

November 24, 2025

Dr. Emily Foley named Director of the Division of Neuroscience, Development and Aging



The NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has named Dr. Emily Foley Director of its Division of Neuroscience, Development and Aging. Dr. Foley joined NIH in 2019 as a scientific review officer in CSR's Molecular Genetics and Genomics Review Branch. In 2021, she was named Chief of the Disease Control and Applied Immunology Review Branch in the CSR Division of Physiological and Pathological Sciences. She has served in an acting capacity as Director of the Division of Neuroscience, Development and Aging since May 2025.

Dr. Foley's appointment as acting director coincided with the centralization of all NIH peer review within CSR and the challenges that brought. She has been able to steer the division through the centralization and effectively integrate staff from other NIH Institutes/Centers. Prior to that, she was an integral contributor to the Simplified Review Framework recently implemented for the peer review of most NIH research project grants, leading training sessions for NIH review staff that were key to the successful implementation of the framework. Her outstanding understanding of peer review policy, her strong managerial skills, and outstanding ability to communicate to audiences both within and outside of NIH are assets to NIH.

Dr. Foley earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular pharmacology at Harvard University and completed postdoctoral training at The Rockefeller University. Before coming to CSR, she was an assistant professor at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where her NIH-funded research centered on the role of dynamic phosphorylation in ensuring the accuracy of chromosome segregation during mitosis.