

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>		<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>	
Department of Health and Human Services		2024	
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>		<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>	
Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences		804	
<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	12/01/1986		
<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> Authorized by Law			
<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
42 U.S.C. 282(b)(16)	11/20/1985	Continuing	No
<b>15. Description of Committee</b> Other Committee			
<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			

	Current FY	Next FY
<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 Board assesses the quality of the Institute's intramural research program and evaluates productivity and performance of principal investigators and other staff scientists, necessary functions for the operation of a highly effective intramural research program. The Board is composed of scientific and technical experts. The Board provides indispensable evaluation and advisory functions in the science management of the intramural research program. Besides the formal meetings for peer review of each laboratory, the chairman and individual Board

members are frequently consulted for advice on staff appointments, scientific needs and program development. The Board's reviews and responses from the Scientific Director are also made available to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council.

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

The Board consists of approximately 10 members who are outstanding authorities knowledgeable in the specialized fields of environmental health sciences, for example, environmental carcinogenesis, molecular biology, and reproductive development. The advisory role of the Board is scientific and substantive. The Board, through periodic visits to the laboratories, assesses the research in progress and evaluates productivity and performance of staff scientists, laboratory/branch chiefs and the Scientific Director.

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

The Board holds approximately two to three meetings each year for these peer reviews of intramural laboratories on a rotating basis as required by the PHS Act. The Board met on December 4-6, 2022 to provide advice on staff appointment, program development, review of the organization, and conduct of research in the Signal Transduction Laboratory. The Board met for the second time on a Hybrid platform on August 27-29, 2023 to provide advice on staff appointment and program development and review the organization and conduct of research in the Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory and the Clinical Research Branch. The committee made a total of 8 recommendations in

FY23.

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

The Board is composed of recognized basic and applied research authorities in areas highly relevant to the environmental health sciences from outside the NIH in order to secure unbiased, thorough and objective evaluation of intramural research programs.

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

Portions of both Board meetings were closed for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual programs and projects conducted by the Institute, including consideration of personnel qualifications and performance, the competence of individual investigators, and similar items, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Section 552b(c)(6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act permits the closing of meetings where discussion could reveal personal information, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

**21. Remarks**

Committee Function - Other: Scientific and Technical Peer Review. DFO and Committee Decision Maker positions are held by the same individual based on the assignment of responsibilities within the Division of Intramural Research, NIEHS. This committee did not produce any reports this fiscal year. Members: There were four new members joining the committee in FY23, Ji-Yong Kim, Walter Chazin, Heather Patisaul, and Katherine Ensor. Dr. Patisaul was appointed as Chair.

## Designated Federal Officer

PAUL W DOETSCH Deputy Scientific Director

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Chazin, Walter	12/18/2022	06/30/2026	Chancellor's Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Corbett, Anita	07/01/2020	06/30/2024	Professor, Emory University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ensor, Katherine	10/23/2022	06/30/2025	Noah G. Harding Professor of Statistics, Rice University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kim, Ji-Yong Julie	12/18/2022	06/30/2026	Susy Y. Hung Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Northwestern University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Leslie, Frances	05/08/2022	06/30/2025	Professor, University of California-Irvine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Luchsinger, Jose	03/27/2022	06/30/2025	Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine, Columbia University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Patisaul, Heather	11/06/2022	06/30/2026	Associate Dean of Research and Professor, North Carolina State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Workman, Jerry	09/11/2022	06/30/2026	Investigator at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 8**

## Narrative Description

Section 402(b)(9) of the Public Health Service Act states that “the Director, NIH...shall assure that research at...the National Institutes

of Health is subject to review in accordance with section 492.”  
Section 492(b) states that the “Director of NIH shall establish procedures for periodic technical and scientific peer review of research at the National Institutes of Health. The mission of the Board of Scientific Counselors is to assess the quality of the Institute’s intramural research programs and to evaluate the productivity and performance of intramural scientists and shall also, as requested by the Director, NIH, undertake peer review of extramural funding applications as required by section 492 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended.”

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

	Checked if 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 type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

The research conducted in these laboratories are aimed at prevention of environmental diseases.

**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



Over \$10,000,000



Cost Savings Other



### **Cost Savings Comments**

NIH supported basic and clinical research accomplishments often take many years to unfold into new diagnostic tests and new ways to treat and prevent diseases.

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

136

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

In FY2023, the BSC made eight recommendations regarding staff appointments, program development, review of the organization, and conduct of research in the Signal Transduction Laboratory and staff appointments and program development and review the organization and conduct of research in the Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory and the Clinical Research Branch.

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

0%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Information on the research funded by NIH is available through the RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool) website. RePORT provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities that advance the mission of the NIH, including information on NIH expenditures, strategic plans, reports on NIH funding, and reports on the organization and people involved in NIH research and research training. The RePORT website is located at <http://report.nih.gov>.

**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**

Information on the research funded by NIH is available through the RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool) website. RePORT provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities that advance the mission of the NIH, including

information on NIH expenditures, strategic plans, reports on NIH funding, and reports on the organization and people involved in NIH research and research training. The RePORT website is located at <http://report.nih.gov>.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Information resulting from closed Board of Scientific Counselors meetings is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The public can view information on NIH Intramural Research Reports found on the NIH Intramural Research Sourcebook website located at <https://oir.nih.gov/sourcebook/intramural-research-communications-resources/annual-reports-bit>

**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**

The Scientific Director and other NIH officials use the recommendations made by the BSC in evaluating the quality of the intramural research programs including scientific priorities and resources available. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Board of Scientific Counselors assesses the quality of the Institute's intramural research program and evaluates productivity and performance of principal investigators and other staff scientists, necessary functions for the operation of a highly effective intramural research program.

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

No

**Grant Review Comments**

Although grant reviews are included in the duties of this Board, there were no grant



reviews performed during this fiscal year.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

The point of contact for information is the Designated Federal Officer at (984) 287-3643.