

Dr. Aruna Behera Named Chief of the Biobehavioral Processes (BP) Review Branch



Dr. Aruna Behera has been selected as the Chief of the Biobehavioral Processes (BP) review branch at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). Dr. Behera joined CSR in 2011 as a scientific review officer in the Musculoskeletal, Skin, and Oral Sciences (MSOS) review branch and, since 2019, has been a referral officer for the Division of Receipt and Referral, working with applications across a wide range of biomedical fields. Her review experience spans multiple mechanisms and topics, including review of special initiatives such as the Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity U01s. She has also served on NIH-wide and CSR committees such as the Review Users Group, Scientific Program and Review Interest Group, the CSR Outreach Committee, and the CSR Reviewer Training Committee.

Her scientific flexibility, deep knowledge of peer review policy, broad experience in review, leadership experience, and her commitment to diversity and inclusion make her an excellent fit for the BP Chief position. As the BP Chief, she will oversee eight standing panels and one recurring small business special emphasis panel. The review branch handles applications that investigate biobehavioral and behavioral processes across the lifespan with an emphasis on higher cognitive functions, mental and physical health, and psychological and physical disorders.

Dr. Behera earned a Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology and virology from Delhi University in Delhi, India, and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of South Florida. Immediately prior to joining CSR, Dr. Behera was a senior scientist and project director at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals where she managed multidisciplinary research teams focused on pre-clinical drug development for autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.