CSR Names Ms. Melinda Bennett Director of Scientific Review Evaluation Activities

The NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has appointed Ms. Melinda Bennett as the Director of Scientific Review Evaluation Activities (SREA). This group manages costs, contracts, payments and non-federal travel associated with NIH peer review meetings for CSR and 23 other NIH Institutes and Centers. Ms. Bennett previously served as Deputy Director in SREA. “Melinda is an excellent and hardworking manager,” said CSR Director Dr. Richard Nakamura. “She has the right skill set to lead our wonderful SREA team into the future.”

As SREA Director Ms. Bennett will:

- Oversee a 23-member staff that processes non-Federal reviewer payments for travel, hotel lodging, meals, honoraria and other approved expenses.
- Develop SREA policy and coordinate its implementation with NIH executives.
- Develop, implement and monitor hundreds of Blanket Purchase Agreements that support more than 1,500 hotel support contracts for scientific review meetings that involve 15,000 non-Federal travelers a year.
- Manage a multi-million dollar contract for non-Federal reviewer travel.

Ms. Bennett has had a 10-year tenure at CSR, where she repeatedly rose to meet various challenges as a Program Manager and later as the SREA Deputy. She started her career at NIH in 1995 as the Animal Resource Program Coordinator for the intramural research program at the National Eye Institute.

About CSR
CSR organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of 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.