rehabilitation; outcomes studies; and dementia and aging. Among the members are biomechanical engineers, surgeons, psychiatrists, research methodologists, audiologists, speech pathologists, neurologists, psychologists, physical and occupational therapists and other experts, as well as representatives of Veteran service organizations. The points of view are reflected to provide interdisciplinary expertise needed to coincide with Rehabilitation Research and Development priority areas. The Board is diverse in its ethnic/racial/gender and geographic composition.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The Board and its Subcommittees will meet up to two (2) times per year. In 2023, the Parent Committee (Board) met virtually via Webex platform in the late Summer and mid-Winter; Subcommittees held review meetings virtually via Webex platform in the late Summer and mid-Winter; editorial reviews (mail-in only) were held in mid-Fall and mid-Spring. The purpose of each session is to review all proposals submitted in March, June, September and December of each year. Also, there are occasions in which ad hoc reviews are held at different times in response to special solicitations. For example in FY2023, a special review was held in response to a funding opportunity for VA supported projects approved for study under the Commander John Scott Hannon Act Public Law 116-171), Section 305 to implement an initiative to identify, validate and integrate brain and mental health biomarkers among Veterans, with specific consideration for depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, traumatic brain injury and other mental health conditions. Members also provide technical assistance on other issues, such as preparation and review of five (5)-year plans, participation in review site visits and review of small (pilot) projects.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

Submitted proposals are of a highly scientific and technical nature and involve the application of medical research to rehabilitation. Board members are experts in their respective fields and are currently involved in state-of-the-art research in rehabilitation. Staff does not have the highly

technical, scientific and collective interdisciplinary knowledge required to evaluate and make decisions as to the scientific and technical validity of these projects.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

The Parent Committee (Board) meetings are partially closed because of the confidential nature of the Subcommittee recommendations being considered and the integrity of the peer review process. Subcommittee meetings are closed due to the the integrity of the peer review process and the highly confidential discussion of information proprietary to the scientific investigators and the research proposed in their award applications; the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. Scientific proposals contain research ideas original to the scientific investigators/applicants and do not become public until published in scientific journals.

**21. Remarks**

In 2023, Federal Staff Support Years remained at the same level as 2022.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Kristy Benton-Grover Health Science Specialist

| <b>Committee Members</b> | <b>Start</b> | <b>End</b> | <b>Occupation</b>   | <b>Member Designation</b>                |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|---|--|
| David, Brian             | 06/01/2023   | 05/31/2026 | Rush University Medical Center, Department of Neurosurgery, The Graduate College, Chicago, IL | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |

|                       |            |            |  |  |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| Kelly, Megan          | 12/01/2022 | 11/30/2024 | VISN1 Mental Illness<br>Research, Education<br>and Clinical Center,<br>Edith Nourse Rogers<br>Memorial Veterans<br>Hospital and<br>University of<br>Massachusetts Chan<br>Medical School,<br>Bedford, MA   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Lewis, George         | 06/01/2022 | 05/31/2024 | ZetrOZ Systems,<br>LLC, Trumbull, CT   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Martin-Harris, Bonnie | 12/01/2022 | 11/30/2024 | Edward Hines Jr. VA<br>Hospital and<br>Northwestern<br>University,<br>Department of<br>Communication<br>Sciences and<br>Disorders, Evanston,<br>IL   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Newhouse, Paul        | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Tennessee Valley<br>Healthcare System,<br>Geriatric Research,<br>Education, and<br>Clinical Center and<br>Vanderbilt University,<br>Department of<br>Psychiatry, and<br>Pharmacology, and<br>Medicine, Nashville,<br>TN                                  | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Olney, Christine      | 06/01/2023 | 05/31/2025 | Minneapolis VA<br>Health Care System<br>and University of<br>Minnesota, School of<br>Nursing, Graduate<br>Faculty, Department<br>of Rehabilitation<br>Medicine,<br>Minneapolis, MN<br>Centre for<br>Rehabilitation<br>Engineering and<br>Technology that | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Raschke, Silvia       | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Enables, British<br>Columbia Institute of<br>Technology,<br>Burnaby, British<br>Columbia, Canada   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |

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|--|------------|------------|---|--|
| Silver, Jonathan   | 06/01/2022 | 05/31/2024 | New York University<br>Grossman School of<br>Medicine, New York,<br>NY  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Endrighi, Romano<br>[Behavioral Health & Social<br>Reintegration]  | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Boston University<br>Medical Campus,<br>Center for<br>Behavioral Science<br>Research,<br>Department of<br>Health Policy and<br>Health Services<br>Research, Boston,<br>MA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Mumba, Mercy<br>[Behavioral Health & Social<br>Reintegration]      | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | Tuscaloosa Veterans<br>Affairs Medical<br>Center and The<br>University of<br>Alabama, Capstone<br>College of Nursing,<br>Tuscaloosa, AL   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Padala, Prasad<br>[Behavioral Health & Social<br>Reintegration]    | 03/01/2021 | 02/29/2024 | Central Arkansas<br>Veterans Healthcare<br>System, Geriatric<br>Research Education<br>and Clinical Center<br>and Eugene J.<br>Towbin Healthcare<br>Center, North Little<br>Rock, AR   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Reilly, Erin<br>[Behavioral Health & Social<br>Reintegration]      | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2026 | Edith Nourse Rogers<br>Memorial Veterans<br>Hospital, Mental<br>Illness Research,<br>Education and<br>Clinical Center and<br>University of<br>Massachusetts<br>Medical School,<br>Department of<br>Psychiatry, Bedford,<br>MA | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Williams, Sharifa<br>[Behavioral Health & Social<br>Reintegration] | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | New York State<br>Office of Mental<br>Health, Center of<br>Excellence (Cultural<br>and Structural Equity<br>in Behavioral Health)<br>Division of Social<br>Solutions and<br>Services Research,<br>Orangeburg, NY              | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |

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| Winter, Laraine<br>[Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration] | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Villanova University and Philadelphia Education and Research Foundation, Philadelphia, PA  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Wynn, Jonathan<br>[Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]  | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2025 | VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and University of California, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, Los Angeles, CA            | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |
| Zhang, Jing<br>[Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]     | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | University of Maryland, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Greenbelt, MD   | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Bondi, Corina<br>[Brain Health & Injury]                      | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Neurobiology, New Kensington, PA                  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Gurkoff, Gene<br>[Brain Health & Injury]                      | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | University of California Davis, Department of Neurological Surgery, Davis, CA  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Lafrenaye, Audrey<br>[Brain Health & Injury]                  | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2025 | Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center and Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, School of Medicine, Richmond, VA | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |
| Russ, Brian<br>[Brain Health & Injury]                        | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2027 | New York University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Nathan Kline Institute, Orangeburg, NY  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |

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|---|------------|------------|--|--|
| Shetty, Ashok<br>[Brain Health & Injury]              | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Texas A&M<br>University School of<br>Medicine, Institute<br>for Regenerative<br>Medicine, College<br>Station, TX   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Stone, James<br>[Brain Health & Injury]               | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2024 | University of Virginia,<br>Department of<br>Radiology and<br>Medical Imaging and<br>Naval Medical<br>Research Center,<br>Charlottesville, VA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Vonder Haar, Cole<br>[Brain Health & Injury]          | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Ohio State<br>University,<br>Department of<br>Neuroscience,<br>Columbus, OH  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Antonucci, Sharon<br>[Career Development Program]     | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Moss Rehabilitation<br>Research Institute,<br>Moss Rehab<br>Aphasia Center,<br>Perkasie, PA  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Ballard-Croft, Cherry<br>[Career Development Program] | 03/01/2021 | 02/28/2025 | University of<br>Kentucky, Division of<br>Cardiothoracic<br>Surgery, Department<br>of Surgery,<br>Lexington, KY  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Brown, Lily<br>[Career Development Program]           | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2025 | Corporal Michael J.<br>Crescenz VA<br>Medical Center,<br>Coatesville VA<br>Medical Center<br>(WOC) and<br>University of<br>Pennsylvania,<br>Department of<br>Psychiatry,<br>Philadelphia, PA | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Durand, Matthew<br>[Career Development Program]       | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2026 | Medical College of<br>Wisconsin,<br>Department of<br>Physical Medicine<br>and Rehabilitation,<br>Milwaukee, WI   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Dworkin, Emily<br>[Career Development Program]        | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2026 | University of<br>Washington School<br>of Medicine,<br>Department of<br>Psychiatry and<br>Behavioral Sciences,<br>Seattle, WA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |

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| Ellison, Marsha<br>[Career Development Program]        | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2026 | University of<br>Massachusetts,<br>Chan Medical<br>School, Department<br>of Psychiatry,<br>Framingham, MA                                | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Evans, Christopher<br>[Career Development Program]     | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2025 | Mayo Medical<br>School, Physical<br>Medicine and<br>Rehabilitation,<br>Orthopedic Surgery<br>and Molecular<br>Medicine, Rochester,<br>MN | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Fritz, Nora<br>[Career Development Program]            | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2026 | Wayne State<br>University,<br>Departments of<br>Health Care<br>Sciences and<br>Neurology, Detroit,<br>MI                                 | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Gullbrand, Sarah<br>[Career Development Program]       | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2025 | Corporal Michael J.<br>Crescenz VA<br>Medical Center and<br>University of<br>Pennsylvania,<br>Philadelphia, PA                           | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Headley, Samuel<br>[Career Development Program]        | 09/01/2020 | 08/31/2024 | Springfield College,<br>Exercise Science &<br>Athletic Training<br>Department,<br>Springfield, MA  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Holtzheimer, Paul<br>[Career Development Program]      | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2026 | National Center for<br>PTSD and<br>Dartmouth<br>University, Geisel<br>School of Medicine,<br>Psychiatry and<br>Surgery, Hanover,<br>NH   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Hooker, Stephanie<br>[Career Development Program]      | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2026 | University of<br>Minnesota and<br>HealthPartners<br>Institute,<br>Minneapolis, MN  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Jayasuriya, Chathuraka<br>[Career Development Program] | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2024 | Brown University,<br>Department of<br>Orthopedics,<br>Barrington, RI   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Kunisaki, Ken<br>[Career Development Program]          | 09/01/2020 | 08/31/2024 | Minneapolis VA<br>Health Care System<br>and University of<br>Minnesota Medical<br>School, Minneapolis,<br>MN                             | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |

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|---|------------|------------|---|--|
| Lee, Sang<br>[Career Development Program]           | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | The Catholic University of America, Biomedical Engineering and Center for Applied Biomechanics and Rehabilitation Research MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital, Washington, DC | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Mayer, Kirby<br>[Career Development Program]        | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2026 | University of Kentucky, College of Health Sciences, Department of Physical Therapy, Lexington, KY   | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Montgomery, LaTrice<br>[Career Development Program] | 03/01/2021 | 02/28/2025 | University of Cincinnati, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, Cincinnati, OH  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Morgan, Kerri<br>[Career Development Program]       | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2027 | Washington University School of Medicine, Program in Occupational Therapy and Neurology, St. Louis, MO  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Potkay, Joseph<br>[Career Development Program]      | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, Research Service and University of Michigan, Surgery, Ann Arbor, MI   | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |
| Primack, Jennifer<br>[Career Development Program]   | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2026 | Providence VA Medical Center and Alpert School of Medicine of Brown University, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Southborough, MA                                       | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |
| Schaefer, Sydney<br>[Career Development Program]    | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2025 | Arizona State University, Neural Engineering and Neurorehabilitation, School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering, Tempe, AZ  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |

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| Skelton, Felicia<br>[Career Development Program]        | 09/01/2020 | 08/31/2024 | Michael E. DeBakey<br>VA Medical Center,<br>Center for<br>Innovations in<br>Quality,<br>Effectiveness and<br>Safety and Baylor<br>College of Medicine,<br>H. Ben Taub<br>Department of<br>Physical Medicine<br>and Rehabilitation,<br>Houston, TX | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Smith, April<br>[Career Development Program]            | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2025 | Auburn University,<br>Department of<br>Psychological<br>Sciences, Auburn,<br>AL   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Stewart, Jill<br>[Career Development Program]           | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2025 | University of South<br>Carolina,<br>Department of<br>Exercise Science,<br>Columbia, SC  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Venezia, Jonathan<br>[Career Development Program]       | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2026 | VA Loma Linda<br>Healthcare System<br>and Loma Linda<br>University,<br>Department of<br>Otolaryngology,<br>Loma Linda, CA   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Yalch, Matthew<br>[Career Development Program]          | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | San Francisco VA<br>Health Care System<br>and Palo Alto<br>University,<br>Department of<br>Psychology, San<br>Francisco, CA   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Blumen, Helena<br>[Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]  | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Albert Einstein<br>College of Medicine,<br>Department of<br>Medicine,<br>Department of<br>Neurology, Bronx,<br>NY   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Haddad, Jeffrey<br>[Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging] | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Purdue University,<br>Department of<br>Health and<br>Kinesiology, West<br>Lafayette, IN   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Khayat, Rami<br>[Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]    | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | University of<br>California at Irvine,<br>Sleep Disorders<br>Center, Orange, CA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |

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| Nelson, Erik<br>[Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]           | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Indiana University<br>Bloomington, School<br>of Public Health,<br>Bloomington, IN   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Pack, Quinn<br>[Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]            | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | University of<br>Massachusetts<br>Medical<br>School-Baystate,<br>Ellington, CT  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Sarma, Satyam<br>[Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]          | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | University of Texas,<br>Southwestern<br>Medical Center and<br>Institute for Exercise<br>and Environmental<br>Medicine, Dallas, TX   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Tappen, Ruth<br>[Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]           | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Florida Atlantic<br>University, College of<br>Nursing, Boca<br>Raton, FL  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Wainford, Richard<br>[Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]      | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2025 | Boston University<br>School of Medicine,<br>Department of<br>Pharmacology and<br>Experimental<br>Therapeutics, The<br>Whitaker<br>Cardiovascular<br>Institute, Boston, MA | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Bost, James<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]             | 03/01/2021 | 02/28/2025 | The George<br>Washington<br>University,<br>Biostatistics and<br>Study Methodology<br>and Children's<br>National Hospital,<br>Silver Spring, MD                            | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Boswell, Lanny<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]          | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2024 | Captain, U.S. Navy<br>(Retired), San Diego,<br>CA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Cade, William<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]           | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2025 | Duke University<br>School of Medicine,<br>Doctor of Physical<br>Therapy Division,<br>Department of<br>Orthopaedic<br>Surgery, Durham,<br>NC                               | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Carballido-Gamio, Julie<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function] | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2027 | University of<br>Colorado Anschutz<br>Medical Campus,<br>Department of<br>Radiology, Aurora,<br>CO  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |

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| Chimenti, Ruth<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]             | 09/01/2020 | 08/31/2024 | University of Iowa,<br>Department of<br>Physical Therapy<br>and Rehabilitation<br>Science, Coralville,<br>IA                                   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Froehlich-Grobe, Katherine<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function] | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Baylor Scott and<br>White Institute for<br>Rehabilitation and<br>University of Texas,<br>School of Public<br>Health. Dallas, TX                | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Greising, Sarah<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]            | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2025 | University of<br>Minnesota, School of<br>Kinesiology,<br>Minneapolis, MN   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Kamper, Derek<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]              | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | University of North<br>Carolina and North<br>Carolina State<br>University, Joint<br>Department of<br>Biomedical<br>Engineering,<br>Raleigh, NC | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Ramasunder, Shalini<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]        | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Durham VA Medical<br>Center and Duke<br>University,<br>Department of<br>Surgery, Division of<br>Orthopaedics,<br>Durham, NC                    | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Riegler, Lindsay<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]           | 03/01/2021 | 02/28/2025 | Cincinnati VA<br>Medical Center,<br>Cincinnati, OH   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Rundell, Sean<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]              | 03/01/2022 | 02/29/2024 | University of<br>Washington,<br>Department of<br>Rehabilitation<br>Medicine, Seattle,<br>WA  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Schreiber, Kristin<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]         | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Harvard Medical<br>School, Department<br>of Anesthesiology,<br>Perioperative and<br>Pain Medicine,<br>Brookline, MA                            | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Witherspoon, Jessica<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]       | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2026 | Veterans Health<br>Administration,<br>Evaluation and<br>Implementation,<br>Lewes, DE   | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |

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| Yakovenko, Sergiy<br>[Musculoskeletal Health & Function]                       | 03/01/2021 | 02/28/2025 | West Virginia<br>University, School of<br>Medicine, Human<br>Performance<br>Department,<br>Morgantown, WV                                       | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Botchwey, Edward<br>[Regenerative Rehabilitation]                              | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2026 | Georgia Institute of<br>Technology,<br>Department of<br>Biomedical<br>Engineering, Atlanta,<br>GA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Darabi, Radbod<br>[Regenerative Rehabilitation]                                | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2025 | The Brown<br>Foundation Institute<br>of Molecular<br>Medicine for the<br>Prevention of Human<br>Diseases, Houston,<br>TX                        | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Geoffroy, Cedric<br>[Regenerative Rehabilitation]                              | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Texas A&M Health<br>Science Center,<br>Department of<br>Neuroscience &<br>Experimental<br>Therapeutics, Bryan,<br>TX                            | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Leung, Thomas<br>[Regenerative Rehabilitation]                                 | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Corporal Michael J.<br>Crescenz VA<br>Medical Center and<br>University of<br>Pennsylvania,<br>Department of<br>Dermatology,<br>Philadelphia, PA | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| McCreedy, Dylan<br>[Regenerative Rehabilitation]                               | 09/01/2020 | 08/31/2024 | Texas A&M<br>University,<br>Department of<br>Biology, College<br>Station, TX  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Qiang, Liang<br>[Regenerative Rehabilitation]                                  | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Drexel University<br>College of Medicine,<br>Department of<br>Neurobiology &<br>Anatomy,<br>Philadelphia, PA                                    | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Black, Bryan<br>[Rehabilitation Engineering &<br>Prosthetics/Orthotics]        | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | University of<br>Massachusetts,<br>Lowell, Biomedical<br>Engineering<br>Department, Lowell,<br>MA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Borenstein, Jeffrey<br>[Rehabilitation Engineering &<br>Prosthetics/Orthotics] | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2027 | Draper Lab,<br>Biomedical<br>Engineering Center,<br>Cambridge, MA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |

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|---|------------|------------|--|--|
| Cowan, Rachel<br>[Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics] | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2026 | University of Alabama, Birmingham, School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Birmingham, AL  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Gates, Deanna<br>[Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics] | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2026 | University of Michigan, Movement Science, School of Kinesiology, Ann Arbor, MI   | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Jennings, J.<br>[Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics]  | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | The University of Memphis, Herff College of Engineering, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Memphis, TN   | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Sharma, Nitin<br>[Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics] | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering, Raleigh, NC                                    | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Anderson, Samira<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]       | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | University of Maryland, Hearing and Speech Sciences, College Park, MD  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Fricks, Rafael<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]         | 03/01/2022 | 02/28/2026 | Massachusetts Veterans Epidemiology Research and Information Center, National Artificial Intelligence Institute and Duke University, Department of Radiology, Durham, NC | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |
| Husain, Fatima<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]         | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Speech and Hearing Science, Champaign, IL  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Lackner, James<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]         | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Brandeis University, Ashton Graybiel Spatial Orientation Laboratory, Waltham, MA   | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |

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| Lentz, Jennifer<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]             | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Indiana University<br>Bloomington,<br>Department of<br>Speech and Hearing<br>Sciences,<br>Bloomington, IN  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| McCaslin, Devin<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]             | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2027 | University of<br>Michigan,<br>Otolaryngology-Head<br>& Neck Surgery, Ann<br>Arbor, MI  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| McCreery, Ryan<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]              | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2024 | Boys Town National<br>Research Hospital,<br>Omaha, NE  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Papageorgiou, T.<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]            | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2026 | Baylor College of<br>Medicine,<br>Neuroscience,<br>Psychiatry, Physical<br>Medicine and<br>Rehabilitation and<br>Rice University,<br>Electrical &<br>Computer<br>Engineering,<br>Neuroengineering<br>and Applied Physics,<br>Houston, TX | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Ryals, Brenda<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]               | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2026 | James Madison<br>University,<br>Communication<br>Sciences and<br>Disorders,<br>Charlottesville, VA   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Sadeghi Ghandehari, Soroush<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders] | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | The State University<br>of New York at<br>Buffalo, Center for<br>Hearing and<br>Deafness, Buffalo,<br>NY   | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |
| Samuels, Ivy<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]                | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2027 | Louis Stokes<br>Cleveland VA<br>Medical Center,<br>Research Service,<br>Cleveland, OH  | Regular<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(RGE)<br>Member |
| Shanidze, Natela<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]            | 03/01/2023 | 02/28/2027 | The Smith-Kettlewell<br>Eye Research<br>Institute, San<br>Francisco, CA  | Special<br>Government<br>Employee<br>(SGE)<br>Member |

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| Stuve, Olaf<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]                  | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2027 | Dallas VA Medical Center and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Department of Neurology, Dallas, TX                | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |
| Venkatasivasai Sajja, Sujith<br>[Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders] | 03/01/2020 | 02/29/2024 | Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD  | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |
| Benamar, Khalid<br>[Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]        | 08/01/2023 | 07/31/2026 | Texas Tech University Health Science Center, Pharmacology and Neuroscience, Lubbock, TX  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Blank, Robert<br>[Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]          | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Medical College of Wisconsin and Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Forest Hills, NY  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Carmel, Jason<br>[Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]          | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY  | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Carp, Jonathan<br>[Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]         | 09/01/2021 | 08/31/2024 | Albany VA Medical Center: Samuel S. Stratton (WOC) and State University of New York, Albany, School of Public Health, Delmar, NY | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Lu, Daniel<br>[Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]             | 03/01/2021 | 02/29/2024 | University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Neurosurgery, Los Angeles, CA   | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Todorovic, Slobodan<br>[Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]    | 09/01/2022 | 08/31/2025 | Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center and University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO                              | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 103**

### **Narrative Description**

The Board advises the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Director and the Chief Research and Development Officer

in VHA on the scientific and technical merit, mission relevance, originality, protection of human and animal subjects, and the feasibility of proposals reviewed. Advice from the Board results in the funding of programs and research projects that support the mission of the VA, which is to promote functional independence and improve the quality of life for Veterans.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

|   | Checked if<br>Applies               |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Major policy changes                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Advance in scientific research                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Improved service delivery                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Outcome Comments**

The Board also provides recommendations that include cost-saving measures and avoidance of duplicate funding and poor quality research. The interdisciplinary expertise among Board and Subcommittee members replaces the huge cost of providing a large and highly scientific/technical interdisciplinary staff needed to provide this expertise within the VA.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

|                            | Checked if Applies                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Over \$10,000,000  
Cost Savings Other

**Cost Savings Comments**

The interdisciplinary expertise among Board and Subcommittee members replaces the huge cost of providing a large and highly scientific/technical interdisciplinary staff needed to provide this expertise within the VA. Cost saving comes from funding only the most meritorious research projects.

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

5,569

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

This is a total of proposals and programs funded from FY 2003 through FY 2023.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

90%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

The Board's scientific and technical reviews and comments are usually followed by the Director of Rehabilitation Research and Development Service and the Chief Research and Development Officer of the Office of Research and Development. Funding of all research projects is only possible if sufficient funds are available within the Service's budget.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

N/A (see above)

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Feedback is provided in the Subcommittee meeting minutes distributed to the Board and in communications regarding specific proposal summaries of discussion and summary statements provided to scientific investigators on their award proposals. Board discussions involve consultant critiques of research proposals, the scientific merit of each proposal, relevance to the health care needs of Veterans, protections of human and vertebrate animal subjects and qualifications of personnel conducting the studies. Discussion by the Board is highly confidential as the information is proprietary to the scientific investigators and the research they propose in their award applications; the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Reallocated resources             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Issued new regulation             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Proposed legislation              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Action Comments**

This process encourages increased collaboration and communication with other experts engaged in similar research efforts.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

The research proposals reviewed by the Board are internal to VA and are not considered grants to outside entities.

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

- |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



**Access Comments**

N/A