

The committee has provided invaluable advice on the restructuring of NCI's clinical trials networks, establishing timelines for initiating trials, harmonizing guidelines across programs, and evaluating clinical trials portfolios to enhance NCI's already-productive clinical trials program.

As the conduct of clinical trials has continued to evolve, CTAC has helped NCI to address emerging challenges through a continuous improvement approach and made important recommendations to NCI. CTAC recommendations have focused on operational efficiency, trial cost and complexity, prevention and symptom management, and health-related quality of life across the portfolio, while also reviewing NCI's clinical and translational research portfolios to identify gaps in recalcitrant cancers such as pancreatic, lung, gastric, and glioblastoma cancers. CTAC's recommendations have also informed scientific frameworks, strengthened programs in cancer screening, radiation oncology, quantitative imaging, and clinical trials informatics, and revolutionized government-sponsored clinical trials, enabling faster and more efficient delivery of outcomes to the American public.

CTAC's impact extends beyond NCI by advancing collaboration and improving clinical research practices across NIH and other federal agencies. The scientific framework CTAC recommended for pancreatic cancer led to cross-NIH collaborations, particularly for the early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and understanding the role of diabetes in cancer etiology. NIH adopted principles of efficiency and centralized trial operations advanced by CTAC to strengthen clinical trial conduct. CTAC's advice also helped NCI to establish the NCI-VA Interagency Group to Accelerate Trials Enrollment (NAVIGATE), which contributed approximately 400 enrollments to NCI trials in 2025 and expanded Veterans' access to cancer clinical trials.

If CTAC were discontinued, key stakeholders in clinical trials and translational research would lose a voice in providing input on NCI's scientific programs and initiatives, creating a void in NIH's ability to better serve the public and achieve the administration's goal of understanding and lowering chronic disease rates across the cancer control spectrum, including prevention, early detection, and treatment.

7. Explanation of why the committee/subcommittee is essential to the conduct of agency business

CTAC is essential to the conduct of NCI and NIH agency business because it provides independent and expert advice that directly informs how NCI manages its clinical trials and translational research enterprise, an area that represents one of NCI's largest and most complex investments of public funds. CTAC provides advice to the NCI Director on the conduct, oversight, and implementation of clinical trials and translational research across the Institute by providing broad scientific and programmatic advice on the investment of taxpayer dollars.

CTAC supports NCI's statutory mission and aligns with the current administration's priorities by supporting a strong and efficient cancer clinical trials research enterprise. Through independent, expert advice on NCI-supported clinical trials and translational research across the cancer control continuum, CTAC advances efforts to reduce the burden of chronic disease, enhances transparency and stewardship of NIH's cancer research investments, and promotes research aimed at lowering cancer rates and improving population health.

In conclusion, this public interest determination documents that renewing the committee is in the public interest, essential to the conduct of agency business, and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

Inquiries may be directed to Patricia Brandt Hansberger, Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 1000, Bethesda, Maryland 20892 (Mail code 4875), Telephone (301) 496-2123, or patricia.hansberger@nih.gov.

Dated: March 20, 2026.

David W. Freeman,

Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of meetings of the Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on

Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

The meetings will be closed to the public as indicated below in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual grant applications conducted by the National Institute On Deafness And Other Communication Disorders, including consideration of personnel qualifications and performance, and the competence of individual investigators, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Date: April 27, 2026.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 5:25 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate personnel qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Porter Neuroscience Research Center, Building 35A, Room 610, 35 Convent Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: In Person and Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Lisa L. Cunningham, Ph.D., Scientific Director, National Institute on Deafness, and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health, 35A Convent Drive, Rockville, MD 20850, (301) 443-2766, lisa.cunningham@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Date: May 1, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate personnel qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Porter Neuroscience Research Center, Building 35A, 35 Convent Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Lisa L. Cunningham, Ph.D., Scientific Director, National Institute on Deafness, and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health, 35A Convent Drive, Rockville, MD 20850, (301) 443-2766, lisa.cunningham@nih.gov.

In the interest of security, NIH has procedures at <https://security.nih.gov/visitors/Pages/visitor-campus-access.aspx> for entrance into on-campus and off-campus facilities. All visitor vehicles, including taxicabs, hotel, and airport shuttles will be inspected before being allowed on campus. Visitors attending a meeting on campus or at an off-campus federal facility will be asked to show one form of identification (for example, a government-issued photo ID, driver's license, or passport) and to state the purpose of their visit.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/about/advisory-committees>, where an agenda and any

additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.173, Biological Research Related to Deafness and Communicative Disorders, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 19, 2026.

Rosalind M. Niamke,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026-05672 Filed 3-23-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 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: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Health Services and Systems: Career Development Award Grant Review: Clinical Informatics, Digital Health Tools, and Healthcare Policies for Health Services.

Date: April 17, 2026.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Weiqun Li, MD, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 105-G, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-5966, wli@mail.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Topics in Clinical Data Management, Analysis, Informatics and Digital Health B.

Date: April 17, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health Rockledge II 6701 Rockledge Drive Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Siddhartha Shankar Roy, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for

Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 706-373-3901, royss@csr.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflict: Kidney and Urological Diseases.

Date: April 17, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health Rockledge II 6701 Rockledge Drive Bethesda, MD 20892

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Ganesan Ramesh, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 2182 MSC 7818, Bethesda, MD, 20892 301-827-5467, ganesan.ramesh@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Mentored Research Scientist Development.

Date: April 17, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Jolanta Maria Topczewska, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 710-E, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-451-0000, jolanta.topczewska@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Mentored Career Development Awards in Social and Community Influences Research Panel A.

Date: April 17, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Deborah Ismond, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-5633, deborah.ismond@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Program Projects: NIDA Center of Excellence Grant Program.

Date: April 17, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: David E. Pollio, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 1006F, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-4002, polliode@csr.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Program Project: Cancer Research.

Date: April 17, 2026.

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Frank S. De Silva, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 710-J, Bethesda, MD 20892, 240-669-5023, fdesilva@niaid.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Genes, Genomes, and Genetics Integrated Review Group; Prokaryotic Cell and Molecular Biology Study Section.

Date: April 20, 2026.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health Rockledge II 6701 Rockledge Drive Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Rebecca Catherine Burgess, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-480-8034, rebecca.burgess@nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflict: Cardiovascular Research.

Date: April 20, 2026.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Nawazish Ali Naqvi, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-827-7911, nawazish.naqvi@nih.gov.

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

Date: April 20, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Tori Stone, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 713-A, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-7549, tori.stone@nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance 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)