

# 2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of Health and Human Services	2019
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
Board of Scientific Counselors Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	801

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

<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

**15. Description of Committee** Other Committee

**16a. Total Number of Reports** No Reports for this Fiscal Year

**17a. Open Meetings and Dates** 0 **17b. Closed Meetings and Dates** 0 **17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates** 2 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total Meetings and Dates** 2

Purpose	Start	End
Review of Intramural Laboratory	12/07/2018	- 12/07/2018
Review Intramural Laboratory	06/07/2019	- 06/07/2019

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2**

	<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Next FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$6,200.00	\$6,200.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$234,914.00	\$239,377.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$200.00	\$200.00

<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$16,545.00	\$16,612.00
<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>	\$111,408.00	\$112,523.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$369,267.00	\$374,912.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	1.30	1.30

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

Section 402(b)(3) 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. 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 in the science management of the intramural research programs. 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.

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

The Board consists of 15 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 twice during this reporting period: 12/7/2018 and 6/7/2019. Members participated in two site visits during this period on the following dates: 12/6/2018 and 6/5-6/2019. The Chair participated (via conference call) in an additional NIH-wide BSC Chairs meeting on 5/10/2019.

**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 Institute laboratories and principal investigators in the following areas: Gene Regulation and Development; Reproductive Biology and Medicine; Developmental Neuroscience; Developmental Biology; Endocrinology and Genetics; Translational Medicine; Cellular and Structural Biology.

**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 Official and Committee Decision Maker positions are held by the same individual based on assigned duties within the IC. The actual and projected costs for operating this committee in FY2019 are slightly higher than the actual and projected costs in the FY2018 ACR report. This was due to an increase in costs for the logistical contract during FY2019. Member Scott Rivkees term ended on 10/11/19. Members, Drs. Kate Ackerman, Elizabeth Bonney, Serdar Bulun, Frances Jensen, Deborah Johnson, Kojo Mensa-Wilmot and Martha Werler were not reported in FY18 due to technical oversight.

**Designated Federal Officer**

CONSTANTINE A. STRATAKIS SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR, NICHD

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
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ACKERMAN, KATE	08/19/2018	06/30/2021	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, Center for Pediatric Biomedical Research, University of Rochester Medical Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
BONNEY, ELIZABETH	08/19/2018	06/30/2022	PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, Division of Reproductive Science, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Vermont College of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
BULUN, SERDAR	04/29/2018	06/30/2021	JOHN J. SCIARRA PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
JENSEN, FRANCES	12/01/2016	06/30/2020	PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, Department of Neurology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
JOHNSON, DEBORAH	11/19/2018	06/30/2022	PROFESSOR, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Baylor College of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
MENSA-WILMOT, KOJO	04/29/2018	06/30/2021	PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT HEAD, Department of Cellular Biology, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, University of Georgia	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
RIVKEES, SCOTT	08/11/2015	10/11/2019	PROFESSOR AND CHAIR Department of Pediatrics, NEMOURS EMINENT SCHOLAR, University of Florida College of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
SADOVSKY, YOEL	11/14/2014	06/30/2019	PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, Magee-Womens Research Institute, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
TAYLOR, SUSAN	11/20/2014	06/30/2019	HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE INVESTIGATOR, PROFESSOR, Department of Pharmacology, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California, San Diego	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
VILAIN, ERIC	07/26/2016	06/30/2020	DIRECTOR, Center for Genetic Medicine Research, The Children's Research Institute, Children's National Medical Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
WERLER, MARTHA	08/15/2018	06/30/2022	CHAIR, Department of Epidemiology, Boston University School of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 11**

### **Narrative Description**

Section 402(b)(3) 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
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$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?**

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

The Board members participated in two NICHD Intramural Research Laboratory Site Visits (December 6, 2018 and June 5-6, 2019 - Metals Biology & Molecular Medicine/Cell & Structural Biology; Neurosciences/Microscopy & Imaging Core Facility ) and made two recommendations. The results of these sites visits are highly confidential in that they address the productivity of the laboratory and principal investigators. 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

An annual fiscal report and non-public summaries of Minutes of meetings are produced.

### 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



**Access Comments**

N/A