

Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Conference Room 6C9, 31 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Closed: October 5, 1998, 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate personal qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Conference Room 6C9, 31 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Closed: October 6, 1998, 8:30 AM to adjournment.

Agenda: To review and evaluate personal qualifications and performance, and competence of individual investigators.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Conference Room 6C9, 31 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Story C. Landis, PhD, Director, Division of Intramural Activities, NINDS, National Institutes of Health, Building 36, Room 5A05, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-435-2232.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.853, Clinical Research Related to Neurological Disorders; 93.854, Biological Basis Research in the Neurosciences, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: September 3, 1998.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-24365 Filed 9-10-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Working Group on Public Participation in NIH Activities; Notice of Meeting

The Office of the Director (OD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), announces a meeting on public participation in NIH activities. The meeting is scheduled for September 23, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Conference Room 10, Building 31C, Sixth Floor, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland. At the meeting, individual public participants invited by the NIH will discuss future activities and responsibilities of the proposed NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives, and the NIH Offices of Public Liaison. The NIH is the lead Federal agency that provides major support for medical research leading to the improvement of the nation's health. The NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives will serve as a forum for discussing issues and concerns and exchanging viewpoints that are important to NIH policies, programs, and research priorities. The NIH Offices of Public Liaison are expected to strengthen collaboration between the NIH and the public.

Establishment of the Director's Council of Public Representatives and the Offices of Public Liaison were recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine's report—*Scientific Opportunities and Public Needs: Improving Priority Setting and Public Input at the National Institutes of Health*. The full text of the report is available on-line at the following site of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences: <http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/nih/>. Future activities will follow from the NIH's Office of Public Liaison and the Director's Council of Public Representatives.

The entire meeting is open to the public; however, seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be an overflow room available to listen to and view the proceedings of the meeting. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the contact person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Individual public participants invited by the NIH will be asked to express their views on matters related to the following:

Director's Council of Public Representatives

- What should be the responsibilities and activities of the Director's Council of Public Representatives?
- What is the role of this Director's Council of Public Representatives as compared to the role of other NIH Advisory Councils?
- Describe some activities that could be undertaken by the Director's Council of Public Representatives to encourage and improve public participation in NIH programs.
- What processes, mechanisms, and criteria should be used for identifying appropriate candidates to serve on the Director's Council of Public Representatives?

The NIH Offices of Public Liaison

- What should be the responsibilities and activities of the NIH Offices of Public Liaison?
- Should all of the Institute-level Offices of Public Liaison perform the same activities?
- How should the activities of the OD Office of Public Liaison differ from those of the Institute-level Offices of Public Liaison?
- How should NIH make the existence of the Offices of Public Liaison known and to whom?

- How should the Offices of Public Liaison reach out to draw the public into NIH activities?

- What programs and activities should the Offices of Public Liaison consider that have been particularly successful in providing public viewpoints to the NIH?

Additional Questions

- What should be the relationship between the Offices of Public Liaison and the Director's Council of Public Representatives?
- What programs from other research agencies or organizations could serve as models for either the Director's Council of Public Representatives or the Offices of Public Liaison in involving the public more effectively in NIH activities?
- What do various segments of the public need and want to know about the NIH's activities, research, and operations that could be imparted through the Director's Council of Public Representatives or the Offices of Public Liaison?
- How can the Director's Council of Public Representatives and/or the Offices of Public Liaison help in conveying this information to those segments of the public?
- Identify activities to disseminate information about and from the Offices of Public Liaison and the Director's Council of Public Representatives to the appropriate public audiences.

Discussion of these questions will help NIH in identifying people to serve on the Director's Council of Public Representatives and will be used by the Director's Council of Public Representatives and the Offices of Public Liaison to identify activities and frame the issues for discussion at future public meetings.

Public comments and requests for additional information should be mailed to Ms. Anne Thomas, Associate Director for Communications, National Institutes of Health, Building 1, Room 344, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Dated: September 2, 1998.

Anne Thomas,

Associate Director for Communications, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-24463 Filed 9-10-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as