

A large decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a dark grey arrow pointing right, with a green arrow pointing right inside it, and a white arrow pointing right inside the green one.

# CSR Advisory Council Update

September 18, 2023

Noni Byrnes, Ph.D.  
Director  
Center for Scientific Review

# Welcome: Continuing CSR Advisory Council Members



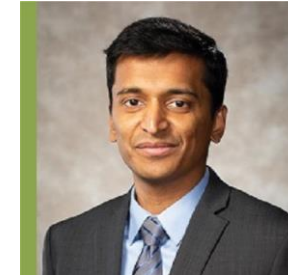
**Karen Anderson, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor  
Biodesign Institute  
School of Life Sciences  
Arizona State University



**Matthew Carpenter, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Departments of Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences  
Medical University of South Carolina



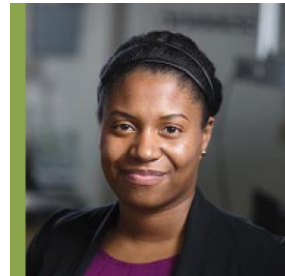
**Narasimhan Rajaram, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department of Biomedical Engineering  
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville



**Anton Bennett, Ph.D.**

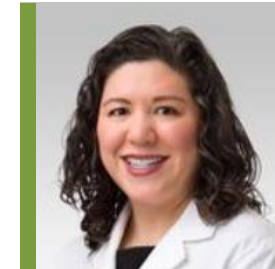
Professor  
Department of Pharmacology  
and Comparative Medicine  
Yale University



**Christine Hendon, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department of Electrical Engineering  
Columbia University

## Virtual



**Lynn Yee, M.D., M.P.H.**

Associate Professor  
Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Department of Obstetrics &  
Gynecology  
Feinberg School of Medicine  
Northwestern University

**Congratulations on her investiture later today for endowed professorship -- the Thomas J Watkins Memorial Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.**



**Leopoldo Cabassa, Ph.D.**

Professor  
George Warren Brown School of  
Social Work  
Washington University in St.  
Louis



**Michelle Janelsins-Benton, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Division of Supportive Care in Cancer  
Department of Surgery  
University of Rochester

# A special welcome to

## Our newest member...



**Jonathan Epstein, M.D.**

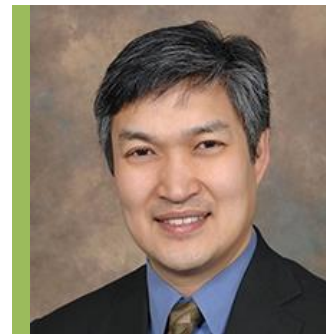
Executive Vice Dean and Chief Scientific Officer  
Department of Cell and Developmental Biology  
Perelman School of Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania

## And our September 2023 ad-hocs



**Rodney Kiplin Guy, Ph.D.**

Dean and Professor  
College of Pharmacy  
University of Kentucky



**Daniel Woo, M.D.**

Professor  
Department of Neurology  
College of Medicine  
University of Cincinnati



**Elizabeth Villa, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Section of Molecular Biology  
Division of Biological Sciences  
University of California, San Diego  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator

# Goodbye, and a big thank you!

- **First meeting:** March 2019, as ad hoc
- **Appointed Council Member:** September 2019 – December 2022
- **Co-chair,** CSRAC Working Group on Early Career Review Program (2019-2020)
- **One year extension:** January 2023 – December 2023
- **Co-chair,** CSRAC Working Group on NRSA Fellowships (2022-2023)
- **Last meeting:** September 2023

*We will miss your insight, your energy, your passion to help early-career scientists, and your ability to get things done!*



# CSR News

# CSR's Senior Leadership Team

## Division Directors



**Dr. Bruce Reed**  
Deputy Director



**Dr. John Bowers**  
Division of Translational  
and Clinical Sciences  
(DTCS)



**Dr. Valerie Durrant**  
Division of AIDS,  
Behavioral and  
Population Sciences  
(DABP)



**Dr. Raymond Jacobson**  
Division of Basic and  
Integrative Biological  
Sciences  
(DBIB)



**Dr. Delia Olufokunbi Sam**  
Division of Neuroscience,  
Development and Aging  
(DNDA)



**Dr. Ross Shonat**  
Division of Physiological  
and Pathological  
Sciences  
(DPPS)



**Ms. Bonnie Ellis**  
Executive Officer  
[Division of  
Management Services  
(DMS)]



**Dr. Dipak Bhattacharyya**  
Division of Planning,  
Analysis, and Information  
Management  
(DPAIM)



**Dr. B. Duane Price**  
Division of Receipt and  
Referral  
(DRR)

# DHHS Secretary's Commendation



- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) commendation for exceptional service and leadership during the Public Health Emergency phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic – awarded to a select few from NIH, CDC, FDA and many other HHS components.
- *“Leadership and foresight in ensuring a seamless, secure transition to virtual peer review meetings, allowing NIH to continue to support biomedical research across the U.S.” – from the nomination*

# CSR developed an Infographic for Institutions/Investigators

## Resources and Programs for NIH Grant Applicants

From the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Center for Scientific Review <https://public.csr.nih.gov>

CSR is the unit of NIH that oversees the first level of peer review for the majority of NIH grant applications, focusing on their scientific merit.

Note that CSR does not fund grants. In this infographic, we share some key information to assist scientists seeking NIH grants.

### A GREAT PLACE TO BEGIN!

Subscribe to the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts* to stay abreast of new funding opportunities and policy changes that can impact your application: <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/about-nih-guide-to-grants-and-contracts.htm>.

#### For Organization Administrative Offices:

- Start today! It can take six weeks or more for the authorizing official to complete required registrations:
- System for Award Management (SAM):** required to do business with the federal government
- eRA Commons:** required to do business with NIH
- Grants.gov:** required to submit grant applications through the federal-wide grant portal
- Small Business Administration (SBA):** required to participate in SBIR and STTR federal funding programs\*
- Authorized organization representatives must submit grant applications on behalf of scientists.
- Learn about NIH submission policies including what to do if a federal system impacts your ability to submit on time.

#### For Scientists:

- Identify a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) that fits your research by searching the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts* (see link above) and/or Grants.gov.
- If you don't have an eRA Commons account, work with your organization's account administrator to get one. eRA Commons IDs are required for all named personnel on an application and are needed to prepare your application if using the Application Submission System & Interface for Application Tracking (ASSIST). Also, obtain an ORCID ID at <https://orcid.org>.
- Work with your administrative officials on a submission plan. Discuss submission system (ASSIST, Workspace, or institutional system), roles and responsibilities, and internal deadlines.
- Upon submission, use eRA Commons Status to view your assembled application image and related documents. Work with your administrative officials to correct any issues prior to the due date.
- Continue to use eRA Commons Status to track review assignments and outcomes.

- Organization Registrations: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/prepare-to-apply-and-register/registration/org-representative-registration.htm>
- Submission Policies: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/dues-and-submission-policies/submission-policies.htm>



Learn More

### ESI RESOURCES

- Are You an Early Stage Investigator (ESI)?**
- You can extend your ESI status for certain life events, such as COVID, having a child, and health issues: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-stage/index.htm>.

### Are You an ESI Without Tenure?

- Consider CSR's **Early Career Reviewer (ECR) Program**.
- The program helps early career scientists become more competitive as grant applicants through first-hand experience with peer review.

NEW!

### NIH SUBMISSION POLICIES

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/dues-and-submission-policies/submission-policies.htm>
- Last Chance to Submit Data:** [www.csr.nih.gov](https://www.csr.nih.gov)

### TIPS FOR SCIENTISTS

- Read and carefully follow all general application guide, NOFO-specific, and related NIH Guide notice instructions.
- Do not attempt to skirt page limits by re-homing information into non-limited sections. Your application could be withdrawn.
- Consult with experienced colleagues, but do not consider another investigator's application as a "written in stone" example of what to do, or not to do.
- Use the **Assisted Referral Tool (ART)** or **Matchmaker** to match your abstract or specific aims to a study section/scientific review group, scientific review officer (SRO), and program officer (PO): <https://art.csr.nih.gov/ART/selection.jsp>; <https://reporter.nih.gov/matchmaker>. You can also search study sections at the CSR website at <https://public.csr.nih.gov>.
- Use the **Assignment Request Form** to make suggestions for study section assignment—requests cannot be guaranteed, however. Please do not suggest reviewers: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/phs-assignment-request>.
- Be sure the targeted NIH institute or center (IC) participates in the NOFO; reach out to the IC PO before applying. If we cannot assign a funding IC, your application will not move forward. The #1 reason for withdrawal is submitting under a NOFO that the targeted IC does not participate in.
- Submit early to allow time to address unforeseen issues. Corrected submissions must be made by the deadline. The 2-day viewing window does not provide extra time beyond the deadline for corrections. CSR will not accept post-submission material to address errors or omissions.
- Some ICs provide sample applications and related documents: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/resources/sample-applications.htm>.
- You can use **NIH RePORTER** (<https://reporter.nih.gov>) to search for NIH-funded colleagues from your institution. Seek them out for advice.
- Discuss your specific aims with the scientific/research contact named in the NOFO; check back in before submission, in case of changes in the IC's focus.
- When developing your application, consider seeking advice from faculty at your institution who have served as NIH peer reviewers. You may contact your grants office for this information. Do not contact current members of a study section to which your application is or might be assigned.

### RESOURCES

#### General Resources:

- Navigating NIH: <https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/outreach-navigatingNIH-flyer.pdf>
- Research Training: <https://researchtraining.nih.gov>
- FAQs: <https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/outreach-FAQs-flyer.pdf>
- Integrity and Fairness in Peer Review: <https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/outreach-bias-flyer.pdf>
- Understanding Staff Roles: <https://grants.nih.gov/help/ic-staff-roles>

#### At CSR, We Care About Fairness:

- Bias Awareness and Mitigation training for reviewers and SROs
- Diversifying review panels
- Exploring blinded review processes
- Reporting avenues for unfair review (G.Fossu\_AssocDir@csr.nih.gov) or review integrity breaches (csrio@mail.nih.gov)
- Learn more: <https://public.csr.nih.gov/AboutCSR/Address-Bias-in-Peer-Review>

#### Select Grant Writing Resources:

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm>
- NIH Grant Writing Playlist (YouTube): [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0EUw5njvqBjxGf6\\_OWt-ueCZ-yed6K](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0EUw5njvqBjxGf6_OWt-ueCZ-yed6K)
- NIH Grant Fundamentals Playlist (YouTube): [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0EUw5njvqBjxGf6\\_OWt-ueCZ-yed6K](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0EUw5njvqBjxGf6_OWt-ueCZ-yed6K)

### Talk to Us

Find submission help online at <https://www.era.nih.gov/need-help> or contact CSR's Division of Receipt and Referral ([csrdrr@mail.nih.gov](mailto:csrdrr@mail.nih.gov)) for submission and assignment questions.

Questions about review assignment or the review process: Contact your SRO (contact information on the study section webpage, or in eRA Commons following assignment).

Questions about the alignment between your grant application and an IC's funding priorities, or guidance needed after reading your summary statement: Contact the PO noted on the NOFO.

## Targeted outreach to Offices of Sponsored Research and investigators at institutions with limited NIH engagement

- Collects information from across many NIH websites into one document
- Organized by audience – Offices of Sponsored Research and investigators – on one document, so both parties understand their roles





# NIH News

# Leadership Transitions at the NIH



**Monica Bertagnolli, M.D.**  
Nominated by President Biden to be the  
17th Director of the National Institutes  
of Health



**Jeanne M. Marrazzo, M.D.**  
Director  
National Institute of Allergy  
and Infectious Diseases  
(NIAID)



**Jane M. Simoni, Ph.D.**  
NIH Associate Director  
for Behavioral and Social  
Sciences Research &  
Director, NIH Office of  
Behavioral and Social  
Sciences Research  
(OBSSR)



**Dr. Karina Walters, Ph.D.,  
M.S.W.**  
Director  
NIH's Tribal Health  
Research Office (THRO)



**Patricia Flatley Brennan,  
R.N., Ph.D.**  
retiring as Director,  
National Library of  
Medicine (NLM)

# Update on NIH Budget FY24

- Because of the spending caps set by the law that increased the federal debt limit, **NIH's appropriations probably will be essentially flat in FY 2024** compared to FY 23, despite the Administration's request in the President's Budget for a higher NIH total budget.
- The **House bill included a reduction to the NIH budget of more than \$3.7 billion** focused on several specific NIH ICs and research programs but **left most IC budget levels flat compared to FY 2023.**
- The **Senate bill included a small increase of \$265 million to the NIH budget** for initiatives in several ICs, but like the House bill, it also **left most IC budget levels flat compared to FY 2023.**
- Negotiations ongoing - need an **appropriated budget or a Continuing Resolution by Sept 30** to avoid government shutdown
- **NIH is preparing for the likelihood of tight funding in FY 24.**



# RFI seeking public input on NIH Mission Statement

## Request for Information (RFI): Inviting Comments and Suggestions on Updating the NIH Mission Statement

### Notice Number:

NOT-OD-23-163

### Key Dates

#### Release Date:

August 25, 2023

#### Response Date:

November 24, 2023

### Related Announcements

None

### Issued by

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

### Purpose

This Notice is a Request for Information (RFI) inviting feedback on a proposed update to the NIH mission statement. As the largest public funder of biomedical and behavioral research in the world, NIH works to turn scientific discoveries into better health for all. This RFI will inform NIH's efforts to update its mission statement to ensure that it reflects the NIH mission as accurately as possible.

Review of this entire RFI notice is encouraged to ensure your response is comprehensive and to have a full understanding of how it will be used.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-163.html>

- In response to the December 2022 report of the NIH Advisory Council to the Director (ACD) Diversity Working Group's **Sub-group on Individuals with Disabilities**
- **Current:** "To seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to *enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.*"
- **Proposed:** "To seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to *optimize health and prevent or reduce illness for all people.*"
- **Response due by: November 24, 2023**

# June 2023 NIH Guide Notice: Use of AI by Peer Reviewers is Prohibited

- [NOT-OD-23-149](#) – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technologies is Prohibited for the NIH Peer Review Process
- All NIH Peer Reviewers will be required to sign and submit a modified Security, Confidentiality and Nondisclosure Agreement certifying .... the prohibition on uploading or sharing content or original concepts from an NIH grant application, R&D contract proposal, or critique to online generative AI tools.

The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technologies is Prohibited for the NIH Peer Review Process

Notice Number:  
NOT-OD-23-149

Key Dates

Release Date:  
June 23, 2023



## Using AI in Peer Review Is a Breach of Confidentiality

By Mike Lauer, Stephanie Constant and Amy Wernimont  
Posted June 23, 2023

28 Comments

“As the scientific community continues to evolve, we seek to streamline the peer-review process. One such technology that shows great promise is artificial intelligence (AI). AI-based peer review has the potential to make the process more efficient, accurate, and impartial, ultimately leading to better outcomes for the scientific community.”

### Review Matters

#### Using AI in Peer Review Is a Breach of Confidentiality

Authors



Mike Lauer  
Deputy Director for Extramural Research,  
NIH



Stephanie Constant  
Review Policy Officer, NIH



Amy Wernimont  
Chief of Staff, CSR, NIH

June 23, 2023

“As the scientific community continues to evolve, it is essential to leverage the latest technology to streamline the peer-review process. One such technology that shows great promise is artificial intelligence (AI). AI-based peer review has the potential to make the process more efficient, accurate, and impartial, ultimately leading to better outcomes for the scientific community.”

<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2023/06/23/using-ai-in-peer-review-is-a-breach-of-confidentiality/>  
<https://www.csr.nih.gov/reviewmatters/2023/06/23/using-ai-in-peer-review-is-a-breach-of-confidentiality/>

# July 2023 NIH Guide Notice: (CSR-Developed) Bias and Integrity Training Required for all NIH Reviewers

- [NOT-OD-23-156](#) – Effective May 2024 Council Round, Review Integrity and Bias Awareness Training will be Required for NIH Reviewers
- NIH leadership/IC Directors' decision to require CSR-developed Bias and Integrity Training for all NIH reviewers – i.e. reviewers will not have access to assigned applications in IAR until training is completed
- >22,000 CSR reviewers have already completed training - records will reflect completion, will not need to retake
- Once ~every 3 yrs, refreshed content, developed by CSR

Review Integrity and Bias Awareness Training will be Required for NIH Reviewers Effective May 2024 Council Round

Notice Number:  
NOT-OD-23-156

## Key Dates

Release Date:  
July 11, 2023

## Related A

- December  
Possible C

The screenshot shows the NIH extramural NEXUS website. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for NIH Grants & Funding, Blog Policies, Contact, and RSS Feeds. Below the navigation is a 'SUBSCRIBE' button. The main content area features a news article with a profile picture of Mike Lauer. The article title is 'Strengthening Integrity and Fairness in Peer Review Through New Required Trainings'. It is by Mike Lauer and was posted on July 11, 2023. There are 41 comments and social media share buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. At the bottom of the article, it states: 'Effective for the May 2024 council round (peer review meetings in early 2024), all reviewers will be required to complete'.

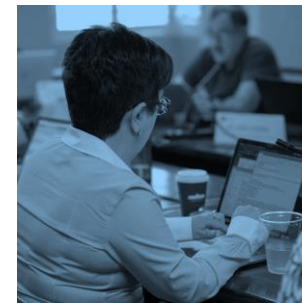
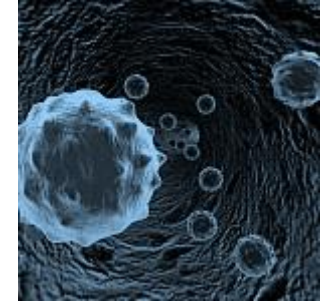
<https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2023/07/11/strengthening-integrity-and-fairness-in-peer-review-through-new-required-trainings/>



# Scope, Strategic Framework and Agenda

# CSR's Mission

To ensure that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely scientific reviews - free from inappropriate influences - so NIH can fund the most promising research.





# Scope [FY23 applications]

  
~79,000  
NIH Applications



  
~60,000 (76%)  
Reviewed by CSR



**94%**  
of NIH R01s



**96%**  
of NIH SBIRs-STTRs



**84%**  
of NIH NRSA Fellowships

~19,000 reviewers, ~1,200 meetings

# FY23: 161 Special Initiatives Reviewed by CSR



NIH DIRECTOR'S  
TRANSFORMATIVE  
RESEARCH  
AWARD

NIH DIRECTOR'S  
NEW INNOVATOR  
AWARD



NIH DIRECTOR'S  
PIONEER  
A·W·A·R·D



NIH DIRECTOR'S  
EARLY  
INDEPENDENCE  
AWARD

## NIH HEAL INITIATIVE



Tobacco Regulatory Science Program



National Institutes of Health  
Counter  
**ACT**  
Countermeasures  
Against Chemical  
Threats



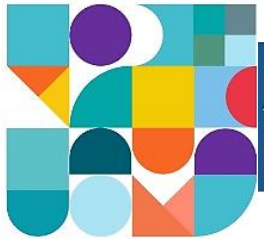
**HuBMAP**  
Human BioMolecular Atlas Program



**DS-I Africa**  
Data Science for Health Discovery  
and Innovation in Africa



INCLUDE PROJECT



Translational  
Research to  
Address Health  
Disparities  
and Advance  
Health Equity



**ComPASS**  
Community Partnerships to  
Advance Science for Society



**CGE**  
Somatic Cell Genome Editing



4D Nucleome



CryoEM



SenNet



**RECOVER**  
Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery



**ECHO**  
Environmental influences  
on Child Health Outcomes  
A program supported by the NIH



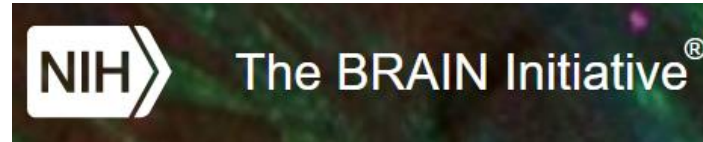
**FIRST**  
Faculty Institutional Recruitment  
for Sustainable Transformation



**All of Us**  
RESEARCH PROGRAM



**IMPROVE Initiative**  
Implementing a Maternal health  
and PRegnancy Outcomes  
Vision for Everyone



**NIH** The BRAIN Initiative®



**Native American Research  
Centers for Health (NARCH)**

# CSR's Strategic Framework for Optimizing Peer Review

## Today's Presentations



Joseph Rudolph, Ph.D.  
Lambratu Rahman Sesay, Ph.D.  
Elena Smirnova, Ph.D.  
Background/Thoughts on  
Reviewer Evaluation

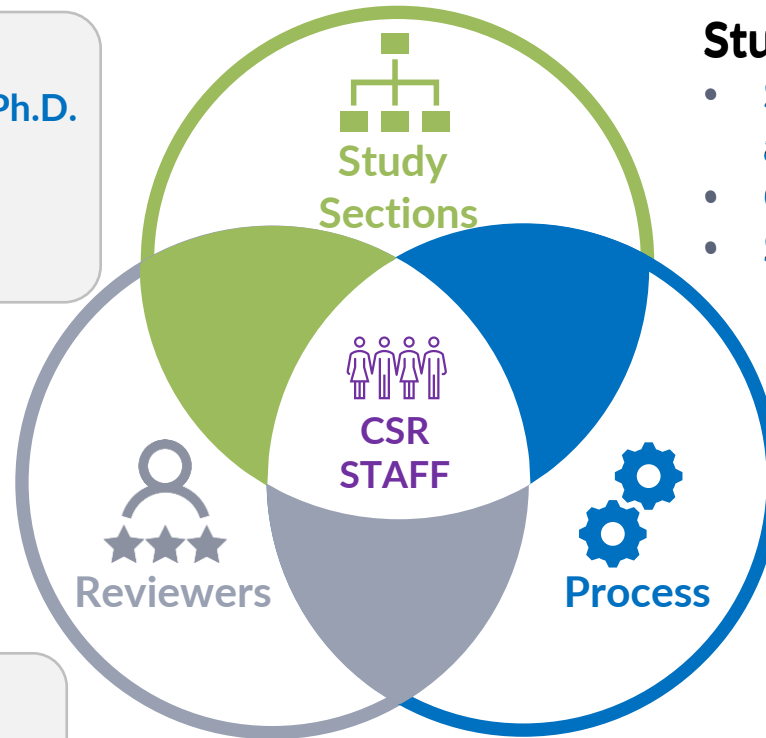


### Reviewers

- Reviewer Training
- Broaden/Diversify Reviewer Pool
- Incentivizing Service
- **Reviewer Evaluation**
- **Reviewer Selection**



Bruce Reed, Ph.D.  
Nomination Slates



### Study Sections

- **Scientific Scope** (relevance, adapting to emerging areas, not perpetuating stale science)
- **Output** (identification of meritorious science)
- **Size appropriate for competition**



Ross Shonat, Ph.D.  
ENQUIRE: Immunology and  
Respiratory Systems

### Process

- Confidentiality/Integrity
- Fairness/Bias Mitigation
- Assignment/Referral of Applications
- **Review Criteria and Scoring System**



Transparency



Data-driven decisions



Stakeholder engagement



Staff engagement, training, development

# Update from Cochairs of Trans-NIH Implementation Efforts of Changes to RPG and NRSA Fellowship Peer Review



## Simplified Review Framework for Research Project Grants

**Mark Caprara**, Ph.D., Review Branch Chief, CSR

**Brian Hoshaw**, Ph.D., Scientific Review Branch Chief, National Eye Institute (NEI)

**Lisa Steele**, Ph.D., Review Branch Chief, CSR



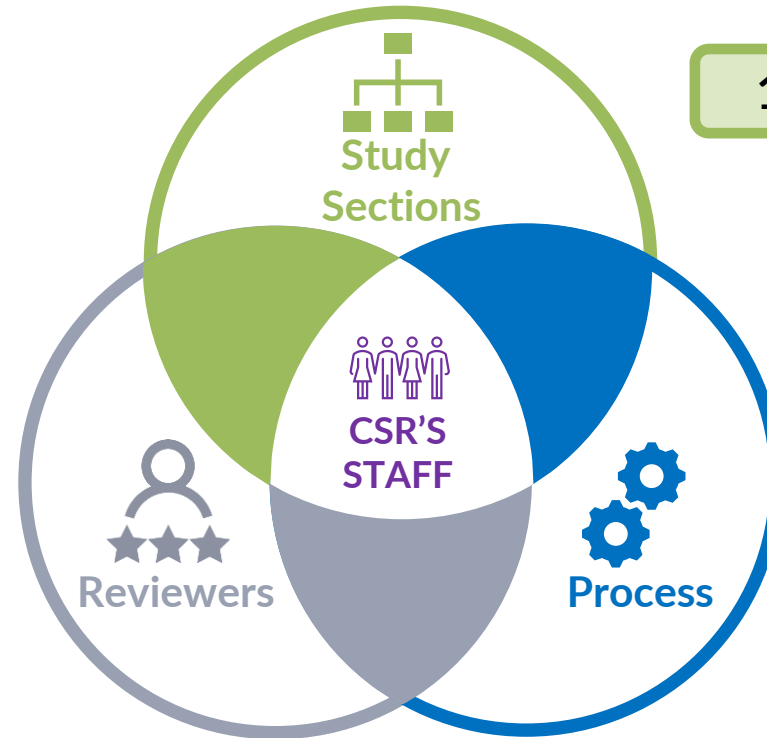
## Improving NRSA Fellowship Review and Application

**Ericka Boone**, Ph.D., Director, Division of Biomedical Research Workforce, NIH Office of Extramural Research (OER)

**Alison Gammie**, Ph.D., Director, Division of Training, Workforce Development and Diversity, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

**Bruce Reed**, Ph.D., Deputy Director, CSR

# Today's Biannual CSR Update for Council



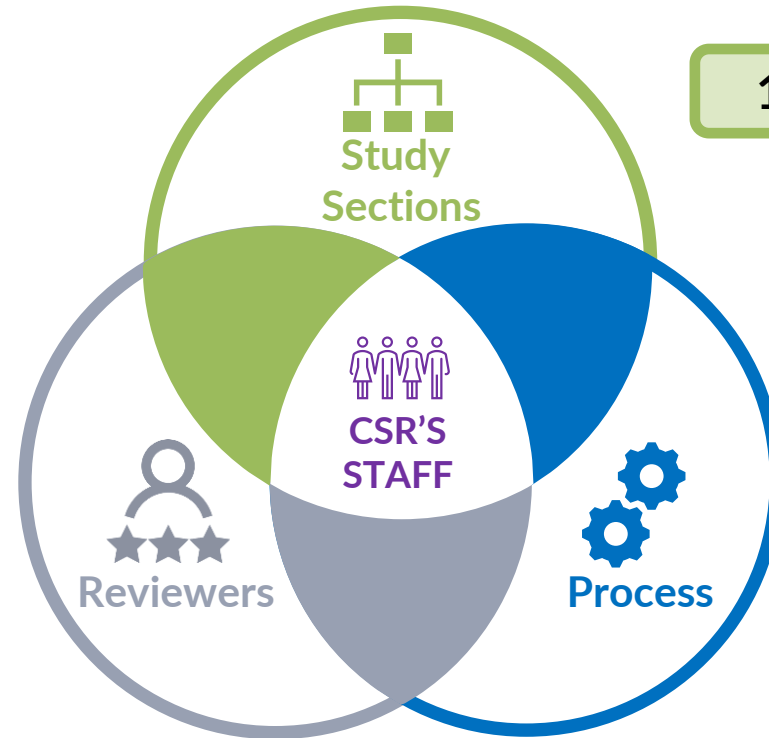
1. Quick overview - ENQUIRE

2. An Update on Study Section Meetings

3. Engaging CSR Advisory Council

- Transparency
- Data-driven decisions
- Stakeholder engagement
- Staff engagement, training, development

# Today's CSR Update for Council



1. Quick overview - ENQUIRE

- Transparency
- Data-driven decisions
- Stakeholder engagement
- Staff engagement, training, development

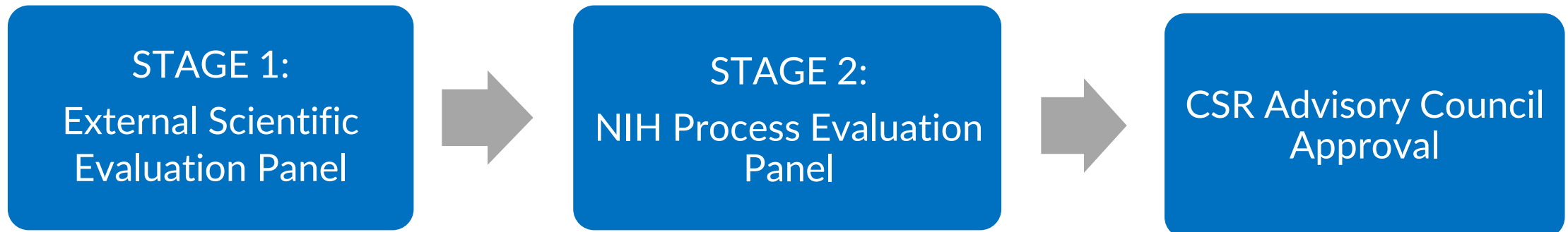
# Study Section Evaluation, Restructuring

## ENQUIRE: Evaluating Panel Quality In Review

Launched in 2019, a systematic, data-driven, continuous process to evaluate study sections – about 20% of CSR study sections assessed per year, i.e. each study section assessed every five years

**Stage 1 [Scientific Evaluation]:** Evaluate scientific currency of study sections to optimize identification of high impact research. Identify emerging areas, declining areas, create/merge/sunset study sections (*panel provided with output/publication data, ESI outcomes data, sample abstracts/aims, & more*)

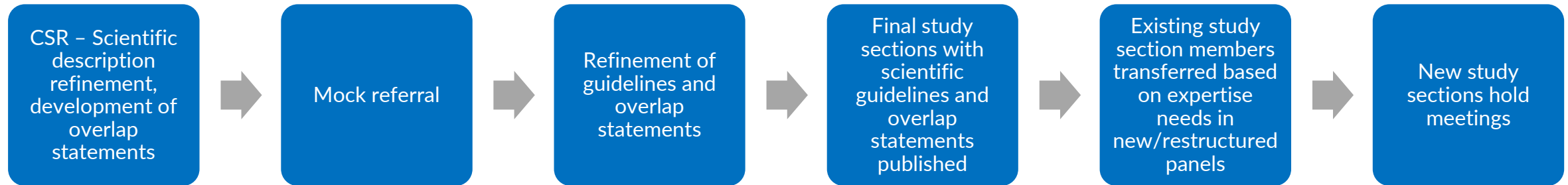
**Stage 2 [Process Evaluation]:** Evaluate study section function and recommend changes to optimize identification of highest impact research (*panel provided with application number trends, score distributions, roster expertise, reports of meeting dynamics through study section site visits, program feedback & more*)



The entire ENQUIRE process is overseen by CSR's Scientific Division Directors

# ENQUIRE Implementation Process

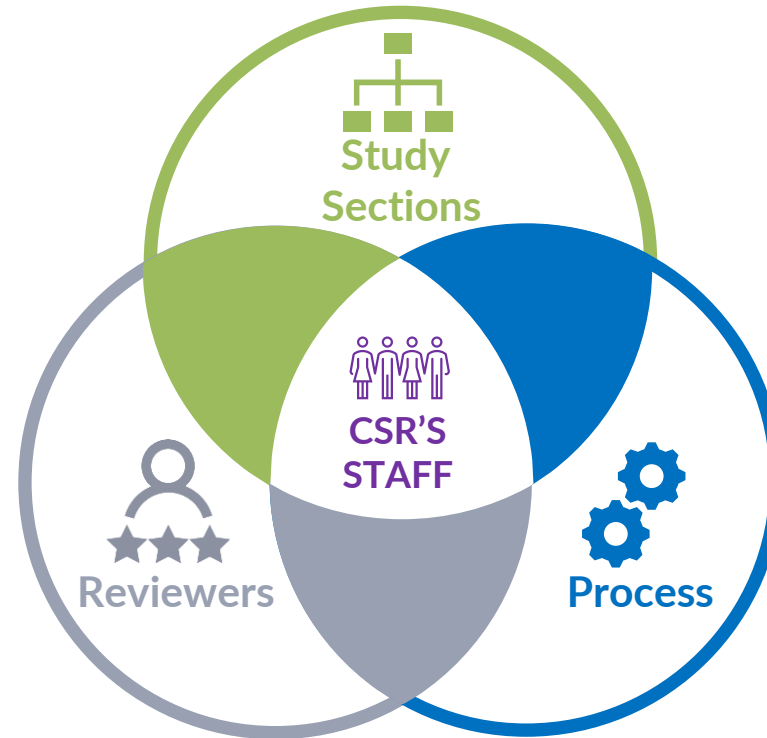
Multiple steps following CSR Advisory Council approval



ENQUIRE takes about 12-18 months from initiation to implementation of new or restructured study sections



# Today's Biannual CSR Update for Council



2. An Update on Study Section Meetings

- Transparency
- Data-driven decisions
- Stakeholder engagement
- Staff engagement, training, development

# In-person study section meetings resumed in FY23 (Fall 2022)

**Goal:** 1 of 3 meetings per year to be in-person for study sections with standing/recurring membership (~220 meetings per year)

- Oct/Nov 2022: **76** in-person meetings
- Feb/Mar 2023: **57** in-person meetings
- June/July 2023: **88** in-person meetings
- Oct/Nov 2023: ~**78** in-person meetings



# Analysis of fall 2022 in-person vs. virtual study sections is complete

- **Reviewer surveys** indicated high ratings for overall quality of review regardless of meeting format, some differences in preference of format (in-person attendees strongly preferred in-person formats, virtual attendees had a more evenly-distributed preference), engagement was rated lower in virtual meetings
- **Roster analysis** indicated no significant differences in virtual vs. in-person participation of women/URMs, senior/midcareer/junior, experienced/new
- **Scoring analysis** indicated no differences in out-of-range scoring or score shifts during meeting for overall impact scores among assigned reviewers in virtual vs. in-person meetings, minor differences in overall impact scores (slightly better in virtual) and proportion of discussed applications (slightly better in in-person)
- **Detailed data/analyses** the full report: [CSR Analysis of Fall 2022 In-Person and Virtual Peer Review Meetings](#)

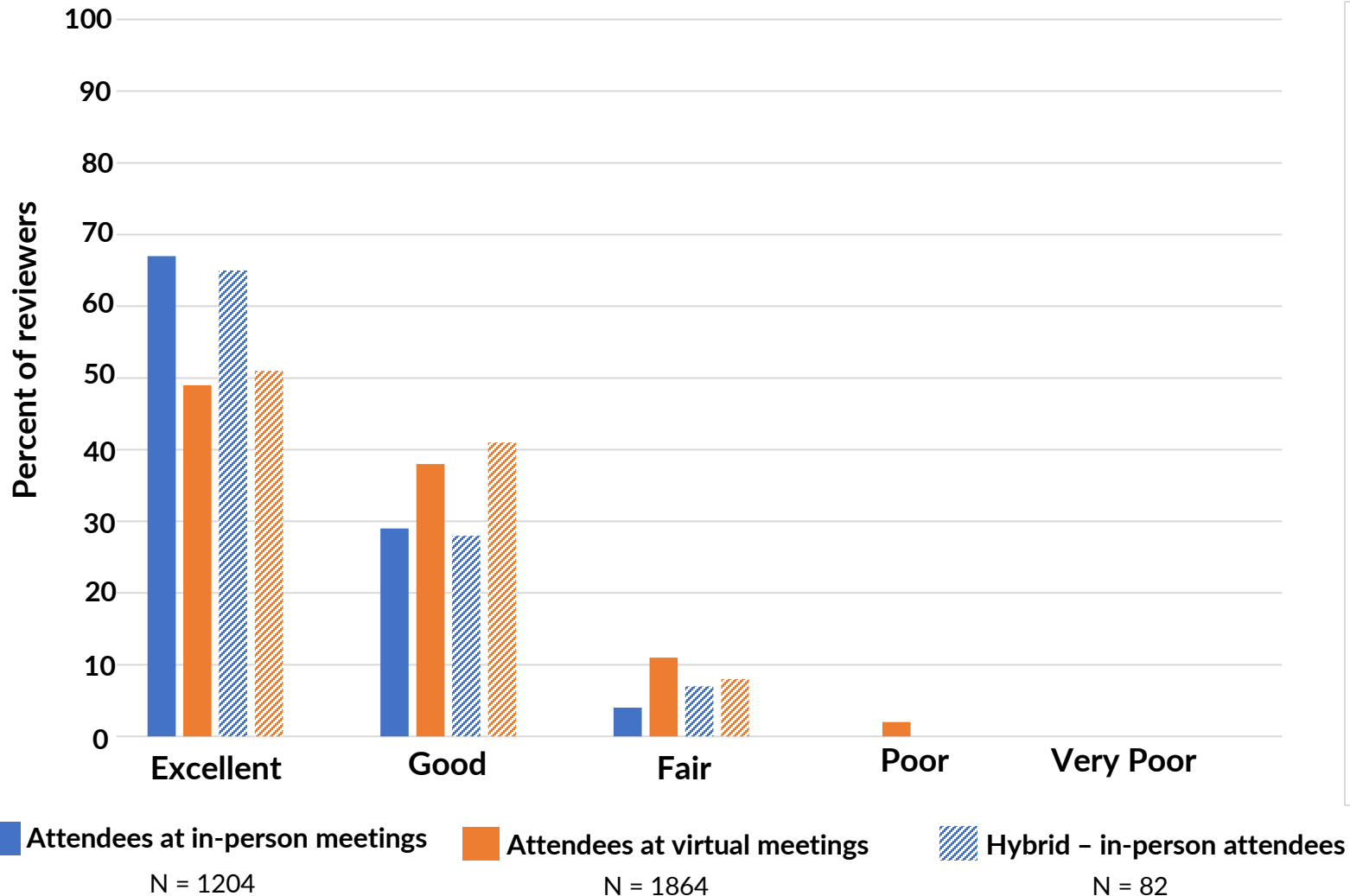
# Piloting Hybrid Review Meetings

- **In NIH conference rooms, not local hotels** - technology infrastructure, support, security issues
- **A focus on high-quality reviews**
  - **Technology** – seamless , integrated experience e.g. new AI voice activated cameras
  - **Equity** - best practices for recruitment, participation, room setup
  - **Engagement** - best practices for Chairs/SROs/others re: engagement of virtual participants
  - **Management** - training and resources for SROs, Chairs, support staff
- **CSR Staff Hybrid Review Meeting Working Group** produced initial guidance & best practices → will be informed by what we learn from more hybrids over the next year



# Analysis of summer 2023 meetings (in-person, hybrid, virtual) is ongoing

Full report expected by October 2023



The hybrid format appears to show promise –

- In-person attendees had an experience very similar to that of reviewers at in-person meetings
- Virtual attendees had an experience similar to that of reviewers at fully virtual meetings
- Hybrids offer the positives of both meeting formats – can fit reviewer needs and lower barriers to participation

# Increasing the numbers of hybrid review meetings

- **Feb/Mar 2023:** Goal was 10-15, but held only 1 hybrid meeting (due to SRO skepticism re: uncertainty of logistics/lack of information for planning)
- **CSR Staff Hybrid Review Meeting Working Group** pivoted to encouraging participation in the pilot - held open-houses to publicize hybrid meeting rooms, capabilities, multiple resources with info re: logistics, technology
- **June/July 2023:** 12 hybrids held
- **FY24 and beyond** – aiming for 25-30 hybrids per council round to get a more robust set of data to improve practices and inform future goals

## CSR Hybrid Peer Review Meetings

Schedule your hybrid peer review meeting today!



### What is a hybrid review meeting?

**Hybrid peer review meetings definition:** A FACA meeting taking place in NIH Office of Research Services (ORS) shared rooms in Rockledge, where there is a mix of in-person and remote participants on Zoom video.

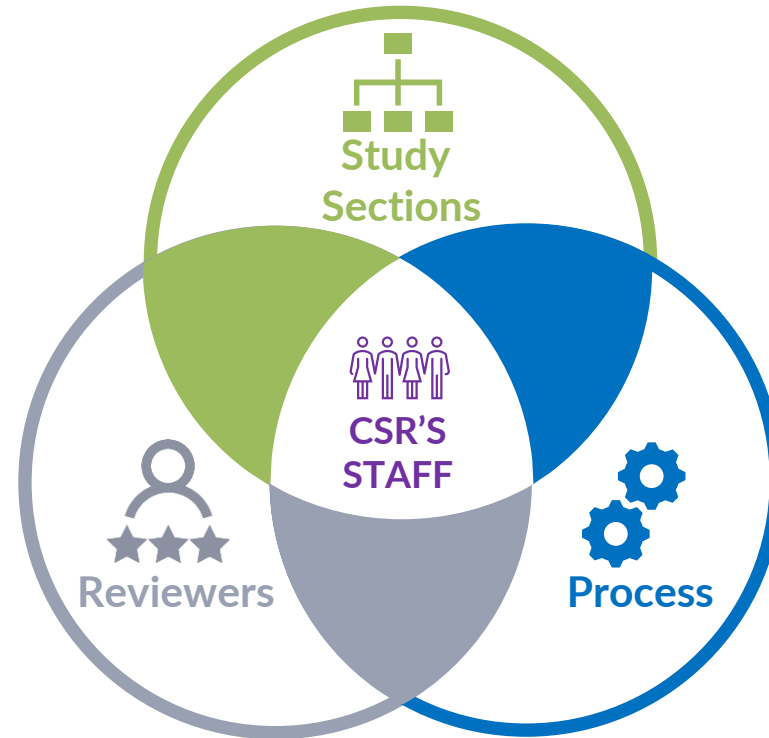
### Why schedule a hybrid review meeting?

CSR has identified a number of rooms in our ORS-shared space in Rockledge II with hybrid capabilities. Our talented Events Management Staff are dedicated to ensuring your meeting experience is a streamlined and positive one! Our staff have deep expertise with the equipment, experience in review, and our rooms have been engineered with review meetings in mind. To find out more, please reach out to: [csreventsmgmt@mail.nih.gov](mailto:csreventsmgmt@mail.nih.gov)

### With hybrid peer review meetings, we can benefit from the best of both worlds:

- ✔ Flexibility for reviewers with multiple modes of participation.
- ✔ Facilitate the inclusion of reviewers who are unable to attend in-person.
- ✔ Provide greater flexibility for those who may have travel constraints or prefer virtual participation.
- ✔ Offers a more engaging and interactive experience through the use of Zoom video rather than Zoom audio for remote participants of in-person meetings.
- ✔ Be supported by the dedicated technical and administrative staff at CSR

# Today's CSR Update for Council



## 3. Engaging CSR's Advisory Council



Transparency



Data-driven decisions



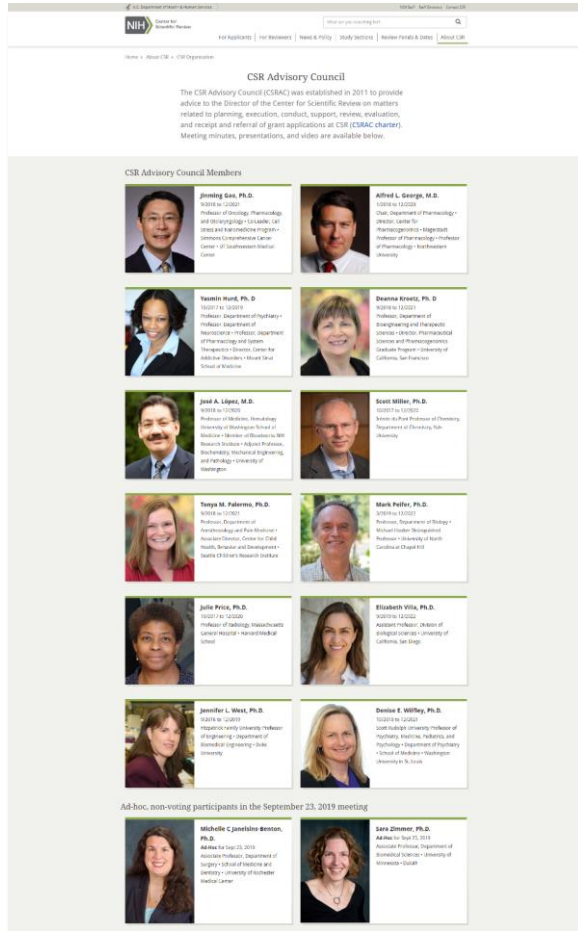
Stakeholder engagement



Staff engagement, training, development

# In March 2019 – Introduced an expanded role for CSR’s Advisory Council

## New Council Website



## Council Announcements/Videocast on Social Media



## Council Working Groups

**NIH Center for Scientific Review**

**Advisory Council Meeting**  
 Location: 6701 Rockledge Dr, 3rd floor conference rooms  
 Bethesda, MD 20817  
 Date: September 23rd, 2019  
 Time: 8:30 a.m.  
 Executive Secretary: Cathleen Cooper, Ph.D., Acting Deputy Director

- Welcome and Introductions** 8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.  
Noni Byrnes, Ph.D., Director, Center for Scientific Review
- CSR Update** 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  
Noni Byrnes, Ph.D.
- Break** 9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- ENQUIRE** 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Valerie Durant, Ph.D., Director, Division of AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences, CSR  
Lawrence Beetsaem, Ph.D., Director, Division of Physiological and Pathological Sciences, CSR  
John Bowers, Ph.D., Director, Division of Translational and Clinical Sciences, CSR  
Bruce Reed, Ph.D., Director, Division of Neuroscience, Development and Aging, CSR
- Peek Under Hood: SRO Training**, m.d., Deputy Director, Craig G. Fox, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Center for Scientific Strategy and Development, NCI
- IX. Early Career Review Working Group Report** 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Mark Peifer, Ph.D., Michael Hooker Distinguished Professor, UNC Elizabeth Villa, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, UCSD
- X. Review Integrity Training Working Group Report** 2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Scott Miller, Ph.D., Irénée du Pont Professor of Chemistry, Yale
- XI. Council Discussion on Topics of Interest** 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Closing Remarks** 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
- Adjourn**



# CSRAC Review Integrity Working Group

## Council Members



Scott Miller, Ph.D.  
Yale University



Tonya Palermo, Ph.D.  
University of Washington



Denise Wilfley, Ph.D.  
Washington University  
St. Louis



Jinming Gao, Ph.D.  
UT Southwestern Medical  
Center



Deanna Kroetz, Ph.D.  
University of California  
San Francisco

## CSR Staff



Kathryn Koeller, Ph.D.  
Research/Review Integrity  
Officer



Miriam Mintzer, Ph.D.  
Scientific Review Officer



Raul Rojas, Ph.D.  
Scientific Review Officer

- Convened in March 2019
- Advised on content for Reviewer Integrity Training Module Development v1, launched for CSR in January 2020
- Served as the basis for Reviewer Integrity Training Module v2 launched for CSR in August 2022

**Required for all NIH reviewers, May 2024 Council**

NIH Center for Scientific Review

CSR Reviewer Training

64% complete

Home  
Introduction  
Reviewer Responsibilities  
Applicant Responsibilities  
Breach of Integrity  
Exercises  
Consequences  
Conclusion  
Feedback

**EXERCISE 3**

For the following exercise, please watch the video and then answer the question that follows:

Dr. Martinez and Dr. Jones are having a conversation while the XYZ study section is taking its morning coffee break.

Video (1:13 min.)

*Dr. Martinez:* ...So I ran into Michelle at the Biopharma Society Meeting last month.

*Dr. Jones:* Really? How's she doing?

*Dr. Martinez:* Oh, she's doing great, actually. She gave a fascinating talk at the meeting and she got awarded her first R01.

Show/Hide Text Version

Next

# CSRAC Early Career Reviewer Working Group

## Council Members



Mark Peifer, Ph.D.  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill



Elizabeth Villa, Ph.D.  
University of California San Diego

## Ad Hocs (Former Early Career Reviewers)



Vinay Aakalu, M.D., MPH  
University of Illinois Chicago



Lisa Jones, Ph.D.  
University of Maryland



Stephanie Cook, Ph.D., MPH  
New York University



Manuel Llano, M.D., Ph.D.  
University of Texas EL Paso

## CSR Staff



Kristin Kramer, Ph.D.



Antonello Pileggi, Ph.D.

- Convened in July 2019
- Redesigned the CSR ECR program;
  - Better targets early-career investigators
  - Enhanced qualification criteria, reduced barriers to participation
  - More consistency in assessment of eligibility, better tracking
  - Increase from 1 to 2 ECRs per standing study section per round

**New ECR program launched in January 2020.**

Home > For Reviewers > Become a Reviewer

## Early Career Reviewer (ECR) Program

The program aims to help early career scientists become more competitive as grant applicants through first-hand experience with peer review and to enrich and diversify CSR's pool of trained reviewers.

[Benefits of ECR](#) | [Qualifications for ECR](#) | [Apply to ECR](#) | [ECR Training](#) | [ECR Webinars](#)

## ECR Qualifications

### Employment

You have at least 1 year of experience as a fulltime faculty member or researcher in a similar role. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible.

You must be an Assistant Professor or in an equivalent role. Because the program is focused on early career scientists, Associate Professors are not eligible.

### Research

You show evidence of an active, independent research program. Examples include publications, presentations, institutional research support, patents, acting as supervisor of student projects.

### Grant & Review History

You have not served on an NIH study section in any capacity aside from as a mail reviewer. (Mail reviews do not include participation in the meeting.)

You have not held an R01 or R01-equivalent (R35, R37, RF1, R23, R29, DP1, DP2, DP5, U01, RL1) grant in the PD/PI role

You must have submitted a grant proposal, in the PI/PD role, to the NIH and received the associated summary statement.



# CSRAC Simplifying Review Working Groups

## Council Members



Jinming Gao, Ph.D. (non-CT)  
UT Southwestern Medical  
Center



Deanna Kroetz, Ph.D. (non-CT)  
University of California, San  
Francisco



Alfred George, M.D. (Both)  
Northwestern University



José López, M.D. (non-CT)  
Northwest Research Institute



Yasmin Hurd, Ph.D. (Both)  
Mount Sinai School of  
Medicine



Tonya Palermo, Ph.D. (Co-Chair) (Both)  
University of Washington

## Working Group Ad Hocs



Brian Boyd, Ph.D. (CT)  
University of Kansas



Kevin Corbett, Ph.D. (non-CT)  
University of California, San Diego



Michelle Janelins-Benton, Ph.D. (Both)  
University of Rochester Medical Center



Brooks King-Casas, Ph.D. (Both)  
Virginia Tech School of Medicine



Matthew Carpenter, Ph.D. (CT)  
Medical University of South Carolina



Pamela Munster, M.D. (CT)  
University of California San  
Francisco

## NIH Staff



Sally Amero, Ph.D. (Both)  
Review Policy Officer (Retired)  
NIH Office of Extramural  
Research



Bruce Reed, Ph.D. (Co-Chair) (Both)  
Deputy Director  
NIH Center for Scientific Review

- Convened in September 2019 (non-CT) and March 2020 (CT)
- Restructured review criteria for RPGs to remove administrative distractions, mitigate reputational bias.
- A single set of review criteria – for non-CT and CT

**Implementation planned for applications submitted for October 2025 Council**

# CSRAC Bias Awareness Working Group

## Council Members



Scott Miller, Ph.D.  
Yale University



Julie Price, Ph.D.  
Harvard Medical School



Narasimhan Rajaram, Ph.D.  
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville

## Working Group Ad Hocs



Doug Andres, Ph.D.  
University of Kentucky



Markus Brauer, Ph.D.  
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Elizabeth Cosgriff-Hernandez, Ph.D.  
University of Texas, Austin



Carlos Crespo, Ph.D.  
Portland State University



Karine Gibbs, Ph.D.  
University of California, Berkeley



Xuemei Huang, Ph.D.  
Pennsylvania State University



Rakale Quarells, Ph.D.  
Morehouse College



Germán Rosas-Acosta, Ph.D.  
University of Texas at El Paso



Steve Varga, Ph.D.  
University of Iowa

## NIH Staff



Hope Cummings, Ph.D.  
CSR



Kristin Kramer, Ph.D.  
CSR



Charlene Le Fauve, Ph.D.  
COSWD



Michael Sesma, Ph.D.  
NIGMS



Tasmeen Weik, Ph.D.  
CSR

- Convened in April 2021
- Advised on content for Bias Awareness and Mitigation training module
- Launched for CSR reviewers - Aug 2021

**Required for all NIH reviewers, May 2024 Council**

# CSRAC Fellowship Working Group

## Council Members



Scott Miller, Ph.D.  
Yale University



Narasimhan Rajaram, Ph.D.  
University of Arkansas at  
Fayetteville



Elizabeth Villa, Ph.D.  
University of California San  
Diego

## Working Group Ad Hocs



Michael Burton, Ph.D.  
University of Texas at Dallas



Katherine Friedman, Ph.D.  
Vanderbilt University



Barbara Kazmierczak, MD, Ph.D.  
Yale University



Robin Queen, Ph.D.  
Virginia Tech



Nathan Vanderford, Ph.D.  
University of Kentucky



Judith Yanowitz, Ph.D.  
Magee-Women's Research  
Institute

## NIH Staff



Ericka Boone, Ph.D.  
NIH OD



Lystranne Maynard-Smith, Ph.D.  
CSR



Cibu Thomas, Ph.D.  
CSR



Alison Gammie, Ph.D.  
NIGMS

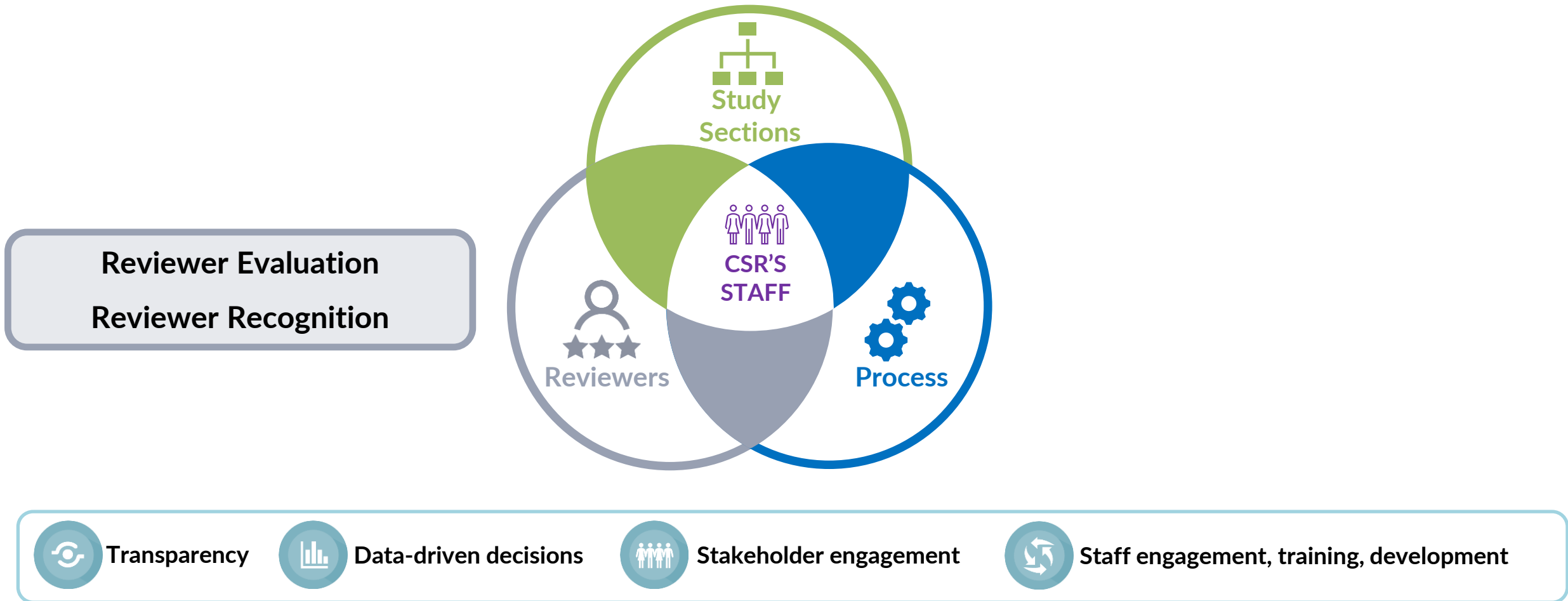


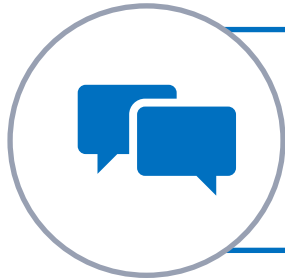
Bruce Reed, Ph.D.  
CSR

- Convened in December 2021
- Final recommendations included restructuring of review criteria and application to ensure the identification of the most promising scientists of the future and a targeted training plan
- Approved by full CSR Advisory Council and NIH leadership in 2022.

**Implementation planned in  
2025**

# Two new CSRAC Working Groups to be launched in October 2023





# Discussion