

Dr. Wei-Qin Zhao Named Chief of the Aging and Neurodegeneration (AN) Review Branch



Dr. Wei-Qin Zhao has been selected as the Chief of the Aging and Neurodegeneration (AN) Review Branch at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). Dr. Zhao joined CSR in 2011 as a scientific review officer. In 2020, she became a referral officer and currently refers applications within the Division of Translational and Clinical Sciences. Dr. Zhao chaired CSR's Internet-Assisted Meeting (IAM) Committee and led the development of the new IAM platform, which eventually became incorporated into the Electronic Research Administration (eRA) system at an enterprise level.

Dr. Zhao is well versed in CSR/NIH policies and best practices and brings to the position broad experience with peer review and excellent leadership skills. As the AN Chief, she will oversee seven review groups covering a range of aging and neurodegenerative diseases and conditions. Among this set of review groups is a small business special emphasis panel and fellowship study sections.

Dr. Zhao received an M.D. from Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Sciences in China, and a Ph.D. in neurobiology from LaTrobe University in Australia. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow at LaTrobe University, a lecturer at Monash University in Australia, and a visiting scholar at the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. She then became an associate professor at Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute and took a visiting scholar position at Northwestern University. Prior to joining CSR, she was a senior research biologist at Merck Research Laboratories. Dr Zhao's past research interests were in molecular/cellular mechanisms underlying learning and memory, and drug discovery for neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and cognitive deficits in schizophrenia.