

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of Health and Human Services	2024
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	806

<b>4. Is this New Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	06/01/1986		

<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

**11. Establishment Authority** 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** 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

**Meetings and Dates**

No Meetings

	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. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</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?**

Section 402(b)(9) of the PHS 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 intramural research programs and evaluates the productivity and performance of principal investigators, necessary functions for the operation of a highly effective intramural research

program. The Board is composed of scientific and technical experts. The Board continues to provide indispensable evaluation and advisory functions in the science management of the intramural research programs. During this reporting period, the Board reviewed the Axon Guidance & Neural Connectivity Section, Viral Immunology Section, Inherited Neurodegenerative Diseases Unit, Section on Affective Neuroscience and Pain, Behavioral, Neurocircuitry, and Cellular Plasticity Section, Autonomic Medicine Section, Neurodegenerative Diseases Unit, Behavioral Neurology Unit, Integrative Neuroscience Section, Spinal Circuits and Plasticity Unit, Membrane Transport Biophysics Section, Inherited Movement Disorders Unit, and Synaptic Transmission Section. The actions of the Laboratories are in keeping with the recommendations of the Board. Besides the formal meetings for peer review of each laboratory, the chairman and individual Board members are frequently consulted for advice on staff appointments and program development. The Board provides a description of its activities for review by the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council.

**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 with respect to basic, translational, and clinical research in neuroscience, neurology, neurosurgery. The Board provides a thorough review and assessment of the research in progress in the laboratories, productivity and performance of scientific staff, and future research directions.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the**

### **Committee Meetings?**

The Board met two times during this reporting period. The Board holds approximately three to four meetings each year for the peer review of intramural laboratories on a rotating basis as required by the PHS Act.

### **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 of breadth of expertise not available on the NIH staff or from other established sources.

### **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 National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, 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 discussion could reveal personal information, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

### **21. Remarks**

Other: Scientific and Technical Peer Review  
Reports: This committee did not produce any

public reports during the fiscal year. Designated Federal Official: Dr. Jeffrey Diamond, NINDS Acting Scientific Director, is currently Designated Federal Official as of August 2022. He was appointed NINDS Scientific Director in August 2023 and will continue as the Designated Federal Official. Meetings: The charter states that the BSC will meet 3 times per year. In FY2023, the BSC met two times due to scheduling (in 2023, the meeting usually held in September will be held in October which pushes it into FY2024).

### Designated Federal Officer

Jeffrey S. Diamond Senior Investigator and NINDS Scientific Director

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Babu, Maya	11/22/2020	06/30/2024	Director of Adult Neurotrauma, Department of Neurologic Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cudkowicz, Merit	07/06/2020	06/30/2024	Julianne Dorn Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School, Chief of Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gittis, Aryn	09/11/2022	06/30/2025	Associate Professor with Tenure, Dept. of Biological Sciences, The Neuroscience Institute, Carnegie Mellon University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Gonzalez-Alegre, Pedro	08/14/2022	06/30/2025	Head of Gene Therapy Research, Spark Therapeutics, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hillman, Elizabeth	09/11/2022	06/30/2026	Herbert and Florence Irving Professor, Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, Depts. of Biomedical Engineering and Radiology, Columbia University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Holzbour, Erika	10/13/2020	06/30/2024	William Maul Measey Professor of Physiology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pulst, Stefan	08/14/2022	06/30/2026	Chair and Professor, Dept. of Neurology, University of Utah	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shepherd, Gordon	07/06/2020	06/30/2024	Professor, Department of Physiology, Northwestern University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stevens, Beth	09/11/2022	06/30/2026	Investigator, HHMI & Research Associate, Neurology, Children's Hospital Boston	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zou, Yimin	08/14/2022	06/30/2026	Professor, Division of Biological Sciences, Dept. of Neurobiology, University of California, San Diego	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 10**

**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 ☐

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?**

270

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

All the Laboratories/Branches reviewed in this year were continued, expanded, reduced or closed. The Board made 27 recommendations this fiscal year.

**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**

The Scientific Director and other NIH officials use the recommendations made by the BSC in evaluating the quality of the intramural research programs including scientific priorities and resources available. 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, the information is not divulged to the general 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**

Information on the NINDS Board of Scientific Counselors may be obtained from Caren Collins, Supervisory Program Analyst, NINDS Intramural Research Program at 301-402-6285 or via e-mail at [collinsca@nih.gov](mailto:collinsca@nih.gov) or Rachael Schacherer, Management Analyst, NINDS Intramural Research Program at 301-594-0094 or via e-mail at [Rachael.schacherer@nih.gov](mailto:Rachael.schacherer@nih.gov).