

## Appendix I: Statutory Requirement of Annual Report Components

This annual report, *NQF 2019 Activities: Report to Congress and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services*, highlights and summarizes the work that NQF performed between January 1 and December 31, 2019 under contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the following six areas:

- Recommendations on the National Quality Strategy and Priorities;
- Quality and Efficiency Measurement Initiatives (Performance Measures);
- Stakeholder Recommendations on Quality and Efficiency Measures;
- Gaps on Endorsed Quality and Efficiency Measures across HHS Programs;
- Gaps in Evidence and Targeted Research Needs; and
- Coordination with Measurement Initiatives by Other Payers.

Congress has recognized the role of a “consensus based entity” (CBE), currently NQF, in helping to forge agreement across the public and private sectors about what to measure and improve in healthcare. The 2008 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) (PL 110-275) established the responsibilities of the consensus-based entity by creating section 1890 of the Social Security Act. The 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) (PL 111-148) modified and added to the consensus-based entity’s responsibilities. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (PL 112-240) extended funding under the MIPPA statute to the consensus-based entity through fiscal year 2013. The Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PL 113-93) extended funding under the MIPPA and ACA statutes to the consensus-based entity through March 31, 2015. Section 207 of the Medicare Access and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) (PL 114-10) extended funding under section 1890(d)(2) of the Social Security Act for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection for fiscal years 2015 through 2017. Section 50206 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 extended funding for federal quality efforts for two years (October 2017 – September 2019) among other requirements. Bipartisan action by numerous Congresses over several years has reinforced the importance of the role of the CBE. In accordance with section 1890 of the Social Security Act, NQF, in its designation as the CBE, is charged to report annually on its work to Congress and the HHS Secretary.

*As amended by the above laws, the Social Security Act (the Act)—specifically section 1890(b)(5)(A)—mandates that the entity report to Congress and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) no later than March 1st of each year.*

*The report must include descriptions of:*

- *how NQF has implemented quality and efficiency measurement initiatives under the Act and coordinated these initiatives with those implemented by other payers;*
- *NQF’s recommendations with respect to an integrated national strategy and priorities for healthcare performance measurement in all applicable settings;*
- *NQF’s performance of the duties required under its contract with HHS (Appendix A);*
- *gaps in endorsed quality and efficiency measures, including measures that are within priority areas identified by the Secretary under HHS’ national strategy, and where quality and efficiency measures are unavailable or inadequate to identify or address such gaps;*
- *areas in which evidence is insufficient to support endorsement of measures in priority areas identified by the National Quality Strategy, and where targeted research may address such gaps;*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Delegation of Authority

Notice is hereby given that I have delegated to the Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), or his or her successor, the authorities that are vested in the

Secretary of Health and Human Services under sections 1833(bb) and 1834(o)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l and 42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(3), respectively), as added by section 6083 of the Substance Use—Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act, Public Law 115–271. This authorizes the HRSA Administrator, on behalf of the

Secretary, to pay Federally Qualified Health Center and Rural Health Clinic for the training costs of eligible physicians and practitioners who obtain Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 waivers to furnish opioid use disorder treatment services. This delegation may not be redelegated and does not confer authority to issue regulations.

This delegation of authorities is effective upon date of signature.

Dated: September 18, 2020.

**Alex M. Azar II,**

*Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.*

[FR Doc. 2020-21098 Filed 9-23-20; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Office of The Director, National Institutes of Health; Cancellation of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the cancellation of the Office of The Director, National Institutes of Health, October 9, 2020, 3:00 p.m. to October 9, 2020, 4:00 p.m., National Institutes of Health, Building One, One Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on August 26, 2020, 85 FR 52614.

This meeting is being cancelled due to scheduling difficulties and the presentation will be rescheduled for the ACD in December 2020.

Dated: September 21, 2020.

**Natasha M. Copeland,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2020-21118 Filed 9-23-20; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Human Genome Research Institute; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting 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:* National Human Genome Research Institute Special Emphasis Panel; Novel Synthetic Nucleic Acid Technology Development SEP.

*Date:* December 7, 2020.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Keith McKenney, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-4280, [mckenneyk@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mckenneyk@mail.nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.172, Human Genome Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: September 21, 2020.

**Melanie J. Pantoja,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Human Genome Research Institute; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting 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:* National Human Genome Research Institute Initial Review Group; Genome Research Review Committee.

*Date:* November 5-6, 2020.

*Time:* 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Keith McKenney, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, National Human

Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-4280, [mckenneyk@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mckenneyk@mail.nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.172, Human Genome Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: September 21, 2020.

**Melanie J. Pantoja,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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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, 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:* Musculoskeletal, Oral and Skin Sciences Integrated Review Group; Skeletal Biology Structure and Regeneration Study Section.

*Date:* October 22-23, 2020.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Yanming Bi, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4214, MSC 7814, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-451-0996, [ybi@csr.nih.gov](mailto:ybi@csr.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Surgical Sciences, Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering Integrated Review Group; Imaging Probes and Contrast Agents Study Section.

*Date:* October 22-23, 2020.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Donald Scott Wright, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5108,