

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Proposal Review Panel for Molecular and Cellular Biosciences

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1. Department or Agency

National Science Foundation

2. Fiscal Year

2026

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Proposal Review Panel for Molecular and Cellular Biosciences

3b. GSA

Committee No.

10746

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

06/27/2025

6. Expected Renewal Date

06/27/2027

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?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

ADM IV-100

13. Effective Date

10/01/1993

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Grant Review 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

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?

The scope and objectives are to advise the National Science Foundation (NSF) on the merit of proposals requesting financial support of research and research-related activities. The panel will review proposals submitted to NSF under the purview of the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB). The duties and responsibilities are to review and evaluate proposals, which may include site visits, and

provide written recommendations on proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members are selected to be representative of the scientific areas encompassed by MCB activities. Every effort is made to achieve membership with representation from different geographic regions.

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

In FY 2025, a total of 57 meetings were held.

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

This committee is essential because the broad scientific base represented by the division transcends the ability of NSF staff to evaluate proposals thoroughly so that outside advice from practicing scientists is essential both for fair peer evaluation of proposals and for effective scientific long-range planning. The essence of the peer review system is that those scientists most knowledgeable about a field be the judge of the worthiness and importance of a proposal in the field. This requires the division to consult with many members of the scientific community to insure fair and reasonable evaluation of a proposal.

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

These meetings are closed because the proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are

exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

21. Remarks

None

Designated Federal Officer

Charles Cunningham Deputy Directorate Head

Narrative Description

The NSF mission is set out in the NSF Act of 1950 authorizes and directs the Agency to initiate and support: basic scientific research and research fundamental to the engineering process; and science and engineering education programs at all levels and in all fields of science and engineering. The involvement of knowledgeable peers from outside the Foundation in the review of proposals is the keystone of NSF's proposal review system. Their judgments of the extent to which proposals address the merit review criteria are vital for informing NSF staff and influencing funding recommendations.

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 checked="" 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
- 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

The use of panelists to review proposals for the Agency is an invaluable asset. The cost of obtaining the expertise, insight, and information received by the Division using alternative methods, such as hiring the expertise as full or part-time employees, would be extremely high.

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

860

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is an ongoing committee. Therefore, the number of recommendations produced by the committee is for the fiscal year.

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

The word implement is not applicable to grant review panels. All recommendations are considered by the agency.

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

Not applicable. Please see answer directly above.

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

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

Although panelists may not receive direct feedback, each committee member may use the NSF FastLane, a public web-based program, which provides information on awards made by the agency to determine the outcome of proposals reviewed by the panel.

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 type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

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

Yes

What is the estimated **Number** of grants reviewed for approval 860

What is the estimated **Number** of grants recommended for approval 136

What is the estimated **Dollar Value** of grants recommended for approval \$112,544,943

Grant Review Comments

The panelists/advisory committee members provided information on the merit of the proposal, which includes an overall rating. The number of proposals above includes pre-proposals submitted to NSF for review. The pre-proposals are not included in the number of "grants recommend" or "dollar value of grants" recommended for approval.

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