

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Michael A. Steinmetz, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5172, MSC 7844, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1247, [steinmem@csr.nih.gov](mailto:steinmem@csr.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences SBIR/STTR Review Panel.

*Date:* December 16, 2003.

*Time:* 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* George Washington University Inn, 824 New Hampshire Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20037.

*Contact Person:* J. Terrell Hoffield, DDS, PhD, Dental Officer, USPHS, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4116, MSC 7816, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1781, [th88q@nih.gov](mailto:th88q@nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistant Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: November 20, 2003.

**LaVerne Y. Stringfield,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 03-29637 Filed 11-26-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

#### Notice of a Meeting

Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Advisory Council in December 2003.

The SAMHSA National Advisory Council meeting will be open and will include a report by the SAMHSA Administrator on how the Agency is managing its Matrix priorities and cross-cutting principles, the President's Management Agenda, and SAMHSA's work in partnership with other Federal agencies. There will be updates on SAMHSA's Budget, SAMHSA's FY 2004 Appropriation's, the Charitable Choice Regulations, and the Program Assessment Rating Tool review. In addition, the meeting will include a presentation by SAMHSA's newly

appointed CMHS Director who will describe her vision for CMHS and mental health. There will also be discussions on workforce development, national disaster and trauma, SAMHSA's Children and Families Agenda, and SAMHSA's data strategy.

Attendance by the public will be limited to space available. Public comments are welcome. Please communicate with the individual listed as contact below to make arrangements to comment or to request special accommodations for persons with disabilities.

Substantive program information, a summary of the meeting, and a roster of Council members may be obtained either by accessing the SAMHSA Council Web site, [www.samhsa.gov/council/council](http://www.samhsa.gov/council/council) or by communicating with the contact whose name and telephone number is listed below. The transcript for the open session will also be available on the SAMHSA Council Web site.

*Committee Name:* SAMHSA National Advisory Council.

*Date/time:* Thursday, December 11, 2003, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Open); Friday, December 12, 2003, 9 a.m. to 11:15 p.m. (Open).

*Place:* Embassy Suites Hotel, Chevy Chase Room, 4300 Military Road, NW., Washington, DC 20015.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Toian Vaughn, Executive Secretary, 5600 Fishers Lane, Parklawn Building, Room 12C-05, Rockville, MD 20857, *Telephone:* (301) 443-7016; *Fax:* (301) 443-7590 and *E-mail:* [tovaughn@samhsa.gov](mailto:tovaughn@samhsa.gov).

Dated: November 18, 2003.

**Toian Vaughn,**

*Committee Management Officer, SAMHSA.*

[FR Doc. 03-29614 Filed 11-26-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4162-20-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Notice Designating University of Southern California as Center for Homeland Security

**AGENCY:** Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Homeland Security has designated the University of Southern California as a Center for Homeland Security (HS-Center).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura Petonito, Deputy Director, University Programs, Science and Technology Division, Department of

Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528; telephone 202-401-1113, facsimile 202-772-9916; e-mail [laura.petonito@dhs.gov](mailto:laura.petonito@dhs.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 308 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, (Homeland Security Act), as amended by the Omnibus Appropriation Act of 2003, Pub. L. 108-7, directs the Department of Homeland Security (Department) to sponsor extramural research, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation programs relating to homeland security. As part of this program, the Department is to establish a university-based center or centers for homeland security.

The purpose of these centers is to provide a locus to attract and retain academic scholars in pursuit of homeland security-related disciplines. The Centers are envisioned to be an integral and critical component of the Department's capability to anticipate, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. The Centers will leverage multidisciplinary capabilities of universities and fill gaps in current knowledge.

Section 308(b)(2)(B) of the Homeland Security Act lists fourteen areas of substantive expertise that, if demonstrated, might qualify universities for designation as university-based centers. The listed areas of expertise include, among others, food safety, first responders, multi-modal transportation, and responding to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. However, the list is not exclusive. Section 308(b)(2)(C) gives the Secretary discretion to consider additional criteria beyond those specified in section 308(b)(2)(B) in selecting universities for this program, as long as the Department issues a **Federal Register** notice explaining the criteria used for the designation.

##### Criteria

In 2002, the National Research Council (NRC) issued a report entitled "Making the Nation Safer: The Role of Science and Technology in Countering Terrorism." In this report, the NRC recommended a number of substantive areas for research that could contribute to national security. Among other issues, the NRC report identified the need to perform risk analysis and modeling of vulnerabilities and economic analysis of security enhancements as areas for which research is needed.

The Department agrees that research in these areas will contribute