

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Health and Human Services		2024	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism		808	
4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	01/28/1987		
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority		8c. Actual Term Date
No			
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority Authorized by Law			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
42 U.S.C. 282(b)(16)	11/20/1985	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee Other Committee			
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this Fiscal Year		
17a. Open	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities
0	0	0	0
17d. Total			
0			
Meetings and Dates			
No Meetings			

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

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

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.” The Board is composed of scientific and technical experts. The Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism continues to provide indispensable evaluation and advisory functions in the science management of the intramural research programs. Each major program area of the Division of Intramural Clinical and Biological Research is reviewed at least once every four years. Besides the formal meetings for peer review of each laboratory, the chair and individual Board members are frequently consulted for advice on staff appointments and program developments.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Board consists of approximately ten members who are outstanding authorities knowledgeable in the specialized fields of medical sciences, psychology, biochemistry, physiology, pharmacology, the neurosciences, and related clinical fields relevant to the intramural research activities of the Institute. 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.

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

This Board met once on September 13-14, 2023. The Board holds one meeting each year for the peer review of intramural laboratories on a rotating basis as required by the PHS Act. During this reporting period, on September 13-14, 2023, the

Board reviewed employees in the Laboratory for Integrative Neuroscience (LIN); Laboratory of Behavioral and Genomic Neuroscience (LBGN); Section on Neural Circuits (SNC); Laboratory of Biophotonics and Quantum Biology (LBQB); and Laboratory on the Neurobiology of Compulsive Behaviors (LNCB). The Board issues a written evaluation on each scientist reviewed. The Board Chair provides to the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism an oral report of the review and the Board's recommendations.

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

This Board is composed of recognized biomedical and/or behavioral research authorities from outside the NIH in order to secure unbiased and objective evaluation of intramural research programs. Their recommendations are invaluable because the complex nature of research in each laboratory requires a unique balance and breadth of expertise not available from the NIH staff or from other established resources.

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

The meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, was 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 other personal information. 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. Reports: This committee did not produce any public reports. Members Rotating Off/Vacancies: One member rotated off (Dr. Christopher Evans). There are 2 vacancies. Members: Dr. Harriet deWit was reappointed as Chair for the committee for an additional year. As such her term of service end date is different than what was reported on the 2022 ACR report. The term for Dr. Harrier deWit is longer than the charter allows due to her reappointment to the BSC given her specific scientific expertise and the need to assure continuity in the functions of the BSC and the review of Laboratories/Branches/Sections by the Board. Designated Federal Officer (DFO): The DFO for the BSC changed in FY23 and has been reflected in the ACR. Based on the assignment of responsibilities within the Institute, the role of committee designated federal officer and committee decision maker are held by the same individual.

Designated Federal Officer

David Lovinger Scientific Director

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
DE WIT, HARRIET	10/04/2018	06/30/2024	PROFESSOR, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
			FLORENCE MCALISTER PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
DIEHL, ANNA MAE	08/31/2020	06/30/2025		

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. NIH works toward that mission by conducting research in its own laboratories. 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

N/A

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	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Other



Cost Savings Comments

NIH/NIAAA 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?

99

Number of Recommendations Comments

Four recommendations were made in FY23.

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

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Recommendations of the BSC are implemented by the IC Scientific Director within the time frames agreed upon by the Scientific Director and the Board.

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

100%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

All recommendations by the BSC will be fully implemented although the length of time will vary for each scientist. For example, a tenure track scientist, who is not recommended for tenure at NIH will be extended 6 months to 1 year before termination is final. This gives the scientist an opportunity to complete projects and search for a new position outside of the intramural program. Thus, the recommendations of the BSC are partially implemented in the first few months after the review, and fully completed at later date.

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 checked="" 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

Personnel changes were made including promotions and changes in status, and decisions on nominations for tenure were based on the Board's recommendations.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Contact the Designated Federal Officer.