

CSR News Flash  
May 30, 2018  
Center for Scientific Review  
National Institutes of Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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## **Dr. Elena Smirnova Named Chief of CSR's Genes, Genomes and Genetics Integrated Review Group**

The NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has selected Dr. Elena Smirnova to be the new Chief of its Genes, Genomes and Genetics (GGG) Integrated Review Group (IRG). She has been acting Chief of GGG since January 2018. Dr. Smirnova previously served as a Referral Officer and as the Scientific Review Officer for CSR's Cellular Signaling and Regulatory Systems Study Section.



"Elena's exemplary grasp of policy, sound judgment, and an unwavering focus on the quality of review make her the ideal choice for this important role" said CSR Acting Director Dr. Noni Byrnes. She also noted that Dr. Smirnova is well prepared for her new role due to her research background in basic cell and molecular biology, along with her years of experience handling reviews in the area of DNA damage/repair checkpoints, service as a referral officer for several IRGs including GGG, and her leadership of trans-NIH Roadmap reviews in the areas of epigenomics and genome editing.

As [GGG](#) Chief, Dr. Smirnova will oversee seven standing study sections and numerous special emphasis panels that review a broad range of NIH grant applications in fundamental and applied aspects of genes, genomes and genetics of humans and other organisms.

Dr. Smirnova earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry/biophysics from Heidelberg University in Germany. She did her post-doctoral training in the Department of Biological Chemistry at the UCLA School of Medicine. She then joined the Cell Biology and Metabolism Branch within the Intramural Research Program at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, before joining CSR as an SRO in the Cell Biology IRG.

### **About CSR**

CSR organizes the peer review groups that evaluate most of the grant applications submitted to NIH. These groups include experienced and respected researchers from across the country and abroad. Since 1946, CSR's mission has been to see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews — free from inappropriate influences — so NIH can fund the most promising research. CSR also receives all incoming applications and assigns them to the NIH institutes and centers that fund grants. For more information, go to CSR's Web site—<http://www.csr.nih.gov>—or phone 301-435-1111.

### **About the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary

federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)