Dr. Valerie Durrant Is the New Director of CSR’s Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences

The NIH Center for Scientific Review has named Dr. Valerie Durrant to become Director of its Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences. She has been Chief of CSR’s Population Sciences and Epidemiology Integrated Review Group since 2011.

“Valerie has demonstrated a great commitment to NIH peer review and the scientific community,” said Dr. Richard Nakamura. “We expect she will quickly begin to lead her division forward given her incredible intellectual and scientific dexterity, management ability and history of contribution to CSR.”

As Director of CSR’s Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences, Dr. Durrant will now coordinate five integrated review groups, which review NIH grant applications for scientific merit: (1) AIDS and Related Research, (2) Biobehavioral and Behavioral Processes, (3) Healthcare Delivery and Methodologies, (4) Population Sciences and Epidemiology, and (5) Risk, Prevention and Health Behavior.

Dr. Valerie Durrant is chair of CSR’s Best Practices Committee and has served as acting Director for CSR Division of Neuroscience, Development and Aging in 2015. She previously served as the Scientific Review Officer for the Social Sciences and Population Studies Panel B (SSPB) study section.

Before coming to NIH, Dr. Durrant was a Program Officer at The National Academies' Committee on Population. She directed studies on the transition from childhood to adulthood in developing countries that assessed the benefits of investing in youth in these countries. Durrant holds a Ph.D. in sociology with an emphasis in demography from the University of Maryland. She was a Berelson post-doctoral fellow at the Population Council, conducting research on adolescents and on the influence of the status of women on infant and child mortality and children's schooling in Pakistan.

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.