

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Laboratory Animal Welfare: Coordination and Harmonization of Regulations and Policies

**AGENCY:** National Institutes of Health, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking information to improve the coordination of regulations and policies with respect to research with laboratory animals as required by the 21st Century Cures Act, Section 2034(d). The request for information is a coordinated effort of the Director of the National Institutes of Health in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to reduce administrative burden on investigators while maintaining the integrity and credibility of research findings and protection of research animals.

**DATES:** The Request for Information regarding the proposed actions that the agencies have identified to improve coordination and harmonization of regulations and policies is open for public comment for a period of 90 days. Comments must be submitted electronically at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/rfi/rfi.cfm?ID=71> and must be received by June 12, 2018 to ensure consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patricia Brown, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), Office of Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health, Suite 360, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892-7982, phone: 301-496-7163, email: [olaw@od.nih.gov](mailto:olaw@od.nih.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

This request for information is a coordinated effort of the Director of the National Institutes of Health in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to reduce administrative burden on investigators while maintaining the integrity and credibility of research findings and protection of research animals.

Section 2034(d) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. 114-255) was enacted December 13, 2016 and requires that the NIH in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) complete a review of applicable regulations and

policies for the care and use of laboratory animals and make revisions to reduce administrative burden on investigators. In carrying out this effort, the law requests that NIH seek put to identify ways to ensure regulations and policies are not inconsistent, overlapping, or unnecessarily duplicative.

In carrying out the review, NIH OLAW, USDA, and FDA are currently reviewing the following reports and surveys:

- Reforming Animal Research Regulations: Workshop Recommendations to Reduce Regulatory Burden, 2017, Report of an April 17, 2017 workshop organized by Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), the Association of American Medical Colleges, and the Council on Governmental Relations, with support from the National Association for Biomedical Research, <http://www.faseb.org/Portals/2/PDFs/opa/2017/FASEB-Animal-Regulatory-Report-October2017.pdf>.

- Optimizing the Nation's Investment in Academic Research: A New Regulatory Framework for the 21st Century, 2016, National Academies, <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/21824/optimizing-the-nations-investment-in-academic-research-a-new-regulatory>.

- Reducing Investigators' Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research, 2014, National Science Board, National Science Foundation, <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsb1418/nsb1418.pdf>.

- 2012 Faculty Workload Survey Research Report, 2014, Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP), [https://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga\\_087667.pdf](https://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_087667.pdf).

- Findings of the FASEB Survey on Administrative Burden, 2013, FASEB, <http://www.faseb.org/portals/2/pdfs/opa/6.7.13%20FASEB%20NSB%20Survey%20findings.pdf>.

We are seeking the input of interested stakeholders concerning proposed actions that the agencies have identified to improve coordination and harmonization of regulations and policies. The responses received will provide critical information for final recommendations and implementation.

##### II. Information Requested

Input is sought on each of the following proposed actions that the agencies are considering:

1. Allow investigators to submit protocols for continuing review using a risk-based methodology.
2. Allow annual reporting to OLAW and USDA on the same reporting

schedule and as a single report through a shared portal.

3. Harmonize the guidance from NIH and USDA to reduce duplicative considerations of alternatives to painful and distressful procedures.

4. Provide a minimum 60-day comment period for new OLAW policy guidance.

5. Other approaches not previously mentioned.

Feedback is sought on whether the following tools and resources are or would be helpful for reducing burden on investigators:

1. Encourage the use of sections of the AAALAC International program description in applicable parts of the OLAW Animal Welfare Assurance, for institutions accredited by AAALAC International.

2. Encourage the use of the FDP Compliance Unit Standard Procedures as a repository of best practices for standard procedures used for research with animals.

3. Encourage the use of the IACUC Administrators Association repository of best practices by IACUCs.

4. Encourage the use of new or existing tools to streamline protocol review through use of designated member review (DMR), DMR subsequent to full committee review, and/or Veterinary Verification and Consultation.

5. Expanded IACUC training activities that focus on reducing burden on investigators.

Dated: March 8, 2018.

**Francis S. Collins,**  
Director, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 2018-05173 Filed 3-13-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant

applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Special Emphasis Panel; AMSC Members Conflict Review Meeting.

*Date:* March 15–16, 2018.

*Time:* 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, NIH, Conference Room 803, 6711 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817.

*Contact Person:* Xincheng Zheng, MD, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Scientific Review Branch, National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, NIH, 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 820, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–451–4838, [xincheng.zheng@nih.gov](mailto:xincheng.zheng@nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.846, Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 7, 2018.

**Sylvia L. Neal,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2018–05084 Filed 3–13–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

*Date:* April 4, 2018.

*Time:* 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Jana Drgonova, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for

Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5213, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–827–2549, [jdrgonova@mail.nih.gov](mailto:jdrgonova@mail.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Pediatric Immunotherapy Discovery and Development Network (PI-DDN) U54 Review.

*Date:* April 5, 2018.

*Time:* 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

*Contact Person:* Lawrence Ka-Yun Ng, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 6152, MSC 7804, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–435–1719, [ngkl@csr.nih.gov](mailto:ngkl@csr.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflict: Myocardial Ischemia and Heart Failure Member Conflicts.

*Date:* April 5, 2018.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Margaret Chandler, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4126, MSC 7814, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435–1743, [margaret.chandler@nih.gov](mailto:margaret.chandler@nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflicts: Chemistry.

*Date:* April 5, 2018.

*Time:* 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Mike Radtke, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4176, MSC 7806, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–435–1728, [radtkem@csr.nih.gov](mailto:radtkem@csr.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Molecular Genetics.

*Date:* April 5, 2018.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Ronald Adkins, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 2206, MSC 7890, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–435–4511, [ronald.adkins@nih.gov](mailto:ronald.adkins@nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflict: Studies in Genetics.

*Date:* April 5, 2018.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Baishali Maskeri, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 2022, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–827–2864, [maskerib@mail.nih.gov](mailto:maskerib@mail.nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflict: Biophysics.

*Date:* April 5, 2018.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Richard D Crosland, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4190, MSC 7850, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–694–7084, [crosland@nih.gov](mailto:crosland@nih.gov).

*Name of Committee:* Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflict: Cell Biology and Cellular Signaling, Interactions, and Migration.

*Date:* April 5, 2018.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

*Contact Person:* Thomas Beres, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Rm. 5201, MSC 7840, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–435–1175, [berestm@mail.nih.gov](mailto:berestm@mail.nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research; 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 8, 2018.

**David Clary,**

*Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2018–05082 Filed 3–13–18; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID: FEMA–2018–0016; OMB No. 1660–0139]

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Ready PSA Campaign Creative Testing Research**

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.