

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Veterans Affairs		2024	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board		2019	
4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	04/19/2022	04/19/2024	
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority		8c. Actual Term Date
No			
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
38 USC 7303	08/18/1978	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board			
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this Fiscal Year		
17a. Open	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities
0	0	0	0
17d. Total			
0			
Meetings and Dates			
No Meetings			

	Current FY	Next 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. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The purpose of the Board and its Subcommittees is to provide high quality scientific peer review of proposed projects to improve the health and health care of our Nation's Veterans. These projects seek to develop and test interventions that have potential to enhance HIGH QUALITY AND ACCESSIBLE treatment options that are matched to the UNIQUE CLINICAL NEEDS and preferences of the Veteran; enhance VETERAN EXPERIENCES and strengthen foundational services in the VA through implementation of innovative strategies for optimal healthcare

delivery; enhance community care by BUILDING AND MAINTAINING TRUST between the Veteran and their healthcare providers through proven stewardship; enhance TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY; strive for excellence of care by examining different technologies and platforms to REDUCE BARRIERS TO ACCESS; aim to reduce Veteran HOMELESSNESS AND SUICIDE RISK; and to provide job training to Veterans to SUPPORT THEIR HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND INDEPENDENCE THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE JOURNEY. In 2023, the Board reviewed 430 proposals for scientific, programmatic and technical excellence. The Board accomplishes its work assisted by an information technology platform developed by the National Institutes of Health, utilizing ongoing system enhancements in continuous efforts TO STRIVE TOWARD EXCELLENCE IN ALL BUSINESS OPERATIONS—SYSTEMS, DATA AND MANAGEMENT. Each proposal was individually reviewed by at least three interdisciplinary Subcommittee members; a summary of discussions/recommendations and a summary statement of the assigned reviewer critiques from the Board was prepared for each proposal. Board recommendations have resulted in improved research plans and duplicate and unnecessary research was avoided. The Board advises the Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service and the Chief Research and Development Officer, on the scientific and technical merit, mission relevance, originality, protection of animal and human subjects, especially for those at risk of suicide and feasibility of rehabilitation research proposals. The Board merit review promotes ACCOUNTABILITY by ensuring effective allocation of RR&D resources, ensuring that research selected for funding has

the greatest potential to ultimately strengthen foundational services in VA and identifying areas for special oversight in funded projects. In addition, post-meeting briefings solicit important feedback for ongoing improvement of overall meeting processes. The annual comprehensive report provides TRANSPARENCY of all meeting actions and associated costs. All Board recommendations and comments were considered by the Director and only the most scientifically meritorious projects were funded. For additional details on the purpose and areas of FY2023 funding along with connections to the VA Strategic Goals, please see each Subcommittee meeting's description/purpose.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Board is representative of a variety of scientific, technical and medical disciplines in the area of neurological dysfunction/spinal cord injury; restoration rehabilitation surgery; orthopedic/vascular; amputations/prosthetics/orthotics; communicative, cognitive and sensory aids; spinal cord injury; serious mental illness; behavioral and mental health; geriatric rehabilitation; outcomes studies; and dementia and aging. Among the members are biomechanical engineers, surgeons, psychiatrists, research methodologists, audiologists, speech pathologists, neurologists, psychologists, physical and occupational therapists and other experts, as well as representatives of Veteran service organizations. The points of view are reflected to provide interdisciplinary expertise needed to coincide with Rehabilitation Research and Development priority areas. The Board is diverse in its ethnic/racial/gender and geographic composition.

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

The Board and its Subcommittees will meet up to two (2) times per year. In 2023, the Parent Committee (Board) met virtually via Webex platform in the late Summer and mid-Winter; Subcommittees held review meetings virtually via Webex platform in the late Summer and mid-Winter; editorial reviews (mail-in only) were held in mid-Fall and mid-Spring. The purpose of each session is to review all proposals submitted in March, June, September and December of each year. Also, there are occasions in which ad hoc reviews are held at different times in response to special solicitations. For example in FY2023, a special review was held in response to a funding opportunity for VA supported projects approved for study under the Commander John Scott Hannon Act Public Law 116-171), Section 305 to implement an initiative to identify, validate and integrate brain and mental health biomarkers among Veterans, with specific consideration for depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, traumatic brain injury and other mental health conditions. Members also provide technical assistance on other issues, such as preparation and review of five (5)-year plans, participation in review site visits and review of small (pilot) projects.

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

Submitted proposals are of a highly scientific and technical nature and involve the application of medical research to rehabilitation. Board members are experts in their respective fields and are currently involved in state-of-the-art research in rehabilitation. Staff does not have the highly

technical, scientific and collective interdisciplinary knowledge required to evaluate and make decisions as to the scientific and technical validity of these projects.

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

The Parent Committee (Board) meetings are partially closed because of the confidential nature of the Subcommittee recommendations being considered and the integrity of the peer review process. Subcommittee meetings are closed due to the the integrity of the peer review process and the highly confidential discussion of information proprietary to the scientific investigators and the research proposed in their award applications; the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. Scientific proposals contain research ideas original to the scientific investigators/applicants and do not become public until published in scientific journals.

21. Remarks

In 2023, Federal Staff Support Years remained at the same level as 2022.

Designated Federal Officer

Kristy Benton-Grover Health Science Specialist

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
David, Brian	06/01/2023	05/31/2026	Rush University Medical Center, Department of Neurosurgery, The Graduate College, Chicago, IL	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Kelly, Megan	12/01/2022	11/30/2024	VISN1 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center, Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital and University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Bedford, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Lewis, George	06/01/2022	05/31/2024	ZetrOZ Systems, LLC, Trumbull, CT	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Martin-Harris, Bonnie	12/01/2022	11/30/2024	Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital and Northwestern University, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Evanston, IL	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Newhouse, Paul	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center and Vanderbilt University, Department of Psychiatry, Pharmacology, and Medicine, Nashville, TN	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Olney, Christine	06/01/2023	05/31/2025	Minneapolis VA Health Care System and University of Minnesota, School of Nursing, Graduate Faculty, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Minneapolis, MN Centre for Rehabilitation Engineering and Technology that Enables, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Raschke, Silvia	03/01/2020	02/29/2024		Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Silver, Jonathan	06/01/2022	05/31/2024	New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Endrighi, Romano [Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Boston University Medical Campus, Center for Behavioral Science Research, Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research, Boston, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mumba, Mercy [Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center and The University of Alabama, Capstone College of Nursing, Tuscaloosa, AL	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Padala, Prasad [Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]	03/01/2021	02/29/2024	Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center and Eugene J. Towbin Healthcare Center, North Little Rock, AR	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Reilly, Erin [Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]	03/01/2023	02/28/2026	Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center and University of Massachusetts Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, Bedford, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Williams, Sharifa [Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	New York State Office of Mental Health, Center of Excellence (Cultural and Structural Equity in Behavioral Health) Division of Social Solutions and Services Research, Orangeburg, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Winter, Laraine [Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Villanova University and Philadelphia Education and Research Foundation, Philadelphia, PA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wynn, Jonathan [Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]	03/01/2023	02/28/2025	VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and University of California, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior , Los Angeles, CA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Zhang, Jing [Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	University of Maryland, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Greenbelt, MD	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bondi, Corina [Brain Health & Injury]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Neurobiology, New Kensington, PA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gurkoff, Gene [Brain Health & Injury]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	University of California Davis, Department of Neurological Surgery, Davis, CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lafrenaye, Audrey [Brain Health & Injury]	08/01/2023	07/31/2025	Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center and Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, School of Medicine, Richmond, VA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Russ, Brian [Brain Health & Injury]	08/01/2023	07/31/2027	New York University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Nathan Kline Institute, Orangeburg, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Shetty, Ashok [Brain Health & Injury]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Texas A&M University School of Medicine, Institute for Regenerative Medicine, College Station, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stone, James [Brain Health & Injury]	09/01/2022	08/31/2024	University of Virginia, Department of Radiology and Medical Imaging and Naval Medical Research Center, Charlottesville, VA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Vonder Haar, Cole [Brain Health & Injury]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Ohio State University, Department of Neuroscience, Columbus, OH	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Antonucci, Sharon [Career Development Program]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute, Moss Rehab Aphasia Center, Perkasie, PA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ballard-Croft, Cherry [Career Development Program]	03/01/2021	02/28/2025	University of Kentucky, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery, Lexington, KY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Brown, Lily [Career Development Program]	09/01/2021	08/31/2025	Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, Coatesville VA Medical Center (WOC) and University of Pennsylvania, Department of Psychiatry, Philadelphia, PA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Durand, Matthew [Career Development Program]	09/01/2022	08/31/2026	Medical College of Wisconsin, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Milwaukee, WI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dworkin, Emily [Career Development Program]	08/01/2023	07/31/2026	University of Washington School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Seattle, WA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Ellison, Marsha [Career Development Program]	03/01/2023	02/28/2026	University of Massachusetts, Chan Medical School, Department of Psychiatry, Framingham, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Evans, Christopher [Career Development Program]	03/01/2022	02/28/2025	Mayo Medical School, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Orthopedic Surgery and Molecular Medicine, Rochester, MN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fritz, Nora [Career Development Program]	09/01/2022	08/31/2026	Wayne State University, Departments of Health Care Sciences and Neurology, Detroit, MI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gullbrand, Sarah [Career Development Program]	09/01/2021	08/31/2025	Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center and University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Headley, Samuel [Career Development Program]	09/01/2020	08/31/2024	Springfield College, Exercise Science & Athletic Training Department, Springfield, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Holtzheimer, Paul [Career Development Program]	03/01/2023	02/28/2026	National Center for PTSD and Dartmouth University, Geisel School of Medicine, Psychiatry and Surgery, Hanover, NH	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Hooker, Stephanie [Career Development Program]	08/01/2023	07/31/2026	University of Minnesota and HealthPartners Institute, Minneapolis, MN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jayasuriya, Chathuraka [Career Development Program]	09/01/2022	08/31/2024	Brown University, Department of Orthopedics, Barrington, RI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kunisaki, Ken [Career Development Program]	09/01/2020	08/31/2024	Minneapolis VA Health Care System and University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Lee, Sang [Career Development Program]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	The Catholic University of America, Biomedical Engineering and Center for Applied Biomechanics and Rehabilitation Research MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital, Washington, DC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mayer, Kirby [Career Development Program]	08/01/2023	07/31/2026	University of Kentucky, College of Health Sciences, Department of Physical Therapy, Lexington, KY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Montgomery, LaTrice [Career Development Program]	03/01/2021	02/28/2025	University of Cincinnati, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, Cincinnati, OH	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Morgan, Kerri [Career Development Program]	03/01/2023	02/28/2027	Washington University School of Medicine, Program in Occupational Therapy and Neurology, St. Louis, MO	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Potkay, Joseph [Career Development Program]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, Research Service and University of Michigan, Surgery, Ann Arbor, MI	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Primack, Jennifer [Career Development Program]	03/01/2023	02/28/2026	Providence VA Medical Center and Alpert School of Medicine of Brown University, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Southborough, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Schaefer, Sydney [Career Development Program]	03/01/2022	02/28/2025	Arizona State University, Neural Engineering and Neurorehabilitation, School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering, Tempe, AZ	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Skelton, Felicia [Career Development Program]	09/01/2020	08/31/2024	Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety and Baylor College of Medicine, H. Ben Taub Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Houston, TX	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Smith, April [Career Development Program]	09/01/2021	08/31/2025	Auburn University, Department of Psychological Sciences, Auburn, AL	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stewart, Jill [Career Development Program]	09/01/2022	08/31/2025	University of South Carolina, Department of Exercise Science, Columbia, SC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Venezia, Jonathan [Career Development Program]	08/01/2023	07/31/2026	VA Loma Linda Healthcare System and Loma Linda University, Department of Otolaryngology, Loma Linda, CA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Yalch, Matthew [Career Development Program]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	San Francisco VA Health Care System and Palo Alto University, Department of Psychology, San Francisco, CA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Blumen, Helena [Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Bronx, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Haddad, Jeffrey [Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Purdue University, Department of Health and Kinesiology, West Lafayette, IN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Khayat, Rami [Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	University of California at Irvine, Sleep Disorders Center, Orange, CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Nelson, Erik [Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Indiana University Bloomington, School of Public Health, Bloomington, IN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pack, Quinn [Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	University of Massachusetts Medical School-Baystate, Ellington, CT	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sarma, Satyam [Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center and Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine, Dallas, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Tappen, Ruth [Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Florida Atlantic University, College of Nursing, Boca Raton, FL	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wainford, Richard [Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging]	09/01/2021	08/31/2025	Boston University School of Medicine, Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, The Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute, Boston, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bost, James [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2021	02/28/2025	The George Washington University, Biostatistics and Study Methodology and Children's National Hospital, Silver Spring, MD	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Boswell, Lanny [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	09/01/2022	08/31/2024	Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired), San Diego, CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cade, William [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2023	02/28/2025	Duke University School of Medicine, Doctor of Physical Therapy Division, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Durham, NC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carballido-Gamio, Julie [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2023	02/28/2027	University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Department of Radiology, Aurora, CO	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Chimenti, Ruth [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	09/01/2020	08/31/2024	University of Iowa, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, Coralville, IA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Froehlich-Grobe, Katherine [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Baylor Scott and White Institute for Rehabilitation and University of Texas, School of Public Health. Dallas, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Greising, Sarah [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2022	02/28/2025	University of Minnesota, School of Kinesiology, Minneapolis, MN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kamper, Derek [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University, Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering, Raleigh, NC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ramasunder, Shalini [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Durham VA Medical Center and Duke University, Department of Surgery, Division of Orthopaedics, Durham, NC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Riegler, Lindsay [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2021	02/28/2025	Cincinnati VA Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Rundell, Sean [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2022	02/29/2024	University of Washington, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Seattle, WA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schreiber, Kristin [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Harvard Medical School, Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine, Brookline, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Witherspoon, Jessica [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	09/01/2022	08/31/2026	Veterans Health Administration, Evaluation and Implementation, Lewes, DE	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Yakovenko, Sergiy [Musculoskeletal Health & Function]	03/01/2021	02/28/2025	West Virginia University, School of Medicine, Human Performance Department, Morgantown, WV	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Botchwey, Edward [Regenerative Rehabilitation]	08/01/2023	07/31/2026	Georgia Institute of Technology, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Atlanta, GA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Darabi, Radbod [Regenerative Rehabilitation]	03/01/2022	02/28/2025	The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, Houston, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Geoffroy, Cedric [Regenerative Rehabilitation]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Texas A&M Health Science Center, Department of Neuroscience & Experimental Therapeutics, Bryan, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Leung, Thomas [Regenerative Rehabilitation]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center and University of Pennsylvania, Department of Dermatology, Philadelphia, PA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
McCreedy, Dylan [Regenerative Rehabilitation]	09/01/2020	08/31/2024	Texas A&M University, Department of Biology, College Station, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Qiang, Liang [Regenerative Rehabilitation]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Drexel University College of Medicine, Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy, Philadelphia, PA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Black, Bryan [Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Biomedical Engineering Department, Lowell, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Borenstein, Jeffrey [Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics]	08/01/2023	07/31/2027	Draper Lab, Biomedical Engineering Center, Cambridge, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Cowan, Rachel [Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics]	09/01/2022	08/31/2026	University of Alabama, Birmingham, School of Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Birmingham, AL	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gates, Deanna [Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics]	09/01/2022	08/31/2026	University of Michigan, Movement Science, School of Kinesiology, Ann Arbor, MI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jennings, J. [Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	The University of Memphis, Herff College of Engineering, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Memphis, TN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sharma, Nitin [Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering, Raleigh, NC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Anderson, Samira [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	University of Maryland, Hearing and Speech Sciences, College Park, MD	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fricks, Rafael [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2022	02/28/2026	Massachusetts Veterans Epidemiology Research and Information Center, National Artificial Intelligence Institute and Duke University, Department of Radiology, Durham, NC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Husain, Fatima [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Speech and Hearing Science, Champaign, IL	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lackner, James [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Brandeis University, Ashton Graybiel Spatial Orientation Laboratory, Waltham, MA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Lentz, Jennifer [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Indiana University Bloomington, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Bloomington, IN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McCaslin, Devin [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2023	02/28/2027	University of Michigan, Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, Ann Arbor, MI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McCreery, Ryan [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	09/01/2022	08/31/2024	Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Papageorgiou, T. [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2023	02/28/2026	Baylor College of Medicine, Neuroscience, Psychiatry, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Rice University, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Neuroengineering and Applied Physics, Houston, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ryals, Brenda [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2023	02/28/2026	James Madison University, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Charlottesville, VA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sadeghi Ghandehari, Soroush [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	The State University of New York at Buffalo, Center for Hearing and Deafness, Buffalo, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Samuels, Ivy [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2023	02/28/2027	Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, Research Service, Cleveland, OH	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Shanidze, Natela [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2023	02/28/2027	The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, San Francisco, CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Stuve, Olaf [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	08/01/2023	07/31/2027	Dallas VA Medical Center and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Department of Neurology, Dallas, TX	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Venkatasivasai Sajja, Sujith [Sensory Systems & Communication Disorders]	03/01/2020	02/29/2024	Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Benamar, Khalid [Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]	08/01/2023	07/31/2026	Texas Tech University Health Science Center, Pharmacology and Neuroscience, Lubbock, TX	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Blank, Robert [Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Medical College of Wisconsin and Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Forest Hills, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carmel, Jason [Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carp, Jonathan [Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]	09/01/2021	08/31/2024	Albany VA Medical Center: Samuel S. Stratton (WOC) and State University of New York, Albany, School of Public Health, Delmar, NY	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lu, Daniel [Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]	03/01/2021	02/29/2024	University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Neurosurgery, Los Angeles, CA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Todorovic, Slobodan [Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain]	09/01/2022	08/31/2025	Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center and University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 103

Narrative Description

The Board advises the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Director and the Chief Research and Development Officer

in VHA on the scientific and technical merit, mission relevance, originality, protection of human and animal subjects, and the feasibility of proposals reviewed. Advice from the Board results in the funding of programs and research projects that support the mission of the VA, which is to promote functional independence and improve the quality of life for 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Board also provides recommendations that include cost-saving measures and avoidance of duplicate funding and poor quality research. The interdisciplinary expertise among Board and Subcommittee members replaces the huge cost of providing a large and highly scientific/technical interdisciplinary staff needed to provide this expertise within the VA.

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
Cost Savings Other

☐☐

Cost Savings Comments

The interdisciplinary expertise among Board and Subcommittee members replaces the huge cost of providing a large and highly scientific/technical interdisciplinary staff needed to provide this expertise within the VA. Cost saving comes from funding only the most meritorious research projects.

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

5,569

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of proposals and programs funded from FY 2003 through FY 2023.

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 Board's scientific and technical reviews and comments are usually followed by the Director of Rehabilitation Research and Development Service and the Chief Research and Development Officer of the Office of Research and Development. Funding of all research projects is only possible if sufficient funds are available within the Service's budget.

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

N/A (see 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

Feedback is provided in the Subcommittee meeting minutes distributed to the Board and in communications regarding specific proposal summaries of discussion and summary statements provided to scientific investigators on their award proposals. Board discussions involve consultant critiques of research proposals, the scientific merit of each proposal, relevance to the health care needs of Veterans, protections of human and vertebrate animal subjects and qualifications of personnel conducting the studies. Discussion by the Board is highly confidential as the information is proprietary to the scientific investigators and the research they propose in their award applications; the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals.

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

This process encourages increased collaboration and communication with other experts engaged in similar research efforts.

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

No

Grant Review Comments

The research proposals reviewed by the Board are internal to VA and are not considered grants to outside entities.

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 type="checkbox"/>

Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

N/A