

Dated: March 21, 2002.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 02-7397 Filed 3-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, February 20, 2002, 2:00 PM to February 20, 2002, 3:30 PM, Holiday Inn Georgetown, 2101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20007 which was published in the **Federal Register** on February 7, 2002, 67 FR 5841-5842.

The meeting has been changed to a telephone conference call to be held March 27, 2002, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The meeting is closed to the public.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: March 26, 2002.

Time: 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Victoria S. Levin, MSW, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3172, MSC 7848, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-0912, levinv@csr.nih.gov.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: April 1, 2002.

Time: 3:45 PM to 5:15 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Cheryl M. Corsaro, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Genetic Sciences IRG, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 2204, MSC 7890, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1045, corsaroc@csr.nih.gov.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: April 10, 2002.

Time: 9:45 AM to 11:45 AM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Gloria B. Levin, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3166, MSC 7848, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1017, leving@csr.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 98.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 21, 2002.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Laboratory Animal Welfare: Proposed Change in PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The NIH is proposing to change the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS

Policy) to permit institutions with PHS Animal Welfare Assurances to submit verification of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval for competing applications subsequent to peer review but prior to award. Current PHS Policy, applicable to all PHS-conducted or supported activities involving live, vertebrate animals, provides institutions with a PHS approval Animal Welfare Assurance the option of submitting IACUC approval for competing application subsequent to the submission of the application of proposal, but within 60 days from the receipt date. NIH grants policy mandates that applications lacking IACUC approval are considered incomplete; thus IACUC approval is presently required prior to initial NIH peer review.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 28, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to Anthony Demsey, Ph.D., Senior Advisor for Policy, Office of Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health, Building 1, Room 154, Bethesda, Maryland 20892. All comments received will be available for inspection weekdays (Federal holidays excepted) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at this address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NIH is proposing to revise the requirement that IACUC verification be submitted prior to NIH peer review. This revision would permit Assured institutions to submit IACUC verification for competing application subsequent to peer review but prior to award. This concept is often referred to as "just-in-time." The proposed change would enhance the flexibility of institutions and reduce the burden on applicants and IACUCs, allowing resources to be focused on substantive review of proposals likely to be funded.

On May 1, 2000, the NIH announced that IRB approval would no longer be required prior to NIH peer review of an application that involves human subjects. Because of the different bases for these policies, the NIH did not extend this permission to IACUC approval at that time. However, the NIH is now inviting comments from the community on proceeding with a revision of the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals to permit IACUC approval for competing applications to be submitted subsequent to peer review but prior to award. If such a change were adopted it would be optional (*i.e.*, as a matter of institutional policy institutions could require IACUC review and approval prior to submission of applications or prior to NIH peer