

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Research Advisory Council

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Research Advisory  
Council

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

5293

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
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No 08/24/2023 08/24/2025

### 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

09/21/1999

### 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 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

### Meetings and Dates

#### Purpose

The purpose of the National Research  
Advisory Council is to advise the Secretary  
on research development conducted by the  
Veterans Health Administration, including  
policies and programs targeting the high  
priority of Veterans' health care needs.

#### Start

#### End

10/11/2023 - 10/11/2023

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1**

	<b>Current Next</b>	
	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>
<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. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</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?**

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) convenes periodic meetings of the Council to provide external consultation and review for VA's research mission. The Council provides advice and makes recommendations to the Chief Research and Development Officer, the Under Secretary for Health and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, concerning the nature and scope of Research and Development activities, particularly those that support priority areas. NRAC best aligns with implementing the mission

act by improving Veterans access to health care. They review the research program and how it is aligned with promoting a learning organization that improves processes to provide better access to health care and medical solutions to problems experienced by Veterans. The NRAC provides feedback to ORD, the USH, and the Secretary about the strategic position of the R&D program and ways to improve the work performed by the R&D program. Since this Council is a policy and not a review board, it does not consider specific research proposals; rather, it considers broad research priorities and objectives. The Council periodically forwards letters to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs expressing concern about specific research issues. As advisory to the Secretary and Under Secretary for Health, the Council conducts an annual assessment of the VA ORD's Research Program as part of the performance assessment Rating Tool process. This assessment is based upon guidelines related to the scientific importance of the research on Veterans' health, and its impact on the public health of the general population. The Council considers the appropriateness of the research to the VA healthcare mission, the balance of this research in terms of the burden of disease and the special responsibilities of VA in the areas of mental health, Suicide, PTSD, TBI, substance use, homelessness, pain and opioid use, spinal cord injury, prosthetics and high-risk populations, care of aging Veteran including caregiving, LTC, genomic medicine, Big data and MVP, access, care coordination and patient centered care and deployment related conditions including Gulf War.

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

In 2023, no new members were appointed. The

Council includes knowledgeable VA- and non-VA experts, and Veterans' community representatives with special qualifications and competence to deal effectively with medical research and development issues in VA. The Council consists of outside physicians, scientists, academic and other leaders as well as a Veteran thereby assuring that important perspective on the health problems of Veterans. Close attention was given to equitable geographic distribution and to ethnic and gender representation. Membership provides a balance of views and a range of expertise essential to attaining the stated goals of the Council. The membership of the Council provides a unique opportunity for VA to highlight the strengths and quality of its research program to a distinguished national group who can further advance VA's research program.

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

Meetings are generally held once every quarter: December, March, June, and September. The Annual Report to the NRAC was presented to the NRAC by Research and Development staff at the December meeting. Comments include updates from the prior year regarding research, awards, accomplishments, and other information. Note there was no June meeting due to charter approval pending. The first meeting took place in December 7, 2022, and the next meeting was held March 1, 2023. The last meeting for FY 23 was scheduled to be held September 6, 2023, but had to be rescheduled to October 11, 2023 due to pending charter approval.

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

The experts on the NRAC provide advice and

most importantly, use their broad knowledge bases to inform and discuss relevant research issues.

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

All meetings were open in FY23.

## **21. Remarks**

NRAC convened two virtual meetings in FY2023. Per above, the September 2023 meeting was delayed until October 2023. The October 2023 meeting will be reported in FY 2024 per GSA. No travel costs or member payments were incurred in FY2023; thus, no costs are reported for these items. FY 2024 estimated costs account for two in person meetings and a 4% COLA.

## **Designated Federal Officer**

Liza Catucci Director of Operations

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Doddamani, Sanjay	03/04/2020	03/31/2024	University of Texas Southwestern	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dubinett, Steven	03/04/2020	03/31/2024	Department of Veterans Affairs	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Hack, Dallas	04/01/2022	03/31/2024	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kibbe, Melinda	04/01/2022	03/31/2024	University of North Carolina	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kuntz, Matthew	03/04/2020	03/31/2024	Commissioner	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Laurencin, Cato	04/01/2022	03/31/2024	University of Connecticut	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Poropatich, Ronald	03/04/2020	03/31/2024	Cathedral of Learning	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ramchand, Rajeev	04/01/2022	03/31/2024	RAND Corporation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schnurr, Paula	03/04/2020	03/31/2024	Dept of Veterans Affairs White River Junction	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Tomaska, Julie	04/01/2022	03/31/2024	Amie Muller Foundation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zampieri, Thomas	04/01/2022	03/31/2024	DOD CDMRP	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 11**

### **Narrative Description**

The NRAC reviews the Strategic Plan and the Top 5 Priorities (Greater Choice, Modernize Systems, Efficiency, Improve Timeliness, and Suicide Prevention) for VA annually. The results of medical research to include Health Services Research and Development, Clinical Sciences Research and Development, Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Rehabilitation Research and Development programs may have outcomes that impact the VA and it's customers/patients. A device or treatment that improves health care or increases timeliness will increase trust in the government and customer satisfaction. A new process may result in increased trust, policy changes, service delivery, customer satisfaction or implementation of a new law.

### **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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### Outcome Comments

The result of medical research to include Health Services Research and Development, Clinical Sciences Research and Development, Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Rehabilitation Research and Development programs may have outcomes that impact the VA and it's customers/patients.

### 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

The cost savings are unable to be determined as the research the Council reviews may or may not have outcomes for VA and it's customers/patients.

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

22

### Number of Recommendations Comments

This is the total number of recommendations from FY1999 to FY 2023.

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

82%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

No recommendations for 2023.

**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**

No recommendations are being implemented at this time.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

The Office of Management and Budget requires that the NRAC conduct an annual assessment of the VA research program, which is based on guidelines related to the scientific importance of research on Veterans' health, and its impact on the public health of the general population. The NRAC considers the appropriateness of the research to VA's healthcare mission and makes observations about the research and in the areas of mental health, traumatic brain injury, and deployment health. The public can obtain Agency feedback at <http://www.va.gov/ADVISORY>.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**



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

No

**Grant Review Comments**

N/A

**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 type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A