

Dr. Ray Jacobson named Director of the Division of Receipt and Referral



The NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has named Dr. Ray Jacobson Director of its Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR). Dr. Jacobson has been acting director of the division since April 2024.

“Dr. Jacobson has extensive senior-level management experience and in-depth knowledge of administrative and policy issues within DRR and across the CSR organization and has engaged at the senior level with key NIH stakeholders and the extramural community,” said CSR Director Noni Byrnes, Ph.D.

The Division of Receipt and Referral is responsible for the receipt and scientific referral of grant applications submitted to NIH and other HHS agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Food and Drug Administration – over 80,000 applications each year. The division works closely with NIH Institutes and Centers and the broader extramural community to facilitate appropriate scientific assignments and timely, compliant application submissions.

Since 2020, Dr. Jacobson has been the Director of CSR’s Division of Basic and Integrated Biological Sciences. Dr. Jacobson joined CSR in 2009 as a scientific review officer in the Bioengineering and Sciences Technologies Integrated Review Group (IRG) and, in 2015, he became the chief of the Biological Chemistry and Macromolecular Biophysics IRG.

He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon and Howard Hughes Medical Institute. His postdoctoral training was at the University of California, Berkeley, as a Miller Fellow and Burroughs Wellcome Career Awardee. Before coming to CSR, he was an assistant professor at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, where his research program centered on structural and biophysical aspects of eukaryotic RNA polymerase II general transcription machinery.