

# 2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human Services

## 2. Fiscal Year

2025

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Advisory Board on Medical  
Rehabilitation Research

## 3b. GSA

## Committee No.

142

## 4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

02/19/2025

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

02/19/2027

## 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 Statutory (Congress Created)

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

42 U.S.C. 285g-4,  
section 452

## 13. Effective Date

11/16/1990

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

## 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for  
this Fiscal Year

## 17a.

Open

1

17b. Closed 0

17c. Partially Closed 0

Other Activities 0

17d. Total 1

## Meetings and Dates

### Purpose

Program Advisory and/or Policy

### Start

12/02/2024

### End

- 12/03/2024

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?**

This Board interacts with the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR) Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to advise the Center and the Institute as a whole on research opportunities, health needs, and other aspects of medical rehabilitation. The Board is composed of

highly qualified scientific and public members who represent many aspects of medical rehabilitation research, health policy, and support for individuals with chronic disabilities. Agendas for these meetings are carefully planned to maximize Board participation and constructive dialogue with NCMRR staff, ex officio members, and other interested parties. The Board has a specific role in providing concept clearance for upcoming NCMRR research initiatives and reviewing the implementation of the NCMRR research plan. The Board assisted the Center in identifying new research opportunities as part of its periodic Report to the Institute Council, which occurs every few years. The Board also has a major role in providing input to the NIH Research Plan for Rehabilitation Research and the NIH Rehabilitation Research Conference, which is updated approximately every five years.

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

The National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research is composed of 18 appointed members and 12 ex-officio members for a total of 30 members. Twelve members are representatives of health and scientific disciplines with respect to medical rehabilitation. Six members are representatives in the interest of individuals undergoing, or in the need of, medical rehabilitation. The ex-officio members include: The Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research; The Director, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; The Director, National Institute on Aging; The Director, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; The Director, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders;

The Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; The Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; The Director, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (formerly National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; The Director, Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health; The Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education; The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; and The Deputy Undersecretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

The Board met twice during this reporting period on the following dates: December 4-5, 2023, and May 6-7, 2024, but because of COVID these meetings were shifted to a virtual and hybrid format, which also translated to a more abbreviated meeting. Agenda items are developed by NCMRR staff in conjunction with input from the Board to focus on topics that are particularly timely in the field of medical rehabilitation and relevant to improving the lives of people with disabilities. The agenda is a mix of informational and discussion sessions that often draw on the particular expertise and experiences of the Board members themselves with invited participants as needed. Minutes from each meeting are distributed to Board members and posted on the NCMRR website to invite further input from the rehabilitation community and general public.

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

The Board is composed of recognized research authorities and leading advocates in the health care community. Because of the broad multidisciplinary nature of medical rehabilitation research and the convergence of biomedical, behavioral, psychosocial, and policy issues, recommendations could not be derived from individual sources in the biomedical or health community. Moreover, this information represents the integration of several viewpoints and balance among research and service priorities. The special nature of these deliberations and consensus of opinion could not be derived from individual interactions of other professional groups, nor developed by NIH staff alone.

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

N/A

**21. Remarks**

Committee Reports: This committee did not produce any public reports. Members: Newly appointed members Sarah Blanton, Steven Cramer, Linda Ehrlich-Jones and Tiffany Yu were added to the Annual Report. Barbara Bregman was reassigned as Chair this fiscal year. Ex Officio Members: Robert Eisinger's appointment end date was updated and a new record for his replacement, Tara Schwetz, was added. The appointment end dates for Lana Shekim and Christopher Steele were incorrectly reported on the FY23 report. The correct end dates are 9/30/2023 and 1/5/2023. A new record for John Shero, as Dr. Steele's replacement, was added. A new record for Merav Sabri, as Dr. Shekim's replacement, was added. Edward Vitelli's appointment end date was updated due to his reappointment on the committee. Anjali

Forber-Pratt's end date was updated and a new record for her replacement, Kristi Hill, was added.

## Designated Federal Officer

RALPH M. NITKIN DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NCMRR

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
BIANCHI, DIANA	07/01/2017	04/01/2025	DIRECTOR, EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, NIH	Ex Officio Member
BLANTON, SARAH	12/03/2023	06/30/2027	PROFESSOR, EMORY UNIVERSITY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
BREGMAN, BARBARA	11/29/2022	06/30/2025	PROFESSOR, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
CHEN, DAOFEN	07/01/2019	06/30/2025	PROGRAM DIRECTOR, SYSTEMS AND COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE CLUSTER, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE, NIH HUGH ROY AND LILLIE CRANZ CULLEN DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, BRAIN CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON	Ex Officio Member
CONTRERAS-VIDAL, JOSE	11/07/2021	06/30/2025	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
COOPER, KARL	12/01/2024	06/30/2028		

CRAMER, STEVEN	12/31/2023	06/30/2027	PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
CRUZ, THERESA	07/01/2021	06/30/2025	DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL REHABILITATION RESEARCH, EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, NIH	Ex Officio Member
DORN, PATRICA	07/01/2019	06/30/2025	DIRECTOR, REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, VA	Ex Officio Member
EHDE, DAWN	04/10/2022	06/30/2025	PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
EHRlich-JONES, LINDA	03/24/2024	06/30/2027	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PROGRAM OFFICER, ATHEROSCLEROSIS AND CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE BRANCH, NATIONAL HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE, NIH	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
FLEG, JEROME	07/01/2019	06/30/2025	PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER, CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE FOUNDATION ACTING DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING (NIDILRR), HHS	Ex Officio Member
HEINZ, ANGELIQUE	01/26/2025	06/30/2028		Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
HILL, KRISTI	08/26/2024	06/30/2034		Ex Officio Member

JOHNSON, MICHELLE	04/23/2023	06/30/2025	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
JOSEPH, LYNDON	07/01/2019	06/30/2025	HEALTH SCIENCE ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING, NIH	Ex Officio Member
KETEVIAN, STEVEN	04/09/2023	06/30/2026	DIRECTOR, PREVENTIVE CARDIOLOGY UNIT, HENRY FORD HOSPITAL MEDICAL GROUP	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
OKANLAMI, OLUWAFERANMI	12/29/2024	06/30/2028	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FAMILY MEDICINE, PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION, AND UROLOGY AND DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMODATION SERVICES, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS,	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
SABRI, MERAV	12/15/2023	06/30/2027	NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS	Ex Officio Member
SAINBURG, ROBERT	04/24/2022	06/30/2025	PROFESSOR, PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
SCHWETZ, TARA	12/14/2023	04/01/2025	NIH DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAM COORDINATION, PLANNING, AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, NIH	Ex Officio Member



SHERO, JOHN	07/05/2024	06/30/2027	DIRECTOR, EXTEMITY TRAUMA & AMPUTATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (EACE), DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY (DHA), DOD	Ex Officio Member
TJADEN, KRIS	02/12/2023	06/30/2026	PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATED DEAN, SUNY BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
VALERO-CUEVAS, FRANCISCO	11/07/2021	06/30/2025	PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
VITELLI, EDWARD	02/26/2022	06/30/2026	CHIEF, OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	Ex Officio Member
WASHABAUGH, CHARLES	07/01/2019	06/30/2025	DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL AND SKIN DISEASES, NIH	Ex Officio Member
WHEATON, LEWIS	11/20/2022	06/30/2026	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
YU, TIFFANY	09/08/2024	06/30/2028	CEO AND FOUNDER, DIVERSABILITY, LLC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
ZACKOWSKI, KATHLEEN	12/04/2022	06/30/2026	SENIOR DIRECTOR, PATIENT MANAGEMENT, CARE AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH, THE NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 29**

## 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; supporting the research of non-Federal scientists in universities, medical schools, hospitals, and research institutions throughout the country and abroad; helping in the training of research investigators; and fostering communication of medical and health sciences information. The Board advises the Director, NIH, the Director, NICHD, and the Director, NCMRR, on matters and policies relating to NCMRR's medical rehabilitation research and training programs. The Board will review and assess Federal research priorities, activities, and findings regarding medical rehabilitation research and will advise on the provisions of the statute-required comprehensive research plan for the conduct, support, and coordination of medical rehabilitation.

## 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 checked="" 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	<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?**

639

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

The December 2023 NABMRR meeting was held in a two-day virtual/in-person hybrid format. The Board received updates about the NCMRR, NICHD, and NIH in general from the NCMRR Director and then the NICHD Director. The Board then discussed the need to update the NIH Strategic Plan for Rehabilitation Research, which occurs every five years. There was also a summary of the NABMRR Training Working Group that has specific recommendations for continued support of research training and career development. An outside speaker provided a first-hand account on supporting a child with traumatic brain injury and the need for including persons with the lived experience in research and knowledge translation. This was followed by a summary of a recent research retreat to promote engagement of the broader community to research translation. A representative of the Veterans Administration provided an update on VA research and collaborations with the NIH. The final session of the first day presented the report of the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director on including people with disabilities in research studies. The second morning began with a research presentation on psychosocial support for people with traumatic brain injury. This was followed by a three-part discussion of research on musculoskeletal injury rehabilitation. The Board made a total of 43 recommendations. The May 2024 NABMRR meeting was held in a two-day virtual/in-person hybrid format. The meeting began with updates about the NCMRR, NICHD, and NIH in general from the NICHD Director and the NCMRR Director. This was followed by a research talk and personal account of sports medicine for para- and adaptive-athlete. The Board got an

update on clinical nomenclature for traumatic brain injury research. The final presentation of the day provided concept clearance for an upcoming research initiative. The second day began with a research presentation and personal accounting cerebral palsy research. The Board then got a update from the NICHD Office of Health Equity. This was followed by updates on the NICHD Pediatric Medical Device Public Private Partnership and the relatively new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health. The Board then discussed the NCMRR plan to receive public input into the periodic update of the NIH Strategic Plan for Rehabilitation Research. The Board made a total of 42 recommendations.

**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**

Due to the complexity of the recommendations made by this committee on policy and program areas, staff is unable to determine which recommendations have been fully or partially implemented solely in response to this committee's activities.

**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**

Due to the complexity of the recommendations made by this committee on policy and program areas, staff is unable to determine which recommendations have been fully or partially implemented solely in response to this committee's activities.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Meeting minutes, written documentation, oral presentations and feedback surveys. Minutes from each meeting are distributed to Board members and posted on the NCMRR website to invite further input from the rehabilitation community and general public.

**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**

Due to the complexity of the recommendations made by this committee on policy and program areas, staff is unable to determine which recommendations have been fully or partially implemented solely in response to this committee's activities.

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

No

### **Grant Review Comments**

N/A

### **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**

IC CMO: Devon Drew, Committee Management Officer/Service Center Manager (NIA, NICHD, FIC); contact information: devond@niddk.nih.gov.