

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Mental Health

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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
Institute of Mental Health

3b. GSA

Committee

No.

805

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

01/13/1987

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 USC 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

2

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

To review intramural laboratories and
programs.

Start

02/05/2025 - 02/07/2025

End

To review intramural laboratories and
programs.

06/04/2025 - 06/06/2025

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current Next	
	FY	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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

In FY2024 the Board reviewed several laboratories/branches, sections/units, cores, and investigators in the NIMH intramural program. At the January-February 2024 BSC Review Meeting, the Section on Integrative Neuroimaging, Section on Psychosis and Cognitive Studies, Unit on

Functional Neural Circuits (Tenure Review), Functional MRI Core, Machine Learning Team, Data Science and Sharing Team and the Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy Core were reviewed. At the June 2024 BSC Review Meeting, the Systems Neuroscience Imaging Resource, the Unit on Neurons, Circuits and Behavior (Tenure Review), Noninvasive Neuromodulation Unit, Neurophysiology Imaging Core and the Scientific and Statistical Computing Core were reviewed. At the September 2024 BSC Review Meeting, the Unit on Neuroscience and Novel Therapeutics (Tenure Review), Section on Neural Function, Section on Critical Brain Dynamics, Section on Neuroplasticity, Rodent Behavior Core, Section on Behavioral Neuroscience, and Senior Investigator Dr. Charles Gerfen were reviewed. The Board continues to provide evaluation and advice for the management of the research efforts of the intramural program. The Board provides to the National Advisory Mental Health Council for review a description of its activities annually.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Board consists of approximately twelve members who are outstanding authorities knowledgeable in the basic and clinical medical sciences related to the research activities of the Institute. 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 intramural scientists.

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

The Board holds approximately three meetings each year for the peer review of intramural

laboratories on a rotating basis as required by the PHS Act. During this reporting period, the full Board met three times on the following dates 1/31-2/2/2024, 6/5-7/2024, and 9/24-26/2024. The Chair of the BSC participated in two other activities as part of his duties on 1/30/2024 and 5/10/2024.

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

The 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 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 of Scientific Counselors, National Institute of Mental Health, 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 discussion 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. Dr. Jennifer Mehren is both the DFO and the Committee Decision Maker for the BSC based on the assignment of responsibilities within this Institute. Reports: This committee did not produce any reports during the fiscal year. Dr. Groh was reassigned to Chair and her term was extended a year.

Designated Federal Officer

Jennifer E Mehren Scientific Advisor

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bale, Tracy	11/20/2022	03/24/2025	Professor and Director, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cardin, Jessica	08/25/2024	06/30/2029	Associate Professor Tenure & Vice Chair, Yale University School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fishell, Gordon	05/21/2023	06/30/2027	Professor, Harvard Medical School	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fitzgerald, Kate	10/13/2020	06/30/2025	Associate Professor, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Groh, Jennifer	01/19/2021	06/30/2026	Professor, Duke University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Haber, Suzanne	01/30/2022	06/30/2026	Professor, University of Rochester Medical Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
MONTEGGIA, LISA	01/30/2022	06/30/2026	Professor, Vanderbilt University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Michaelson, Jacob	10/02/2023	03/24/2025	Roy J Carver Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience & Director of the Division of Computational and Molecular Psychiatry, University of Iowa	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Phan, Kinh Luan	10/02/2023	06/30/2028	Professor and Chair, The Ohio State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Poldrack, Russell	11/20/2022	06/30/2027	Albert Ray Lang Professor, Stanford University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Redish, A.	08/25/2024	06/30/2029	Distinguished McKnight University Professor, University of Minnesota	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 11

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. Board reviews the research of each of the NIMH Laboratories and Branches as well as the independent Sections every 4 years or sooner where appropriate.

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 checked="" 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?

0

Number of Recommendations Comments

It is not possible to assign a number for the recommendations made by the Board. They

review the research and the scientists and make numerous recommendations. 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 Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

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

NA

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. As a result, the following decisions were made: The BSC made recommendations related to the specific research priorities of reviewed laboratories and core facilities, as needed. Additionally, the BSC recommended changes in resources within reviewed laboratories and core facilities, as needed.

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 type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments