

# 2022 Current Fiscal Year Report: Cooperative Studies Scientific Evaluation Committee

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**1. Department or Agency**

Department of Veterans Affairs

**2. Fiscal Year**

2022

**3. Committee or Subcommittee**

Cooperative Studies Scientific Evaluation Committee

**3b. GSA**

**Committee No.**

2018

**4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?** **5. Current Charter** **6. Expected Renewal Date** **7. Expected Term Date**

No 04/19/2022 04/19/2024

No

**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**

38 USC 7303

**13. Effective Date**

05/09/1995

**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** 1 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 1

**Meetings and Dates**

Purpose

Start

End

The Committee provides expert advice on VA cooperative studies, multi-site clinical research activities, and policies related to conducting and managing these efforts.

Such advice is to ensure that new and ongoing activities are based on scientific merit, mission relevance, and quality, and are conducted efficiently, safely, and economically. To accomplish these

03/10/2022 - 03/10/2022

objectives, the Committee reviews proposals and makes recommendations to the Chief Research and Development Officer on their funding and administration. The Committee does not consider grants, contracts, or other forms of extramural research for VA.

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1**

	<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Next FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$500.00	\$250.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$13,000.78	\$13,000.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$450.00	\$600.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$600.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$825.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$15,950.78	\$25,575.00

**19. Federal Staff Support**                      0.08                      0.08  
**Years (FTE)**

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

In FY 2022, the Committee held one meeting in March to review the scientific merit of submissions and resubmissions for multi-center clinical studies and research activities. The Committee reviewed 2 new studies and 1 resubmitted study. The meetings involved discussion and written reviews of the scientific, clinical, methodological, ethical and logistical merits of proposed and active studies. In doing so, the committee helped advance the VA Strategic Goals by reviewing studies: that provide Veterans with greater choices for their care; that help improve the timeliness and integration of their care and support, emphasizing their well-being and independence; and that help modernize the healthcare system and focus resources more efficiently to be competitive and provide World Class capabilities to Veterans.

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

The membership includes experts experienced in cooperative clinical trial methodology and conduct and represents major fields of clinical medicine, including: Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, Gerontology, Nephrology, Mental Health, Biostatistics and Epidemiology. A balanced membership is required for the wide variety of cooperative study proposals from VA clinicians in different medical specialty areas and to provide the necessary perspectives on the range of diseases that impact the Veteran population.

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

The Committee tries to meet two to three times a year to review new proposals submitted by VA clinicians as related to new medical problems to patient care in VA. It also reviews the progress of ongoing studies periodically. The Committee helps to safeguard VA patients rights and well being as well as scientific integrity of every study.

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

There is no committee in VA which is specifically selected on the basis of its multi-disciplinary makeup directly related to cooperative clinical research among the VA patient population.

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

The meetings are partially closed because of the confidential nature involving qualification of personnel conducting the studies, intellectual property of investigators and collaborators and patient-level information of study subjects. The disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and violate standards for scientific investigation at this stage. Additionally, premature disclosure of the Committee's recommendation would likely frustrate implementation of final proposed actions.

**21. Remarks**

N/A

**Designated Federal Officer**

David Burnaska Program Manager, Cooperative Studies Program

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Brenner, Lisa	06/01/2022	06/01/2026	Aurora VAMC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Chappell, Richard	06/01/2020	06/30/2024	Professor, University of Wisconsin	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Florez, Hermes	06/01/2021	06/01/2025	Charleston VAMC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Grady, Deborah	06/01/2014	06/01/2022	Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Martin, Renee	06/01/2014	06/01/2022	Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
O'Malley, Patrick	06/01/2020	06/30/2024	AHRQ	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Shlipak, Michael	06/01/2022	06/01/2026	San Francisco VAMC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 7**

**Narrative Description**

The Committee reviews new proposals submitted by VA clinicians that are aimed at addressing key medical problems and patient care in VA. The Committee also helps to safeguard VA patients rights and well being as well as scientific integrity of every ongoing study.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction

- 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**

While research findings are aimed in part at helping with cost savings, there has not been a direct method for determining the impact of funded studies. Additionally, benefits gained include non-financial factors related to contributions from scientific and medical knowledge.

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

170

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2022. Approximately 6 studies are reviewed each fiscal year and recommendations are made on each one.

**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**

Decisions are made on all study proposals and implemented.

**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**

Recommendations are all fully implemented, therefore, none are open for partial implementation.

**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 at subsequent meetings.

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

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

**Action Comments**

N/A

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

No

**Grant Review Comments**

VA does not have granting authority.

**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