



Center for  
Scientific Review

## CSR Update

Noni Byrnes, Ph.D.  
Director  
Center for Scientific Review  
March 25, 2024

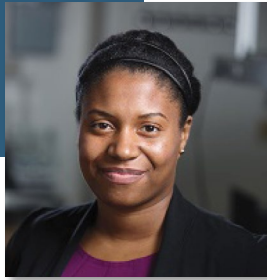


# Welcome: Continuing CSR Advisory Council Members



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

Associate Dean of Strategic Research Initiatives  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Professor  
Biodesign Center for Personalized Diagnostics  
Arizona State University



## **Christine Hendon, Ph.D.**

Vice Dean of Diversity and Strategic  
Partnerships  
Associate Professor  
Department of Electrical Engineering  
Columbia University

## **Not attending**



## **Matthew Carpenter, Ph.D.**

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



## **Anton Bennett, Ph.D.**

Dorys McConnell Duberg Professor of  
Pharmacology  
Professor of Comparative Medicine  
Director, Yale Center for Molecular and  
Systems Metabolism  
Director, BBS Minority Affairs



## **Narasimhan Rajaram, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department of Biomedical Engineering  
University of Arkansas at Fayetteville



## **Leopoldo Cabassa, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Co-Director of the Center for Mental Health  
Services Research  
Washington University in St. Louis



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

Thomas J. Watkins Memorial Professor of  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Associate Professor of Obstetrics and  
Gynecology (Maternal Fetal Medicine)  
Feinberg School of Medicine  
Northwestern University

# Congratulations....



**Jonathan Epstein, M.D.**

**As of 12/2023:**

**Interim Executive Vice  
President, University of  
Pennsylvania for the Health System  
Dean, Raymond and Ruth Perelman  
School of Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania**



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

**As of 4/2024:**

**Professor, Division of Supportive  
Care  
Gary R. Morrow Distinguished  
Professor of Supportive Care  
University of Rochester**



# A special welcome to

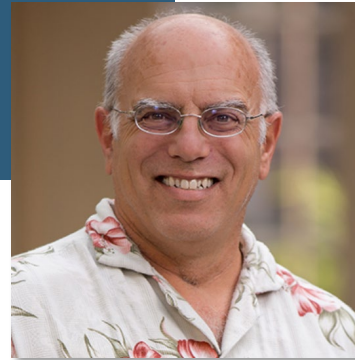
## Our newest member



**Donna Ginther, Ph.D.**

Roy A. Roberts & Regents Distinguished  
Professor of Economics  
Director, Institute for Policy and Social  
Research  
University of Kansas

## And our March 2024 ad-hocs



**Manuel Ares, Jr., Ph.D.**

HHMI Professor  
Distinguished Professor  
Department of Molecular, Cell  
and Developmental Biology  
University of California, Santa  
Cruz



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

Dean and Professor  
Department of Pharmaceutical  
Sciences  
College of Pharmacy  
University of Kentucky



**Lali Medina-Kauwe, Ph.D.**

Carol Moss Foundation Chair  
in Medical Discovery  
Professor  
Department of Biomedical  
Sciences  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center



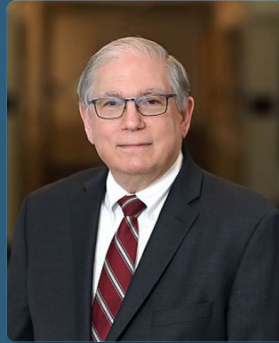
# NIH News

# Leadership Transitions at the NIH



**Monica Bertagnoli, M.D.**

Appointed on November 9, 2023 by President Biden to be the 17th Director of the National Institutes of Health



**Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.**

Principal Deputy Director  
National Institutes of Health



**Sean Mooney, Ph.D.**

Director  
Center for Information  
Technology (CIT)



**W. Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D.**

Director  
National Cancer Institute (NCI)

# Other Leadership Transitions at the NIH



**Lyric Jorgenson, Ph.D.**

Associate Director for  
Office of Science Policy  
(OSP)



**Tara Schwetz, Ph.D.**

Deputy Director for  
Program Coordination,  
Planning, and Strategic  
Initiatives (DCPSI)



**Andrew Bremer, M.D., Ph.D.**

Director  
Office of Nutrition  
Research (ONR)

**As of June 2024**



**Joshua Gordon, M.D., Ph.D.**

Retiring as Director,  
National Institute of  
Mental Health (NIMH)



**Shelli Avenevoli, Ph.D.**

Acting Director  
National Institute of  
Mental Health (NIMH)

# Update on NIH Budget

**BREAKING  
NEWS**

- A budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 was passed by Congress and signed by the President on Saturday.
- Excluding ARPA-H (\$1.5B), NIH is provided with \$47.081B in FY24 - **an increase of \$300 million** over FY23.
- Note: CSR's FY24 budget (along with those of the Clinical Center, Center for Information Technology, Office of Extramural Research) is unaffected, funded through IC taps, not congressionally appropriated. CSR's budget is <0.4% of the NIH extramural budget

More information: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2882>





# Advisory Committee to the NIH Director (ACD) Working Group (WG) on Re-envisioning NIH-Supported Postdoctoral Training

Recommendations

1

Increase pay and benefits for all NIH-supported postdoctoral scholars.

2

Create and expand mechanisms to support the full talent pool of postdoctoral scholars.

3

Facilitate transition of postdoctoral scholars into their next career stage, including roles beyond academic faculty.

4

Promote training and professional development of postdoctoral scholars and their mentors.

5

Support safe and diverse perspectives and research environments within institutional research programs.

6

Improve means to measure and share postdoctoral scholars' career progression.

Prioritized by WG

Increase salary, annually adjusted to inflation; minimum \$70K NRSA post-doc stipend in 2024. Encourage this as the minimum for all NIH-supported post-docs.



**Donna Ginther, Ph.D.**  
Member of ACD WG

## NEWS RELEASES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

### NIH designates people with disabilities as a population with health disparities

*Designation, new research program and update to NIH mission are actions to ensure inclusion of people with disabilities.*

Today, Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D., director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), designated people with disabilities as a population with health disparities for research supported by the National Institutes of Health. The decision was made in consultation with Robert Otto Valdez, Ph.D., the director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-designates-people-disabilities-population-health-disparities>

WH.GOV



MARCH 18, 2024

### Executive Order on Advancing Women's Health Research and Innovation



Numerous NIH actions to catalyze inter-disciplinary research across ICs, led by the NIH Office of Research of Women's Health. <https://bit.ly/3x3acBa>



Vonda Smith, Ph.D.



- UNITE-E Committee recommendation (CSR's Vonda Smith, Ph.D., integrally involved in driving this effort)
- **Goal: Broaden participation in NIH ecosystem** by increased engagement, resources for HBCUs, TCUs, MSIs, and rural/IDeA state institutions.
- Led by NIH Chief Office of Scientific Workforce Diversity, partnering with several ICOs (NIGMS, OER, CSR, NIMHD)

<https://diversity.nih.gov/build/engagement-and-access-research-active-institutions-eara>

# Simplified Review Framework announced on Oct 19, 2023

## Simplified Review Framework for NIH Research Project Grant Applications

**Notice Number:**  
NOT-OD-24-010

### Key Dates

**Release Date:** October 19, 2023

### Related Announcements

- **October 19, 2023** - Online Briefing on NIH's Simplified Peer Review Framework for NIH Research Project Grant (RPG) Applications: for Applicants and Reviewers. See [NOT-OD-24-012](#).
- **December 8, 2022** - Request for Information (RFI) on Proposed Simplified Review Framework for NIH Research Project Grant Applications. See Notice [NOT-OD-23-034](#).

### Issued by

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH ([NIH](#))

### Purpose

This notice announces a new framework for the peer review of most research project grant (RPG) applications beginning with submissions for due dates on or after January 25, 2025. The simplified review framework is expected to better focus peer reviewers on the key questions needed to assess the scientific and technical merit of proposed research projects: *"Should the proposed research project be conducted?"* *"Can the proposed research project be conducted?"*

### Background

In recent years, NIH heard sustained frustrations from the extramural community about the complexity of the peer review process for research project grants (RPGs) and the increasing responsibilities of peer reviewers in policy compliance. This may have the unintended effect of diverting the attention of reviewers away from their key task of evaluating the scientific and technical merit of RPG proposals to identify those with the highest potential impact for advancing

**Coming in April 2024 - Guide Notice announcing changes to NRSA Fellowship review**



## **CSR News/Announcements**



# CSR Scientific Leadership/Management Transitions

## Coordinators



**Pamela Jeter, Ph.D.**  
Reviewer Training



**Lystranne Maynard-Smith, Ph.D.**  
Reviewer Training



**Alok Mulky**  
Assistant  
Review/Research  
Integrity Officer

## Referral Officers



**Bo Hong, Ph.D.**



**Shivakumar Chittari, Ph.D.**



**Bidyottam Mitra, Ph.D.**



**Joonil Seog, Sc.D.**



**Jessica Smith, Ph.D.**



**Wenjuan Wang, Ph.D.**

# CSR Scientific Leadership/Management Transitions

## Retirements



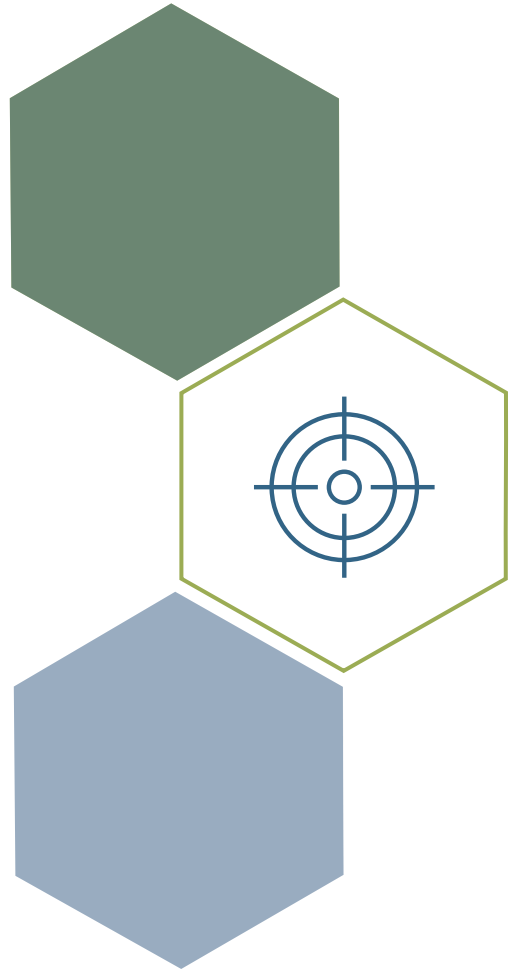
**Sam Edwards, Ph.D.**

**Chief, Clinical  
Neuroscience  
Review Branch**



**Gabriel Fosu, Ph.D.**

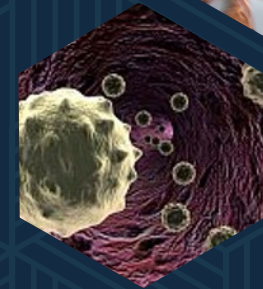
**Associate Director for  
Diversity and Workforce  
Development**



## CSR Update

# 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.

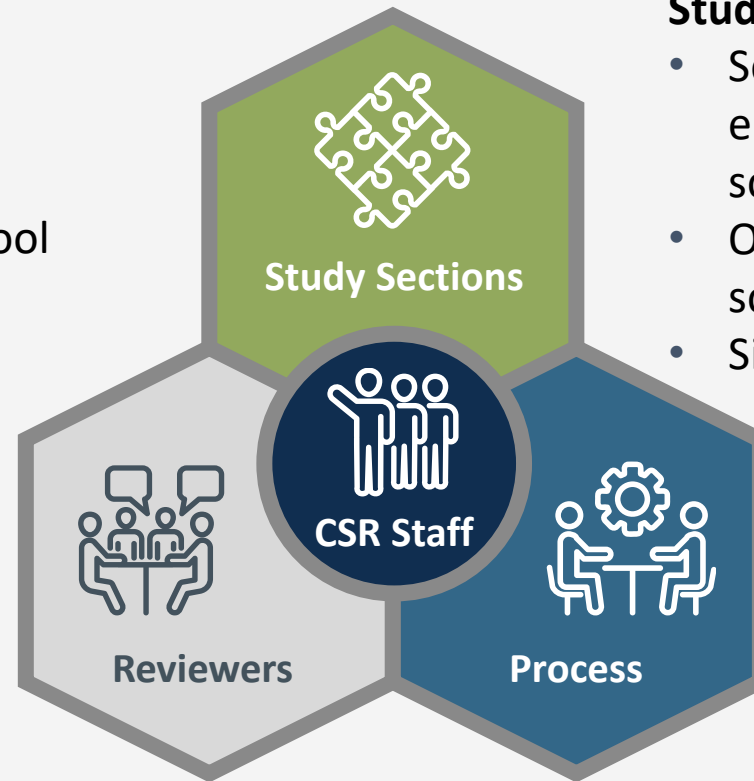




# Since 2019, CSR's Strategic Framework: Quality of Peer Review

## Reviewers

- Reviewer Training
- Broaden/Diversify Reviewer Pool
- *Incentivizing service - new*
- *Reviewer Evaluation - new*



## Study Sections

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

## Process

- Confidentiality/Integrity
- Fairness/bias mitigation
- Assignment/Referral of Applications
- Review Criteria and Scoring System



Transparency



Data-driven decisions

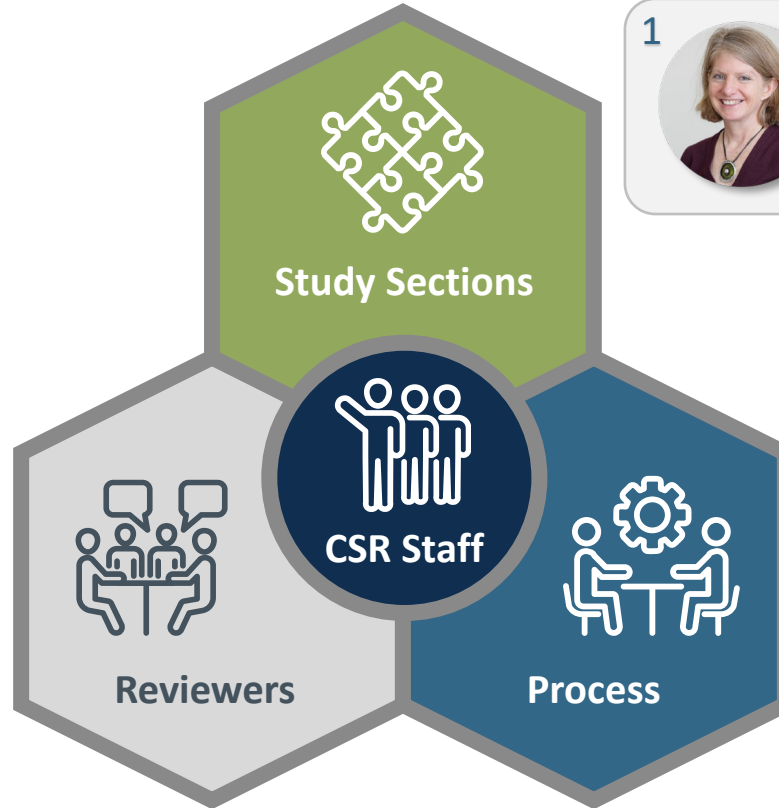


Stakeholder engagement



Staff engagement, training, development

# Today's Council Agenda



1



**Valerie Durrant, Ph.D.**

**ENQUIRE Cluster 18: Social and Behavioral Sciences**

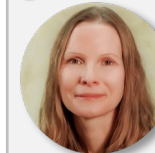
2



**Ray Jacobson, Ph.D.**

**Improving NRSA Fellowship Review Update**

3



**Kristin Kramer, Ph.D.  
Miriam Mintzer, Ph.D.  
Lisa Steele, Ph.D.**

**Simplifying Review Framework Update**

4



**Delia Olufokunbi Sam, Ph.D.  
Lynn Yee, M.D., MPH**

**Interim Report: CSR Reviewer Evaluation Working Group**

5



**Michelle Janelins-Benton, Ph.D.  
Kristin Kramer, Ph.D.**

**Interim Report: CSR Reviewer Recognition Working Group**

# Today's Brief CSR Update

- Overview, scope and numbers
- ENQUIRE reflections – approaching the end of the first cycle
- Outreach to the scientific community

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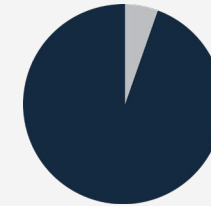
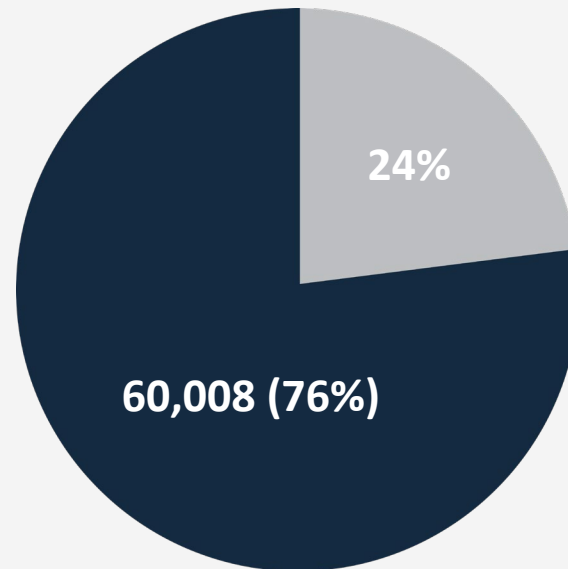


# CSR reviews a majority of NIH grant applications (FY23 numbers)

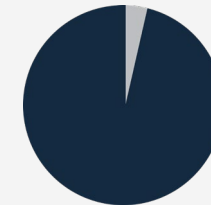
Annually:

~1200 review meetings

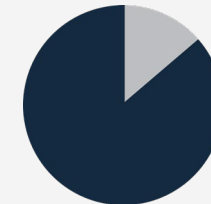
~19,000 expert reviewers



32,254 (94%)  
R01s



6,307 (96%)  
SBIRs-STTRs



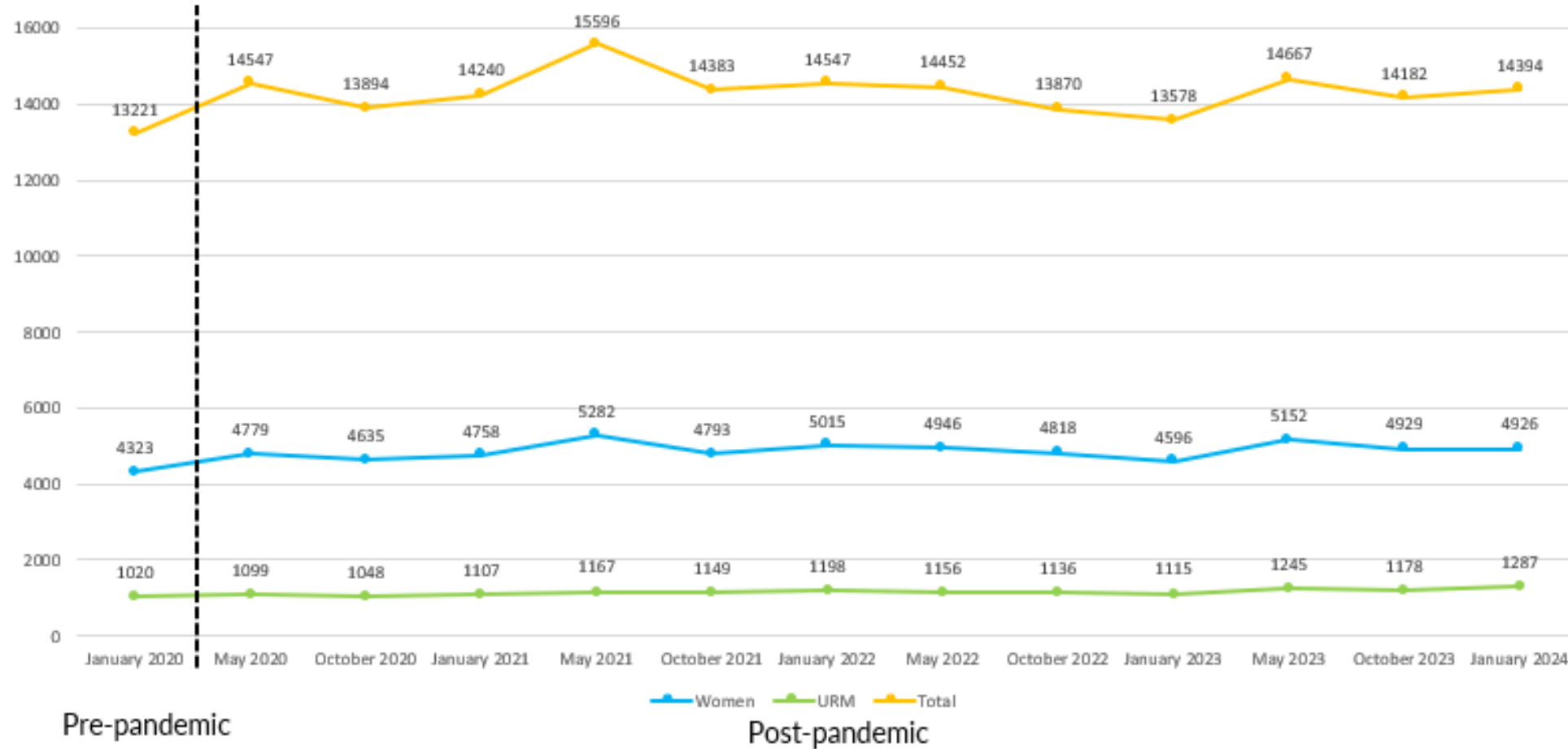
4,980 (84%)  
NRSA Fellowships

CSR also reviewed **161 special initiatives**, such as:

BRAIN, HEAL, Pioneer Award, ComPASS, NIH Director's Transformative Research Award



# Tracking R01 submission trends



# CSR's Study Sections, Recurring Panels, Review Meetings

## 180+ standing study sections

Division	Number of Standing Panels
AIDS, Behavioral and Population Sciences	38
Basic and Integrative Biology	42
Neuroscience, Development and Aging	30
Physiological and Pathological Sciences	37
Translational and Clinical Sciences	37

## Plus 59 recurring panels

NSRA Fellowships	26
SBIR/STTRs	33

**The ~1200 review meetings** annually include standing study sections, recurring committees, special emphasis panels.

**All standing study sections and recurring committees hold one in-person meeting each year.**

# Continuing to expand hybrid meeting capability

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our Hybrid Review Meeting Working Group, interest in hybrid meetings increased significantly.

- 19 hybrid meetings held in Feb-March 2024; 16 planned for summer 2024 – allows for a more robust analysis of reviewer experience, data on outcomes etc.
- SRO Lead appointed to coordinate efforts with overarching focus on optimizing the quality and fairness of scientific review in hybrid settings.
- Technology in-house is excellent - main gaps remain logistical (dearth of coffee/dining options, transportation in local area).
- Future goal - bring our hybrid capability to DC metro hotels



**Steven Frenk, Ph.D.**  
Hybrid Review Meeting Lead

# Today's Brief CSR Update

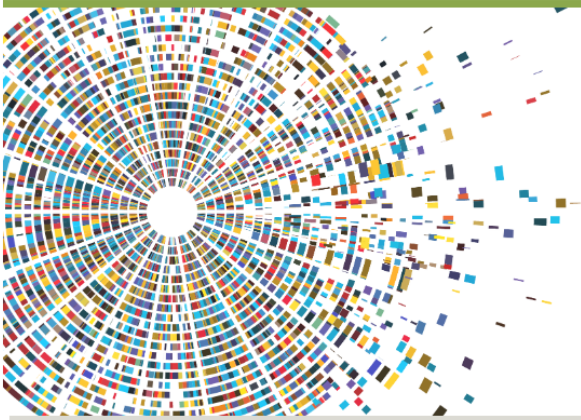
- Overview, scope and numbers
- ENQUIRE reflections – approaching the end of the first cycle
- Outreach to the scientific community

# ENQUIRE – Evaluating Panel Quality in Review

- Major CSR initiative, ongoing since 2019 – prior to this, there was no regularly-scheduled, consistent process for evaluating and restructuring study sections to adapt to changing scientific fields.
- Goal was to assess about 20% of study sections, grouped by scientific field, to allow all study sections in each field to be reviewed once every 5 years.

Evaluating Panel Quality in Review (ENQUIRE)

[ENQUIRE Overview](#) | [Cluster Overview Process](#) | [Clusters Evaluated via ENQUIRE](#)



Science changes rapidly. Making sure that study sections change with the science is an ongoing challenge. CSR ENQUIRE integrates data and input from multiple stakeholders to determine whether changes in study section focus or scope are needed to facilitate the identification of high impact science, with special consideration of emerging science.


**Words from Dr. Noni Byrnes, CSR Director**  
> [January 2020 NICHD Advisory Council meeting](#) [▶ WATCH](#)

### ENQUIRE Overview

**Science-based**  
Clusters of study sections are formed based on scientific topics (instead of CSR managerial units) for review via ENQUIRE

**Systematic, data-driven, continuous process**  
~20% of CSR study sections are evaluated each year, every study section evaluated every 5 years

**Stakeholder input and involvement**



**Multiple Possible Actions Follow**

- **Change** in scientific guidelines
- **Merge** study sections
- **Create** new study sections
- **Redistribute** areas across study sections

Learn more: <https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/CSREnquire>



# Update on ENQUIRE: 14 scientific clusters thus far

Scientific Cluster	In Progress	Implemented
Healthcare Delivery/Patient Outcomes 9 study sections		2020
GI, Renal, Endocrine Systems 11 study sections		2020
Functional/Cognitive Neuroscience 12 study sections		2020
Cardiac, Vascular and Hematologic Sciences 10 study sections		2020
Molecular and Cellular Basic Sciences 16 study sections		2021
Oncology 10 study sections		2021
Epidemiology and Population Sciences 9 study sections		2022
Drug Synthesis, Discovery, Disposition, and Xenobiotics 14 study sections		2023
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 10 study sections		2023
Brain Disorders: Clinical, Translational, and Neurotechnology 13 study sections		2024
Immunology and Respiratory Systems 10 study sections		2024
Social and Behavioral Studies 10 study sections		2024
Developmental and Regenerative Biology 10 study sections		2025
Brain Disorders: Basic and Mechanistic		2025

# 2019-2024: A few reflections on ENQUIRE

- **The approach has been iterative and evolving** as we learned from our experience with every ENQUIRE cluster
- Size of the scientific cluster (# of study sections) matters – **the Goldilocks problem** – too large gets unwieldy for management, too small results in focused expertise and narrower perspectives on ENQUIRE stage 1 panel.
- Scientific fields do not have neat boundaries - some study sections straddle more than one scientific cluster; others are not a good fit in any cluster;
- **Advocacy/self-interest** in stage 1 needs to be actively managed – pre-recruitment discussions and careful selection of the chair can make a big difference.
- After initial anxiety about the new process, **the scientific community has now become more familiar with ENQUIRE**, and with a few exceptions, has welcomed the changes and updates to their study sections. Credit goes to SROs.
- Overall, **the ENQUIRE process has resulted in significant changes in CSR's study sections**, e.g. elimination of small, boutique study sections, new study sections in emerging areas.
- Evaluation is a complex process with some shared measures applicable to each cluster, and some that are targeted – **ENQUIRE Evaluation presentation scheduled for the September 2024 Advisory Council.**

# Staff from all across CSR contribute to the ENQUIRE process

- **Cluster definition and data analysis** – DPAIM - Public Health Analysts (PHAs), Informatics
- **External and internal panel recruitment, conducting meetings** – Division Directors
- **Note-takers at meetings** – SROs
- **Rosters for panels** – Committee Management Office(CMO), Divisional Lead Extramural Support Staff (ESS)
- **General organization** (of panels, inviting members, sending notices to relevant SROs, etc.) – Divisional Management Analysts (DMAs), Divisional ESS
- **PO/Reviewer Surveys** – Analytics team (Senior Social Science Analyst, PHAs)
- **Study Section Site Visits** – Division Directors, Chiefs, SROs
- **Mock Sorts** – Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR) staff, Chiefs
- **Refinement of study section descriptions, overlap statements** – Chiefs, SROs
- **Ending committees, forming new committees, moving members** – CMO
- **Communications to members about their shift to a new panel** – Chiefs, SROs
- **Updates to website** – DPAIM web team, Office of Communications and Outreach

**Their important work to refresh the scientific scope and function of CSR's study sections directly impacts the ability of peer review to identify the most meritorious research for NIH support.**

**THANK YOU!**

# Today's Brief CSR Update

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# CSR's outreach to the scientific community

- Since its establishment in 2019, **CSR's Office of Communications and Outreach (OCO)** has grown to allow CSR to accomplish its goals of transparency and engagement with the scientific community.
- Major focus this year, beyond the regular external/internal activities, has been outreach and communications regarding Simplified Review Framework, Improving NRSA Review.
- However, OCO has continued to prioritize broad as well as targeted outreach to the scientific community, with an emphasis on institutions and investigators with limited NIH experience.



Kristin Kramer, Ph.D.  
Director



Chuck Dunn



Ann Graham-Hamlin



Teisa Hill



Rob O'Hearn



Lamont Williams

# CSR's Infographic for institutions led to more opportunities to connect

- CSR-developed Infographic shared with ~500 institutions; reviewer lists offered to institutions with <300 applications in 6 years (256 institutions)
- Distribution led to further conversation and plans for webinars for Offices of Sponsored Research.
- In response, CSR is leading an effort, in collaboration with the Office of Extramural Research, to host informational webinars on navigating NIH, peer review 101.

May 15, 2024

November 13-14, 2024 (tentative)

**Resources and Programs for NIH Grant Applicants**  
From the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) <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 (NFO) 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 6 interface for Submission 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.

**TIPS FOR SCIENTISTS**

- Read and carefully follow all general application guide, NFO-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/> and <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/pha-assignment-request>.
- Be sure the targeted NIH institute or center (IC) participates in the NFO; 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 NFO 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 NFO, 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.
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**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 ([reportbias@csr.nih.gov](mailto:reportbias@csr.nih.gov)) or review integrity breaches ([csrio@mail.nih.gov](mailto: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-your-application.htm>
- NIH Grant Writing Playlist (YouTube): [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0EUw5nVqBjGf6\\_OwUu-ucC2-y0b6k](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0EUw5nVqBjGf6_OwUu-ucC2-y0b6k)
- NIH Grant Fundamentals Playlist (YouTube): [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0EUw5nVqBjGf6\\_OwUu-ucC2-y0b6k](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0EUw5nVqBjGf6_OwUu-ucC2-y0b6k)

**Talk to Us**

Find submission help online at <https://www.era.nih.gov/need-help> or contact CSR's Division of Receipt and Referral ([Center@mail.nih.gov](mailto:Center@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 NFO. Other questions? Contact the CSR Office of Communications and Outreach, at [communications@csr.nih.gov](mailto:communications@csr.nih.gov).

**ESI RESOURCES**  
**Are You an Early Stage Investigator (ESI)?**  
**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.
- Consider enrolling in the program: <https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForReviewers/BecomeARviewer/ECR>.

**NIH SUBMISSION POLICIES**  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/submit-dates-and-submission-policies/submit-dates-and-submission-policies.htm>

**NEW!**  
**Last Chance to Submit Data:** Now you can submit new, late-breaking data up to 30 days before the review meeting: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-106.html>.

[https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/CSR\\_ResourceInfographic\\_v21.pdf](https://public.csr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/CSR_ResourceInfographic_v21.pdf)



# Outreach by SROs at 71 conferences since January 2023



*Advancing Chicanos/Hispanics  
& Native Americans in Science*



# Outreach by CSR Senior Leadership

- **Speaking engagements at scientific conferences** to present SRF and NRSA changes at multiple conferences
- **Visits to groups of institutions** to present peer review changes, meet with faculty, leadership
  - Prefer participation of multiple area institutions.
  - CSR's OCO assists with identifying and connecting with area institutions that are less well-versed with NIH.
  - Including small group meetings with university and department leadership, early-career faculty.
  - All outreach is CSR-funded.



IMMUNOLOGY2024™



**ABRCMS 2024**

November 13-16 | Pittsburgh, PA

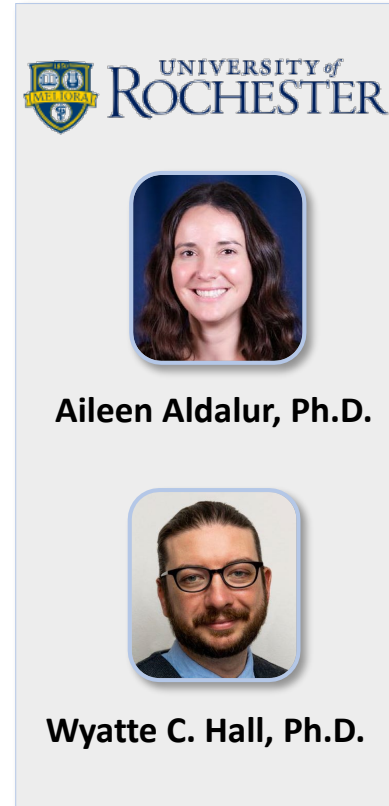


AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND  
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY



# An example of how outreach can be bidirectional and mutually beneficial

- Last October, invited by Council member Michelle Janelsins-Benton to University of Rochester, RIT, and Stony Brook U.
- In November, two junior faculty at Rochester, Drs. Wyatt Hall and Aileen Aldalur reached out to discuss their recent experience serving as NIH reviewers, and to share some ideas that would enhance the engagement of reviewers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- Subsequent meeting with Drs. Miriam Mintzer, Director of the Office of Training and Pam Jeter, Reviewer Training Coordinator. Dr. Jeter researched further, including speaking to CSR staff who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. SRO Guidance was drafted, input provided by Rochester faculty was incorporated.
- **Final Guide for SROs for working with reviewers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to be released soon.**
- **Reviewer recruitment emails will include new language to promote inclusivity, broaden reviewer pool:** *“Reasonable accommodations, including American Sign language (ASL) interpreting and Communication Access Real-time Transcription (CART) services, are available upon request to participate as a reviewer on this panel.”*



## SRO Guide for working with reviewers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH)

**Objective:** Increase awareness for SROs to create a more inclusive, natural environment during review meetings and to reduce the potential stigma when engaging with reviewers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH).

### Considerations for engaging with reviewers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing:

- Use Person-First language. When referring to a person with a disability, put the emphasis on the person first (*reviewers who are deaf or hard of hearing*), not the disability (*deaf or hard-of-hearing reviewers*).
- Don't make assumptions about what a reviewer who is D/HH needs. Ask *before* you help—allow independence and treat everyone with respect.
- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters are there to facilitate the conversation for everyone. They manage the conversational dynamics in both directions and reflect a filtered version of what is said. Allowing space for interpreters to manage communication and for questions by all reviewers is key to accurate understanding.
- Body language/eye contact is important for the reviewer to observe. When on Zoom, ensure cameras are on for all speakers. Face the camera when you speak and look at the person you are speaking with, not their interpreter.
- Speak clearly at a normal pace. Don't raise your voice; this distorts sounds for hearing aids & inhibits lip reading.
- Do not assume the person you are speaking with can read your lips.

### Pre-meeting considerations for a FACA review meeting:

- NIH [resources](#) include two main options for accommodating a reviewer who is D/HH: [Scheduling an ASL interpreter or a Communication Access Real-time Translation \(CART\) writer](#) (ESA can arrange). [Per FACA policy](#), a reviewer can also bring their own interpreter(s); the ESA will ensure they sign the appropriate forms.
- Meet early on with reviewers/interpreters/CART writers to go over the timing and logistics of the meeting. Include the Chair in your meetings, if appropriate, to reinforce best practices and pacing strategies.
- Ask the ESA to schedule an ASL interpreter for the pre-meeting orientation that the reviewer who is D/HH is attending. Consider describing pacing strategies to your panel members during orientation.
- Consider sending (securely) the list of applications in the order of discussion including assigned reviewer names (except for conflicts) to the reviewer who is D/HH so they can follow along during the meeting more easily.

### Considerations during a Zoom review meeting (similar considerations apply to in-person meetings):

- Acknowledge the presence of interpreters during opening remarks. Set the expectation that all reviewers are responsible for a successful meeting regarding communication.
- On Zoom, it may be difficult for reviewers who are D/HH to track who is speaking and whether it's an assigned reviewer or another panel member. Since the reviewer who is D/HH will be 'pinning' the assigned reviewers for each application, SRO/Chair may need to ensure an appropriate pause at the beginning of each application.
- Reviewers who are D/HH may also need accommodations for live tracking of the applications being discussed. The ESA can post the application number being discussed in the chat box.
- Interpreting the discussion between auditory and visual languages creates a normal lag time. The SRO will need to set a different/slower pace to allow for the interpreter to complete the interpretation or for the captions from the CART writer to fully appear. Allow adequate time for reviewers who are D/HH to comment or ask questions. Remind reviewers to raise their hand when speaking so the SRO can pace the discussion.
- When reviewers who are D/HH are participating, it would be helpful to include the visual clock on Zoom.
- Including regular breaks to offset Zoom fatigue is especially important for reviewers who are D/HH.

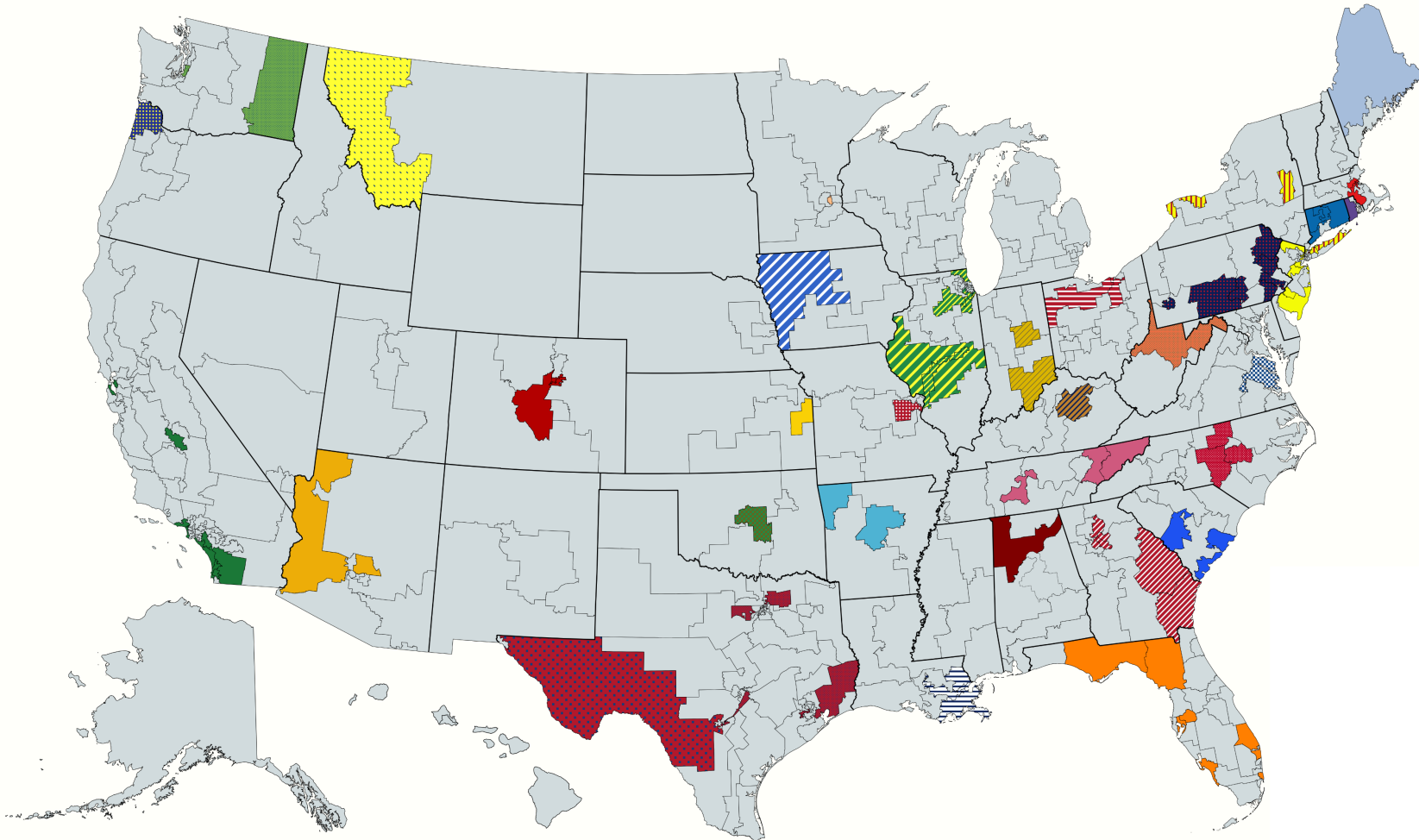
### Additional Resources:

Provide link to ESA guide here (to be developed)  
<https://insider.csr.nih.gov/sites/csr/SitePages/IDEA-Council-Accessibility.aspx>

**And finally....**

# CSR staff beyond the DC area

## (Map showing states/congressional districts with CSR employees)



**Alabama:**  
District 5

**Arkansas:**  
District 2  
District 3

**Arizona:**  
District 1  
District 9

**California:**  
District 12  
District 15  
District 21  
District 33  
District 36  
District 40  
District 47  
District 49  
District 50  
District 51

**Colorado:**  
District 1  
District 5  
District 6  
District 7

**Connecticut:**  
District 1  
District 2  
District 4  
District 5

**Florida:**  
District 2  
District 3  
District 14  
District 15  
District 19  
District 21  
District 22  
District 24

**Georgia:**  
District 4  
District 5  
District 6  
District 7  
District 12

**Iowa:**  
District 4

**Illinois:**  
District 1  
District 5  
District 6  
District 10  
District 13  
District 14

**Indiana:**  
District 5  
District 9

**Kansas:**  
District 1  
District 3

**Kentucky:**  
District 6

**Louisiana:**  
District 2

**Massachusetts:**  
District 4  
District 5

**Maine:**  
District 2

**Minnesota:**  
District 4  
District 5

**Missouri:**  
District 2

**Montana:**  
District 1  
District 2

**North Carolina:**  
District 4  
District 9  
District 13

**New Jersey:**  
District 2  
District 5  
District 6  
District 8  
District 12

**New York:**  
District 1  
District 3  
District 15  
District 25  
District 26

**Ohio:**  
District 3  
District 5  
District 7

**Oklahoma:**  
District 1

**Oregon:**  
District 1

**Pennsylvania:**  
District 3  
District 5  
District 6  
District 7  
District 12  
District 13

**Rhode Island :**  
District 2

**South Carolina:**  
District 1

**Tennessee:**  
District 1  
District 2  
District 5

**Texas:**  
District 7  
District 12  
District 15  
District 35

**Washington:**  
District 1  
District 5

**West Virginia:**  
District 2

**Virginia:**  
District 1



# In January, we came together for one of several multi-division training retreats!





# Discussion