

# 2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Eye Institute

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human  
Services

## 2. Fiscal Year

2025

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Board of Scientific Counselors, National  
Eye Institute

## 3b. GSA

## Committee No.

230

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

11/12/1997

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

## 7. Expected Term Date

## 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

## 8b. Specific Termination Authority

## 8c. Actual Term Date

## 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

## 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

## 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

## 11. Establishment Authority Authorized by Law

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

42 U.S.C. 282(b)(16)

## 13. Effective Date

11/20/1985

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee Other Committee

## 16a. Total

## Number of Reports

No Reports for  
this Fiscal Year

## 17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

1

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

1

## Meetings and Dates

### Purpose

Review of Intramural Laboratories

### Start

01/16/2025

### End

- 01/17/2025

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18e. Total Costs</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 is composed of recognized biomedical and/or behavioral research authorities who represent the forefront of research and technical knowledge and who provide evaluation and peer review of Institute laboratories and staff scientists in the following areas: vision research, ranging from clinical ophthalmology and ophthalmic

pathology to the basic sciences.

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

The Board consists of approximately seven members who are outstanding authorities knowledgeable in the specialized fields of eye and vision research, ranging from clinical ophthalmology and ophthalmic pathology, to the basic sciences. 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 principal investigators.

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

The Board meets approximately twice per year for the peer review of intramural laboratories on a rotating basis. The Board held zero meetings this fiscal year because there were no reviews scheduled for this year.

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

This Board is composed of recognized biomedical 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 on the NIH staff or from other established resources.

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

The meetings of the Board are closed for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual

programs and projects conducted by the Institute, which include the 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, and disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

## 21. Remarks

Committee Function: Other - Peer Review of Intramural Research Laboratories and Personnel Reports: This committee did not produce any public reports during the fiscal year. URL: This committee does not have a website. The Committee Decision Maker and the Designated Federal Official are filled by the same individual due to the delegations of authority and assignments within this small Institute. Meetings: The board met zero times this year, as the reviews are scheduled on a 3–4-year rotation and there were no reviews scheduled for this year.

## Designated Federal Officer

David Schneeweis Deputy Scientific Director

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Chao, Jennifer	11/17/2024	06/30/2027	Associate Professor, University of Washington	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
			Associate Professor, Yale University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Demb, Jonathan	06/07/2020	06/30/2025	School of Medicine	

			Member and Chair, St. Jude	Special Government
Dyer, Michael	11/17/2024	06/30/2027	Children's Research Hospital	Employee (SGE) Member
Kerschensteiner, Daniel	11/17/2024	06/30/2027	Professor, Washington University School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kiani, Roozbeh	05/26/2020	06/30/2025	Associate Professor, New York University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lakkaraju, Aparna	06/02/2020	06/30/2025	Associate Professor, University of California, San Francisco	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Solt, Laura	11/17/2024	06/30/2027	Associate Professor, Scripps Research Florida Campus	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

### Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

### Narrative Description

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. 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 in accordance with Section 492(b) of the PHS Act, as amended and shall also, as requested by the Director, NIH, undertake peer review of extramural funding applications as required by section 492(a) 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



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

NA

### 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	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 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?

78

### Number of Recommendations Comments

The board met zero times this year, as the reviews are scheduled on a 3–4-year rotation and there were no reviews scheduled for this year. No recommendations were made since there were no meetings. The recommendations are implemented at the direction of the Institute Director and Scientific Director.

**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 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

NIH staff use the Board's recommendations to make decisions regarding the allocating resources within specific research laboratories in the National Eye Institute.

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

### Access Comments

IC Committee Management Officer 240-669-5201