

# 2026 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

2026

## 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 Renewal Date

01/13/1987

## 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

0

## 17c. Partially Closed

0

## Other Activities

0

## 17d. Total

0

## Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next  
FY 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?**

In FY2025, the Board reviewed several laboratories/branches, sections/units, cores, and investigators in the NIMH intramural program. During the February 2025 BSC Review Meeting, the Unit on Neuromodulation and Synaptic Integration (Tenure Review); Section on Learning and Plasticity; In the Laboratory of Brain and Cognition, the Section on Functional Imaging Methods, Computational Neuroimaging and

Perception Group; and Section on Developmental Genetic Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology Research Branch were reviewed. During the June 2025 BSC Review Meeting, the Unit on Neural Computations in Learning (Mid-Tenure Review); Section on Behavioral Endocrinology, Behavioral Endocrinology Branch; Section on Molecular Neuroscience, Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Regulation; and Section on Light and Circadian Rhythms were reviewed. During the September 2025 BSC Review Meeting, the Sleep and Neurodevelopment Service; Unit on Computational Decision Neuroscience (Mid-Tenure Review); Section on Development and Affective Neuroscience, Emotion and Development Branch; and Section on the Neural Circuits of Emotion and Motivation were re-viewed. 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 2/5-7/2025, 6/4-6/2025, and 9/16-18/2025. The Chair of the BSC participated in one other activity as part of her duties on 5/9/2025.

**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. The terms of Drs. Tracy Bale, Jacob Michaelson, and Carolyn Rodriguez were terminated from the committee on 3/24/2025.

## Designated Federal Officer

Jennifer E Mehren Scientific Advisor

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
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
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
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
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**Number of Committee Members Listed: 8**

**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. 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<br>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
- 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?**

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**