

Dr. Delia Olufokunbi Sam named Deputy Director of the Center for Scientific Review

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Dr. Delia Olufokunbi Sam has been named Deputy Director of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR), following her service as acting deputy director since May 2026.

Dr. Olufokunbi Sam joined CSR in 2009 as a scientific review officer. She went on to serve as Chief of both the Population Sciences and Epidemiology Integrated Review Group (IRG) and the Healthcare Delivery and Methodologies IRG. In 2021, she was named Director of the CSR Division of Neuroscience, Development and Aging, and in April 2025 she moved into the role of Director of the CSR Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences.

Beyond her supervisory roles, Dr. Olufokunbi Sam has contributed broadly throughout her tenure at CSR. She served as CSR's SRO Training Workshop Coordinator and as CSR's Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Coordinator (PCORI), helping the congressionally authorized PCORI build infrastructure and internal capacity for peer review. She also managed review of trans-NIH initiatives such as the Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program Biobank Review and Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) training program.

As director of two scientific divisions, she guided her teams through major transitions including ENQUIRE study section realignments, implementation of the Simplified Review Framework, the consolidation of NIH peer review within CSR, recovery from an extended lapse in federal appropriations, and the creation of new review branches. Dr. Olufokunbi Sam's deep NIH policy knowledge, scientific breadth, and steady hand through past transitions make her well positioned to help guide CSR as policies and the grant application landscape evolves.

Dr. Olufokunbi Sam earned her Ph.D. in clinical and health psychology from the University of Florida and completed postdoctoral training in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy at the University of South Florida. Before joining CSR, she served as Deputy Director of the Center for Integrated Behavioral Health Policy and Chief Operating Officer of the Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems initiative at the George Washington University Medical Center. In that role, she led a research program on the prevalence and impact of alcohol misuse in communities, and directed communications, policy development, and strategic planning as the program transitioned from a foundation-funded initiative into a fully chartered academic center.