

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Eye Institute

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Health and Human
Services

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Board of Scientific Counselors, National
Eye Institute

3b. GSA

Committee No.

230

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

11/12/1997

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Authorized by Law

12. Specific Establishment Authority

42 U.S.C. 282(b)(16)

13. Effective Date

11/20/1985

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next
FY FY

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 Board is composed of recognized biomedical and/or behavioral research authorities who represent the forefront of research and technical knowledge and who provide evaluation and peer review of Institute laboratories and staff scientists in the following areas: vision research, ranging from clinical ophthalmology and ophthalmic pathology to the basic sciences.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Board consists of approximately seven members who are outstanding authorities knowledgeable in the specialized fields of eye and vision research, ranging from clinical

ophthalmology and ophthalmic pathology, to the basic sciences. The advisory role of the Board is scientific and substantive. The Board, through periodic visits to the laboratories, assesses the research in progress and evaluates productivity and performance of principal investigators.

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

The Board meets approximately twice per year for the peer review of intramural laboratories on a rotating basis. The Board held two meetings this fiscal year, October 11-12, 2022 and July 31-August 1, 2023.

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

This Board is composed of recognized biomedical research authorities from outside the NIH in order to secure unbiased and objective evaluation of intramural research programs. Their recommendations are invaluable because the complex nature of research in each laboratory requires a unique balance and breadth of expertise not available on the NIH staff or from other established resources.

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

The meetings of the Board are closed for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual programs and projects conducted by the Institute, which include the consideration of personnel qualifications and performance, the competence of individual investigators, and similar items, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Section 552b(c)(6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act permits the closing of meetings where discussion

could reveal personal information, and disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

21. Remarks

Committee Function: Other - Scientific and Technical Peer Review Reports: This committee did not produce any public reports during the fiscal year. URL: This committee does not have a website. Dr. David Schneeweis's title was updated from Acting Scientific Director to Deputy Scientific Director this fiscal year. The DFO and Decision Maker are the same person, Deputy Scientific Director, NEI due to the delegations of authority and assignments within this small Institute. Meetings: The Board met twice this fiscal year. Drs. Apte and Bowes Rickman were reappointed for one extra year until June 30, 2024. Drs. Kiani and Demb were reappointed for two extra years until June 30, 2025. Dr. Lakkuraji was reappointed as chair for two extra years until June 30, 2025.

Designated Federal Officer

David Schneeweis Deputy Scientific Director

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Apte, Rajendra	06/01/2020	06/30/2024	Paul A. Cibis Distinguished Professor, Washington University School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
			Professor of Ophthalmology, Duke University Medical Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bowes-Rickman, Catherine	04/12/2020	06/30/2024	Associate Professor, Yale University School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Demb, Jonathan	06/07/2020	06/30/2025		

			Associate	Special Government
Kiani, Roozbeh	05/26/2020	06/30/2025	Professor, New York University	Employee (SGE) Member
			Associate	Special Government
Lakkaraju, Aparna	06/02/2020	06/30/2025	Professor, University of California, San Francisco	Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 5

Narrative Description

Section 402(b)(9) of the Public Health Service Act states that “the Director, NIH...shall assure that research at...the National Institutes of Health is subject to review in accordance with section 492.”

Section 492(b) states that the “Director of NIH shall establish procedures for periodic technical and scientific peer review of research at the National Institutes of Health. The mission of the Board of Scientific Counselors is to assess the quality of the Institute’s intramural research programs and to evaluate the productivity and performance of intramural scientists and shall also, as requested by the Director, NIH, undertake peer review of extramural funding applications as required by section 492 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended.”

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

Checked if
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 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	<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

NIH supported basic and clinical research accomplishments often take many years to unfold into new diagnostic tests and new ways to treat and prevent diseases.

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

78

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Board met 2 times and produced a total of 24 recommendations. The reviews are scheduled on a 3–4-year rotation. The recommendations are implemented at the direction of the Institute Director and Scientific Director.

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

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Information on the research funded by NIH is available through the RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool) website. RePORT provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities that advance the mission of the NIH, including information on NIH expenditures, strategic plans, reports on NIH funding, and reports on the organization and people involved in NIH research and research training. The RePORT

website is located at <http://report.nih.gov>.

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

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Information on the research funded by NIH is available through the RePORT (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool) website. RePORT provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities that advance the mission of the NIH, including information on NIH expenditures, strategic plans, reports on NIH funding, and reports on the organization and people involved in NIH research and research training. The RePORT website is located at <http://report.nih.gov>.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Information resulting from closed Board of Scientific Counselors meetings is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The public can view information on NIH Intramural Research Reports found on the NIH Intramural Research Sourcebook website located at <https://oir.nih.gov/sourcebook/intramural-research-communications-resources/annual-reports-bit>

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

Checked if Applies

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

Action Comments

NIH staff use the Board's recommendations to make decisions regarding the allocating resources within specific research laboratories in the National Eye Institute.

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

No

Grant Review Comments

Although grant reviews are included in the duties of this Board, there were no grant reviews performed during this fiscal year.

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

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

IC Committee Management Officer 240-669-5201