

## 2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Health Systems Research Scientific Merit Review Board

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

### 2. Fiscal Year

2025

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Health Systems Research Scientific Merit  
Review Board

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

2020

### 4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

04/11/2024

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

04/11/2026

### 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

Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 USC 7303

### 13. Effective Date

09/03/2021

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program  
Advisory Board

### 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?**

Our committee accomplished its purpose by aligning with VA Strategic Goals ensuring the implementation and assessment of impacts of programs and policies especially for underserved, at-risk, or marginalized Veteran populations including but not limited to populations experiencing homelessness, women Veterans, LGBTQ+ Veterans, aging Veterans, those living in rural settings, those with complex chronic physical

or mental health conditions, or Veterans with disabilities in the following manner. Goal 1: VA consistently communicates with its customers and partners to assess and maximize performance, evaluate needs and build long-term relationships and trust. Recommending research on the MISSION Act that includes evaluations of the quality of comprehensive care within the VA and outside the VA, and work to understand the role of VA specialty care resource hubs. Goal 2: VA delivers timely, accessible and high-quality benefits, care and services to meet the unique needs of Veterans and all those we serve Recommending research that will evaluate a variety of evidence-based interventions to occur in Community Living Centers, in addition to assessing interventions targeted to caregivers. Goal 3: VA builds and maintains trust with Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors—as well as our employees and partners—through proven stewardship, transparency and accountability Regularly reporting results of funded research on the Health Systems Research (HSR) website, in addition to ensuring and requiring publication of results in a variety of scientific journals and other mediums. Goal 4: VA strives toward excellence in all business operations—including governance, systems, data and management—to improve experiences, satisfaction rates, accountability and security for Veterans Recommending more innovative, high-risk, high-impact research that will transform practices rather than incrementally improve them; lead to larger impacts in clinical or population health outcomes or move health systems research in new directions. In FY24, HSR was also supportive of research that involved the creation of original products or that adopted an existing process or product in a new or unusual

way. In 2024, HSR hosted two Board meetings in addition to its Subcommittee scientific review meetings. In March 2024, the Board reviewed the scientific evaluation of 165 research applications by Subcommittees and recommended 157 for further consideration. In August 2024, the Board reviewed the scientific evaluation of 193 research applications by Subcommittees and recommended 174 for further consideration.

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

The Board is composed of members having training and expertise in a variety of scientific, technical and medical disciplines, including but not limited to health care and clinical management; behavioral, social and cultural determinants of health; health, healthcare informatics; mental and behavioral health; health care system organization, design and delivery; research methods and models; post-acute and long-term care and aging; nursing research initiatives; public health and epidemiology; access to care; post-deployment care including traumatic brain injury; health equity and health disparities; rural health; women's health; complementary and integrative health; mobility, activity and function; implementation science; patient experience; community care and VA/non-VA care coordination; mobile and connected health and patient-reported outcomes; management of chronic pain; opioids and suicide prevention; health economics; efficiency and value; genomics and precision medicine in clinical practice; patient safety; predictive analytic; performance measurement; learning health system; provider behavior; health behavior change; operations research and health systems re-engineering; and the development of talented VA researchers. The

Board represents the required technical skills along with diversity in race/ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, geographical background, and Veterans of diverse eras and branches of service when possible.

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

The Board is scheduled to meet twice a year based upon the merit review submission cycle that occurs in the Winter and Summer. The Board provides for the fair and equitable selection of the most meritorious research projects for support by VA research funds and offers advice for research program officials about program priorities and policies. The Board ensures the high quality and mission relevance of VA's legislatively mandated Health Systems Research program through the activities of this Federal Advisory Committee Act chartered and appointed Scientific Merit Review Board. The Board reviews proposals administered locally by VA field facilities for scientific and technical merit and advises the Deputy Chief Research and Development Officer (DCRADO) for Investigators, Scientific Review and Management (ISRM) regarding the scientific merit of applications related to Board members' areas of expertise. The Board and its subcommittees review proposals using a web-based program (WebEx) and teleconference, in order to maintain technical excellence and to uphold the integrity and credibility of the scientific merit peer review process. Subcommittee meetings (more than 8 hours and often more than one day) involve vigorous discussions about the strengths and weaknesses of the proposals, and then reviewers come to a consensus regarding the critical elements that need to be conveyed to the Principal Investigator to improve the proposed

research.

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

The expertise needed to review submitted proposals and provide advice to the Deputy Chief Research and Development Officer (DCRADO) for Investigators, Scientific Review and Management (ISRM), is not available within the Service staff. It would be neither appropriate nor cost-effective to attempt to use staff for this review. Involving staff in the scientific review process would raise conflict of interest and potential bias concerns. It would not be efficient or economically feasible to staff the variety and depth of scientific expertise required to actually produce scientific reviews for the applications received by Health Systems Research.

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

The meetings are partially closed because of the confidential nature of the proposals being reviewed and the integrity of the peer review process. Scientific proposals contain research ideas original to the applicants and do not become public until they are printed in scientific journals.

**21. Remarks**

In April 2024, the Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Service Scientific Merit Review Board renewed its charter and the name of the committee was changed to the Health Systems Research Scientific Merit Review Board. HSR costs were slightly higher in FY 2024 compared to FY 2023. This slight increase in costs was due to the fact that the Committee reviewed approximately 20% more applications in FY 2024. This caused an increase in the number of

subcommittee members to ensure the applications were getting reviewed by the appropriate expertise. Additionally, the HSR staff made a concerted effort to add additional expertise and diversity to the subcommittees by recruiting new members. This is why some of our subcommittees do not have as many appointed members. Once the scientific staff knows that a potential member is knowledgeable, objective, collegial, and timely, an appointment is made. We plan on having more member appointments in FY 2025 which will bring our numbers back to the normal range.

## Designated Federal Officer

Tiffin Ross-Shepard Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Carlson, Kathleen	03/01/2021	03/01/2025	VA Portland Health Care System, Associate Professor, The Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Portland, OR	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
			Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Health Policy & Management, School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, PA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Degenholtz, Howard	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Clinical Research Psychologist, Syracuse VA Medical Center, Syracuse, NY	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Funderburk, Jennifer	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Research Investigator, Department of Surgery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lowery, Julie	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Research Health Scientist, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA, Professor, Los Angeles, CA 91343	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Martin, Jennifer	09/01/2021	08/01/2025	Associate Professor, Social Sciences and Health Policy, Wake Forest University, School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ritchwood, Tiarney	08/01/2023	08/01/2027		

Saha, Somnath	03/01/2021	08/01/2025	Portland VA Medical Center, Staff Physician, Oregon Health and Sciences University, Professor, Portland, OR 97223	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Taveira, Tracey	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Professor Health Policy & Management, University of Rhode Island, Providence, RI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Thorpe, Carolyn	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Research Health Scientist, VA Pittsburgh Health Care System, Associate Professor, Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy, UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Timko, Christine	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Clinical Professor, Palo Alto VAMC, Psychiatry-Behavioral Science, Stanford University, Menlo, Park, CA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Ward, Michael	09/01/2021	08/01/2025	Staff Physician, Tennessee Valley VA Healthcare System, Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine, Nashville, TN	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Weaver, Frances	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Research Health Scientist, Hines VA Medical Center, Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Ashrafioun, Lisham [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Health Science Specialist, Canandaigua VAMC, Assistant Professor, University of Rochester, Canandaigua, NY	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Baim-Lance, Abigail [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Health Service Research Specialist, Bronx VAMC, Assistant Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Bronx, NY	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Bair, Matthew [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	STAFF PHYSICIAN AND DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION, ROUDEBUSH VAMC, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, INDIANAPOLIS, IN	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member



Byrne, Margaret [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/FACULTY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OUTCOMES AND BEHAVIOR	Special Government Employee
			(HOB), MOFFITT CANCER CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, TAMPA, FL	(SGE) Member
Denneson, Lauren [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CENTER TO IMPROVE VETERAN INVOLVEMENT IN CARE PORTLAND VAMC,	Regular Government Employee
			ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, PSYCHIATRY, OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY, PORTLAND, OR	(RGE) Member
Gordon, Howard [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	STAFF PHYSICIAN, CHAIR JESSE BROWN IRB, JESSE BROWN VAMC, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, COLLEGE OF	Regular Government Employee
			MEDICINE, CHICAGO, IL 60612	(RGE) Member
Hoffmire, Claire [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	DATA SCIENTIST, EASTERN COLORADO VAMC, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF	Regular Government Employee
			COLORADO, ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS, AURORA, CO	(RGE) Member
Hung, William [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	GRECC DIRECTOR, JAMES J PETERS VAMC, PROFESSOR OF GERIATRICS AND	Regular Government Employee
			PALLIATIVE MEDICINE, ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI, NEW YORK, NY	(RGE) Member
Jain, Sonia [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	PROFESSOR OF BIostatistics, UNIVERSITY OF	Special Government Employee
			CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, SAN DIEGO, CA	(SGE) Member
Jasuja, Guneet [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	CORE INVESTIGATOR, BEDFORD VAMC, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BOSTON UNIVERSITY,	Regular Government Employee
			CHOBANIAN AND AVEDISIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, BEDFORD, MA	(RGE) Member
Kim, Eun Ji [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ,ZUCKER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT	Special Government Employee
			HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL,NEW HYDE PARK, NY	(SGE) Member

Magruder, Kathryn [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	PROFESSOR EMERITA, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, CHARLESTON, SC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mehta, Christina [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, ATLANTA, GA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Nugent, Shannon [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	PSYCHOLOGIST, PORTLAND VAMC, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY PORTLAND, OR	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Ozieh, Mukoso [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Staff Physician, Milwaukee VAMC, Assistant Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Santa Ana, Elizabeth [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, HEROIC COIN, CHARLESTON VAMC, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SC; CHARLESTON VAHCS, CHARLESTON, SC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Smalls, Brittany [Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Determinants of Health (HSR2)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, LEXINGTON, KY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bosworth, Hayden [Disability, Function, Aging and Long-term Care (HSR6)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	Deputy Director, Durham COIN, Vice Chair for Education and Professor of Population Health Sciences Duke University, Durham, NC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Fairchild, Melissa [Disability, Function, Aging and Long-term Care (HSR6)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	DEPUTY DIRECTOR, VISN 21 MIRECC - VA PALO ALTO VAMC, AFFILIATE CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, STANFORD UNIVERSITY, PALO ALTO, CA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Leykum, Luci [Disability, Function, Aging and Long-term Care (HSR6)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	STAFF PHYSICIAN, SOUTH TEXAS VAMC, AFFILIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, AUSTIN, TX	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Nicosia, Francesca [Disability, Function, Aging and Long-term Care (HSR6)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	RESEARCH HEALTH SCIENCE SPECIALIST, SAN FRANCISCO VAMC, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN FRANCISCO, CA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Coe, Antoinette [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, MI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hackstadt, Amber [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	08/01/2022	08/01/2026	Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hysong, Sylvia [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Lead Research Health Scientist, Houston VAMC, Associate Professor, Center of Innovations, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Kelly, Peter [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Research Health Scientist, Louisiana VAMC, Adjunct Associate Professor, General Internal Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Luther, Stephen [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	03/01/2022	03/01/2026	Supervisory Health Science Specialist, Tampa VAMC, Associate Professor, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Moin, Tannaz [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	03/01/2022	03/01/2026	CORE Investigator, West Los Angeles VAMC, Associate Professor, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Mull, Hillary Jane [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	03/01/2022	03/01/2026	Research Health Scientist, Boston VAMC, Associate Professor, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Salgado, Teresa [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Scardaville, Melissa [Health Care System Organization and Delivery and Women's Health (HSR5)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER, AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH, ARLINGTON, VA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Andraka-Christou, Barbara [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2022	03/01/2026	Assistant Professor, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Brady, Brian [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Associate Professor, Stanford University, Stanford, CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Caram, Megan [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	Physician, Ann Arbor VAMC, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Damush, Teresa [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	SENIOR RESEARCH CAREER SCIENTIST, INDIANAPOLIS VAMC, PROFESSOR OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE AND GERIATRICS, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, INDIANAPOLIS, IN	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Donovan, Lucas [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2027	CORE INVESTIGATOR, PUGET SOUND VAMC, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SEATTLE, WA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Ellis, Shellie [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Associate Professor, University of Kansas, School of Medicine, Kansas City, KS	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Flora, Arjan [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGIST, MEMPHIS VAMC, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, MEMPHIS, TN	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Gifford, Allen [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	Director, VA Boston Healthcare System, Professor, Boston University, Bedford, MA 01730	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Goldberg, Debora [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	Associate Professor, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Goodney, Philip [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2022	08/01/2026	Surgeon, White River Junction VAMC, Associate Professor, Dartmouth University, Lebanon, NH	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Gorgey, Ashraf [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	DIRECTOR OF SCI RESEARCH, RICHMOND VAMC, PROFESSOR, VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY, RICHMOND, VA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Huhn, Andrew [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2022	03/01/2026	Assistant Professor, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jackson, George [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2021	08/01/2025	Research Health Scientist, Durham VAMC, Associate Professor, Duke University, Durham, NC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Kowalkowski, Marc [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	Associate Professor, Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation at Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Leng, Yue [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN FRANCISCO, CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lowenstein, Lisa [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Assistant Professor, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mallinson, Trudy Ruth [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2022	08/01/2026	Associate Professor, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, George Washington University, Washington, DC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Massarweh, Nader [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2022	03/01/2026	Associate Chief of Staff, Atlanta VAMC, Associate Professor of Surgery, Emory University School of Medicine, Decatur, GA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Matthias, Marianne [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2027	RESEARCH CAREER SCIENTIST, RICHARD L ROUDEBUSH VAMC, SENIOR RESEARCH PROFESSOR, INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, INDIANAPOLIS, IN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

McDonald, Scott [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Sci Neuropsychologist, Richmond VA Medical System, Affiliate Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
McDonough, Christine [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2022	03/01/2026	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, PHYSICAL THERAPY AND ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, PITTSBURGH, PA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Painter, Jacob [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	Research Health Scientist, Center for Mental Healthcare and Outcomes Research, Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Richman, Joshua [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2021	08/01/2025	Investigator, Birmingham VA Health Care System, Associate Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Rosland, Ann-Marie [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Investigator, Pittsburgh VAMC, Associate Professor of Medicine, Brown University, Providence, RI	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Shah, Nishant [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	STAFF CARDIOLOGIST, PROVIDENCE VAMC, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE, RI	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Shukla, Alpana [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RESEARCH & DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL RESEARCH, WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE, NEW YORK, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sundar, Krishna [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	STAFF PHYSICIAN, SLEEP AND PULMONARY SECTION, DEPT OF MEDICINE, SALT LAKE CITY VAMC CLINICAL PROFESSOR AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, SALT LAKE CITY, UT	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Tyler, Richard [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY, HEAD AND NECK SURGERY, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, IOWA CITY, IA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Weiner, Renda [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2022	03/01/2026	Associate Director, CHOIR, Bedford VAMC, Professor, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Williams, Christina [Health Care and Clinical Management (HSR1)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	HEALTH SCIENCE OFFICER, DURHAM VA MEDICAL CENTER, ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DUKE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, DURHAM, NC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Blonigen, Daniel [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Research Career Scientist, Palo Alto VAMC, Clinical Associate Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine, Menlo Park, CA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Brennan, Meghan [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	MADISON VAMC, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON, WI	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Butler, Jason [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	SR. MEDICAL DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY ORGANIZED RELIEF EFFORT (CORE), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RMD CENTERS, MORRISVILLE, NC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carey, Evan [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	08/01/2021	08/01/2025	Bistatistician, Denver VAMC, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Davis, Sharon [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Research Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Garrido, Melissa [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	DIRECTOR, PEPREC, BOSTON VAMC, RESEARCH PROFESSOR, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BOSTON, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Groeneveld, Peter [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Director, CHERP, Philadelphia VAMC, Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Matheny, Michael [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2024	03/01/2028	STAFF PHYSICIAN, NASHVILLE VAMC, PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS, MEDICINE, AND BIostatISTICS, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TN	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Montgomery, Ann Elizabeth [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Health Science Specialist, Birmingham VAMC, Associate Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Newell, Summer [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Health Science Specialist, Portland VAMC, Portland, OR	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Palen, Ted [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Senior Researcher, Colorado Permanente Medical Group, Assistant Professor, Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine, Pasadena, CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pathak, Jyotishman [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2021	03/01/2025	Professor of Medical Informatics, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Roberts, Kirk [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	08/01/2024	08/01/2028	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, HOUSTON, HOUSTON, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Thorpe, Joshua [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Healthcare Scientist, Pittsburgh VAMC, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Yen, Po-Yin [Healthcare Informatics (HSR3)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Associate Professor, Washington University School of Medicine, Barnes-Jewish College, BLC Healthcare, St. Louis, MO	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Black, Anne [Mental and Behavioral Health (HSR4)]	08/01/2022	08/01/2026	Research Health Scientist, Connecticut VAMC, Assistant Professor, Yale University, West Haven, CT	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Bovin, Michelle [Mental and Behavioral Health (HSR4)]	08/01/2022	08/01/2026	Principal Investigator, Boston VA Healthcare System, Psychologist, Behavioral Sciences Division, National Center for PTSD, Jamaica Plain, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member



Fletcher, Terri Lynn [Mental and Behavioral Health (HSR4)]	08/01/2022	08/01/2026	Clinical Research Psychologist, Michael E. Debakey VAMC, Associate Professor, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Geraci, Joseph [Mental and Behavioral Health (HSR4)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Co-Director, VA Transitioning Service Member/Veteran and Suicide Prevention Center, Bronx VAMC, Bronx, NY	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Gradus, Jamie [Mental and Behavioral Health (HSR4)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2027	Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Boston University, Boston, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Branch-Elliman, Westyn [Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (HQ8)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2026	Staff Physician Investigator, Boston VAMC, Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard University, West Roxbury, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Dollar, Katherine [Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (HQ8)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2026	Executive Director, VA Center for Integrated Healthcare, Syracuse VAMC, Syracuse, NY	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Horstman, Molly [Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (HQ8)]	03/01/2023	03/01/2026	Staff Physician, Houston VAMC, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Moreland-Russell, Sarah [Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (HQ8)]	08/01/2023	08/01/2027	Associate Professor, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 96**

## Narrative Description

The Board supports the Agency's Strategic Goal #2, which states: VA delivers timely, accessible, high-quality benefits, care and services to meet the unique needs of Veterans and all those we serve. More specifically, it supports VA's Health Systems Research mission to improve Veteran health by developing, testing, and implementing strategies that improve the organization, delivery, and effectiveness of health care and related services for Veterans. HSR funds studies that examine the organization, financing, management and social factors of health care and their effects on the access, quality, safety, equity, and experience of care delivered to Veterans.

**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**

N/A

**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**

N/A

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

4,574

### Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of proposals and programs funded from FY 2003 through FY 2024.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

90%

### % of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The recommendations plus the numerical score and Board members' key summary points provide guidance to the Director of HSR&D and the Chief Research and Development Officer in making funding decisions.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

5%

### % of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Responsiveness to priority solicitations will be considered in funding decisions.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

### Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback is provided in the minutes distributed to the Board and in communications with members regarding their specific proposal summaries of discussion and summary statements provided to principal investigators. The public can obtain agency feedback by reviewing the Board meeting minutes on the ACOMO website ([https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/Health\\_Services\\_Research\\_and\\_Development\\_Service\\_Merit\\_](https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/Health_Services_Research_and_Development_Service_Merit_) as well as the list of awarded projects on the HSR website ([https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/for\\_researchers/merit\\_review/](https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/for_researchers/merit_review/))

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Approved grants or other payments

☐

Other

☒

### Action Comments

HSR is an intramural research program. Only VA scientists are eligible applicants. The Board members make recommendations of approval or disapproval, and assign a scientific merit score that HSR uses to determine which projects to fund. Research monies are transferred to the appropriate VA stations to support the research that is scientifically meritorious. In 2024, HSR hosted two Board meetings in addition to its Subcommittee scientific review meetings.

### Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

### Grant Review Comments

HSR is an intramural research program. Only VA scientists are eligible applicants. Therefore, the Board does not consider grants to outside entities.

### How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO

☒

Online Agency Web Site

☒

Online Committee Web Site

☒

Online GSA FACA Web Site

☒

Publications

☐

Other

☐

### Access Comments

N/A