

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Report Run Date: 04/25/2024 10:35:41 PM

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 Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	801

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	07/01/1986		

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 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 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. This Board assesses the quality of the Institute's intramural research programs and evaluates the productivity and performance of 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 of Scientific Counselors, NICHD, continues to provide indispensable evaluation and advisory functions with the respect to basic and clinical child health and human growth and research development. The Board holds two meetings each year for peer review of selected laboratories, and the chairman and individual Board members are frequently consulted for advice on staff appointments and program development. The Board is provided a written description of the overall research to be reviewed which presents the past accomplishments, objectives, and projected directions of the laboratory and its recommendations to the Scientific Director of the Institute. The Board provides a description of its activities to the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council for review. In FY23, two meetings were held: one in December 2022 and the other in June 2023. During the December 2022 meeting, the Board reviewed the following laboratories: Quantitative Imaging and Tissue Sciences; Bioinformatics and Scientific Programming Core; Biomedical Stochastic Physics; Physical Biochemistry; and Intercellular Interactions. The Board reviewed four Senior Investigators and one Staff Scientist. During the June 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed the following laboratories: Structural and Chemical

Biology of Membrane Proteins; Intracellular Protein Trafficking; Development of Neurodegeneration; Gamete Development; Microbial Pathogenesis; Human Iron Metabolism; and Environmental Gene Regulation. The Board reviewed six Senior Investigators and one Tenure-Track Investigator. The Board provides a description of its activities to the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Board consists of approximately 12 members who are outstanding authorities knowledgeable in the specialized fields of developmental neurobiology, developmental pharmacology, pharmacogenetics, social and behavioral science, pregnancy research, reproductive endocrinology, molecular genetics, developmental endocrinology, human genetics, theoretical and physical biology, neurochemistry, neuroimmunology, reproductive, perinatal and pediatric epidemiology and statistics, maternal-fetal medicine, including neonatology and perinatal pathology, clinical science, psychology, and developmental and molecular biology. The advisory role of the Board is scientific and substantive. The Board, through periodic visits to the laboratories, assesses the intramural research in progress and evaluates productivity and performance of principal investigators.

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

The Board met a total of two times during this reporting period: 12/2/2022 and 6/2/2023.

Members also participated in four BSC site visits: 11/30/2022, 12/1/2022, 5/31/2023, and 6/1/2023 during this reporting period. The Chair participated (virtually) in an additional NIH-wide BSC Chairs

meeting on 5/12/2023.

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

This committee 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 laboratories and principal investigators in the following areas: Molecular Regulation, Chromatin and Gene Expression, Formation of RNA, Eukaryotic Gene Regulation, Molecular Endocrinology, Molecular and Cellular Biology, DNA Replication, Repair, and Mutagenesis; Molecular Transport, Membrane Biology, Eukaryotic DNA Replication, Structural Biology, Cell Biophysics, Membrane Chemical Physics, and Integration Biophysics.

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

The meetings of the Board 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 discussions 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 reports during this reporting

period. The Designated Federal Officer and Committee Decision Maker positions are held by the same individual based on assigned duties within the IC. Chair position: Dr. Kaiser is the newly appointed Chair. Her term began 7/1/2022 and ends 6/30/2024. She replaced Dr. Bonney who served as the Chair 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2022. Dr. Kaiser's appointment to Chair was inadvertently not included on the FY22 ACR report.

Designated Federal Officer

Chris McBain Scientific Director, NICHD

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
BEIER, DAVID	11/20/2022	06/30/2026	DIRECTOR, Center for Developmental Biology and Regenerative Medicine, Seattle Children's Research Institute	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
BELLEN, HUGO	05/09/2021	06/30/2024	INVESTIGATOR AND PROFESSOR, Departments of Molecular and Human Genetics, Neuroscience, Neurological Research Institute, Baylor College of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
GRANT, PATRICIA	07/17/2022	06/30/2024	PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, Department of Medicine and Radiology, Harvard Medical School	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

KAISER, URSULA	05/08/2022	06/30/2024	PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, Harvard Medical School; CHIEF, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Hypertension, Brigham and Women's Hospital	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
MULLINS, MARY	10/11/2022	06/30/2025	PROFESSOR AND VICE CHAIR, Department of Cellular and Developmental Biology, University of Pennsylvania	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
NORWITZ, ERROL	11/21/2021	06/30/2024	PRESIDENT AND CEO, Newton-Wellesley Hospital	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
OVERSTREET-WADICHE, LINDA	10/11/2022	06/30/2025	PROFESSOR, Department of Neurology, University of Alabama at Birmingham	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

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 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

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input 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?

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Board members participated in four NICHD Intramural Research Laboratory Site Visits (November 30, 2022, December 1, 2022, May 31, 2023, and June 1, 2023). Twelve laboratories, ten Senior Investigators, one Staff Scientist, and one Tenure-Track Investigator were reviewed. A total of 438 recommendations were made for FY23 regarding the scientific review of the laboratories. The results of these site visits are highly confidential in that they address the productivity of the laboratory and principal investigators. In FY23 the Board made 438 recommendations regarding the scientific review of each laboratory. On a continuing basis, the Board provides advice on issues concerning program planning, policy formulation, and resource allocation to the Institute's intramural laboratories and branches.

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

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

The Scientific Director and other NIH officials use the recommendations made by the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) in evaluating the quality of the intramural research programs including scientific priorities and resources available. The BSC uses an external peer review committee that evaluates Division of Intramural Research scientists on the basis of accomplishments. The BSC review evaluates an individual research program's long-term objectives and accomplishments. The review includes an evaluation of both the Laboratory and Branch leadership and the research performed by independent investigators. If warranted, the review will recommend the reorganization of priorities and reallocation of resources. Due to the highly confidential nature of these recommendations, they are not divulged to the public.

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

IC CMO: Lisa Neal, NICHD Committee Management Officer; contact information:
lisa.neal@nih.gov