

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**National Institutes of Health**

**National Institute of Nursing Research**

**Minutes of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research**

January 27, 2026

The 118th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) was convened on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The open session was held virtually via Teams and broadcast via the National Institutes of Health (NIH) VideoCast. The open session adjourned at 11:38 a.m. Dr. Courtney Aklin, Chair, NACNR, presided over the session.

---

**OPEN SESSION**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, OPENING REMARKS, AND COUNCIL PROCEDURES**

**Welcome**

Dr. Aklin called the 118<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NACNR to order and welcomed all Council members, visitors, and staff. She noted that the open session of the meeting was being videocast live and would be archived on the NIH VideoCast website.

**Roll Call**

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov conducted a roll call of NACNR members and noted for the record that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Tarlov introduced the Minutes of May 20, June 26, and September 9, 2025, NACNR meetings that were distributed to Council members through the NIH Electronic Council Book. Motions to accept these minutes were made, seconded, and unanimously approved. The approved minutes of each NACNR meeting become part of the Institute's official record and are posted on the NINR website ([www.ninr.nih.gov](http://www.ninr.nih.gov)).

**Dates of Future Council Meetings**

Dates for future Council meetings were included in the NIH Electronic Council Book. The next Council meetings will be held in person or virtually on:

- April 8, 2026 (Closed session of the 118th meeting)

1 118<sup>th</sup> National Advisory Council for Nursing Research Meeting, January 27, 2026

- May 19, 2026
- September 15, 2026

### **Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Statement**

Dr. Tarlov noted that the conflict of interest and confidentiality statements were included in the Council materials; reminded Council members that as special government employees, they may not engage in lobbying activities; and noted that further information is posted in the NIH Electronic Council Book.

## **II. NINR'S DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Dr. Aklin gave the Director's Update, which included a series of updates about NIH and NINR. Topics included NINR's 40th anniversary milestone, the publication of PAR-25-439, *Community-Partnered Nursing Research Centers (P20 Clinical Trial Optional)*, participation in NIH Highlighted Topics, and recent high-impact research from NINR-funded grants. The update also addressed NINR's budget and operating context under a Continuing Resolution through January 30, 2026, as well as NINR administrative updates and contributions to NIH-wide operations. NIH-wide planning efforts and updates related to leadership, staffing, and policy were also summarized.

## **III. NINR'S 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES: SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM, FACULTY CONVENING, AND ESI MENTORING WORKSHOP**

Dr. Shalanda Bynum summarized the NINR's 40th Anniversary Scientific Symposium, *Advancing Nursing Science to Improve Health for All: NINR's Impact*, which celebrated four decades of excellence in nursing research through a symposium and poster session. The event convened hundreds of nurse scientists, NINR-funded investigators, community partners, NIH leadership and staff, clinicians, nursing associations, and students and early-stage investigators from across the country. The agenda reviewed the Institute's evolution and scientific milestones, featured reflections from distinguished experts on discoveries that have transformed health and health care, highlighted bold and rigorous work from the next generation of nurse scientists, and included panel presentations across research priority areas emphasizing movement of findings into practice and policy. A community panel reinforced the importance of conducting research with communities to address meaningful, lived health needs. The poster session received 300 submissions and featured 68 posters spanning all research priority areas, including presentations by early-stage investigators, students, and external partners. Key takeaways emphasized the rigor and influence of nursing research across health areas, the central role of authentic community partnership, the need to incorporate conditions of daily life and address differences in outcomes through team science and multi-sector approaches, and the importance of sustaining the early-

stage investigator pipeline; additional symposium information, including the full agenda, is available on the NINR website.

Dr. Bynum described the *SDOH Research Institute (SRI): Faculty Convening* as a high-energy, discussion-based session held prior to the 40th anniversary symposium, designed to strengthen nursing research and training focused on the conditions of daily life and their impact on health. The convening brought together 17 nurse scientists and faculty leaders from schools and colleges of nursing across the United States to share proven approaches, challenges, and opportunities for building and sustaining research programs in an evolving environment. Dialogue was organized around two broad focus areas, research and training, with questions developed by moderators and an internal planning committee, while allowing space for additional themes to emerge. Core insights highlighted the need for conceptual rigor and attention to mechanisms, authentic community engagement from the outset, research designs that address heterogeneity to understand what works and for whom, diversified funding strategies, and clear scientific communication tailored to multiple audiences. Workshop discussion emphasized that shifting priorities can be especially challenging for early career investigators, underscoring the importance of targeted mentorship, cohort-based development, and institutional cultures that reward quality, teamwork, community partnership, and translation to policy and practice. Key outcomes included strengthened collaborative networks, identification of actionable strategies to advance SDOH-related research, and recommended improvements to support systems for early-stage investigators, with a summary report posted on the NINR website.

Dr. Yvonne Bryan provided an overview of the Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Mentoring Workshop held on September 16, describing it as a one-day, tailored effort to expand the nursing science workforce by supporting ESIs in the transition to scientific independence. The workshop convened 23 early-stage investigators, with external senior scientists and NIH/NINR program staff serving as speakers, and was designed to strengthen research skills, career navigation, and professional networks. The agenda included a keynote on career development, a mentorship-focused panel emphasizing proactive, sustained mentoring relationships and varied pathways to mentorship, and sessions on building cross-institution and cross-sector collaborations and using innovative technologies, including AI, to enhance research productivity and strengthen proposals. NIH program staff led a session on current priorities and practices, followed by repeated breakout discussions focused on navigating the NIH funding process, understanding review updates to improve competitiveness, and identifying emerging priorities and new funding opportunities. A structured mentoring session paired ESIs with faculty participating in the Faculty Convening to provide targeted guidance. The workshop concluded with reflections from faculty and closing remarks by Dr. Aklin. Potential ongoing follow-up activities were described.

Dr. Aklin reflected that the 40th anniversary events were a coordinated, institute-wide effort supported by full staff participation and strong leadership from the planning and session leads.

Council discussion followed. ([NIH VideoCast @ 57:33](#))

#### **IV. NINR LEADERSHIP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENCE**

Dr. Karen Kehl outlined NINR’s leadership in implementation science and described how dissemination and implementation (D&I) research helps ensure evidence-based practices, interventions, and policies are successfully translated into real-world settings such as hospitals, schools, and communities, including adaptation to fit local context while preserving essential intervention elements. The presentation reviewed NINR’s long-standing participation in NIH dissemination and implementation funding opportunities since 2006, including leading a Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) initiative RFA supporting implementation of chronic pain interventions in rural and remote communities; described portfolio trends showing increased NINR investment over time; and highlighted examples of NINR-supported implementation studies. Opportunities for growth were identified across prevention and chronic condition management, women’s health, rural health, and settings where implementation can be challenging, including long-term care, federally qualified health centers and other resource-limited sites, home-based care, and other non-acute environments.

Council discussion followed. ([NIH VideoCast @ 1:24:47](#))

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Aklin adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

#### **VI. CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

**COURTNEY F. AKLIN -S**  
Digitally signed by  
COURTNEY F. AKLIN -S  
Date: 2026.04.14  
13:06:27 -04'00'

Courtney F. Aklin, PhD

Acting Director

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

**ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S**  
Digitally signed by  
ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S  
Date: 2026.04.15 05:15:09  
-04'00'

Elizabeth Tarlov, PhD, RN

Executive Secretary

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Courtney Aklin, Council Chair  
Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov, Executive Secretary  
Dr. Robert L. Atkins  
Dr. Guadalupe X. Ayala  
Dr. Betty Bekemeier  
Dr. Anne M. Fitzpatrick  
Mr. Joseph Harrington  
Dr. Patricia W. Stone  
Dr. Sheila Cox Sullivan, Ex Officio  
Dr. Jing Wang

## **PRESENTERS**

Dr. Shalanda Bynum  
Dr. Yvonne Bryan  
Dr. Karen Kehl

## **NIH STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Lauren Oliveira Hashiguchi  
Nyala Johnson  
Miguelina Perez  
Samantha Sanchez  
Barbara Sanford

## **MEETING AND WEBINAR SUPPORT**

Joanna Case, BETAH Associates  
Linda Dhawan, BETAH Associates  
Wayne Peraanu, BETAH Associates

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**National Institutes of Health**

**National Institute of Nursing Research**

**Minutes of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research**

April 8, 2026

The Closed Session of the 118th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) was convened on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. The meeting, which included consideration of grant applications, was convened at 1:00 p.m. and continued until adjournment at 1:13 p.m. Dr. Courtney Aklin, Chair, NACNR, presided over the meeting.

---

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Dr. Courtney Aklin, Chair, NACNR and Acting Director, NINR

Dr. Aklin called the 118<sup>th</sup> meeting Closed Session of the January NACNR to order and welcomed all Council members and staff.

**ROLL CALL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov, Executive Secretary, NACNR, and Director, Division of Extramural Science Programs, NINR

Dr. Tarlov conducted roll call of the NACNR members and noted for the record that a quorum had been met.

**CLOSED SESSION**

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public in accordance with the determination that this session concerned matters exempt from mandatory disclosure under Sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S. Code and Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5, USC Appendix 2). Dr. Tarlov reviewed conflict of interest and confidentiality rules. She reminded members of the requirement to leave the room prior to discussion and voting on any application with which they are in conflict and instructed them to speak up if they are in conflict, and staff will move them to a virtual waiting room. Members were asked to sign and submit a conflict-of-interest form following the meeting.

Council members considered 116 research and training grant applications on which NINR was the primary Institute; these applications requested a total of \$42,138,732 (direct costs year 01). The Council also considered 304 applications, on which another Institute/Center was primary and NINR was secondary; these applications requested a total of \$146,133,865 (direct costs year 01). The Council provided en bloc concurrence with the Institutional Review Group recommendations for these 420 applications. All applications requested a total of \$188,272,597 (direct costs year 01).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The 118<sup>th</sup> meeting of the January NACNR Closed Session was adjourned at 1:13 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

**COURTNEY  
F. AKLIN -S** Digitally signed by  
COURTNEY F. AKLIN -S  
Date: 2026.05.02  
16:07:12 -04'00'

Courtney F. Aklin, PhD

Acting Director

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

**ELIZABETH C.  
TARLOV -S** Digitally signed by  
ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S  
Date: 2026.05.14 13:26:47  
-04'00'

Elizabeth Tarlov, PhD, RN

Executive Secretary

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS' PRESENT**

Dr. Courtney Aklin, Council Chair  
Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov, Executive Secretary  
Dr. Robert Atkins  
Dr. Guadalupe X. Ayala  
Dr. Betty Bekemeier  
Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos  
Mr. Joseph Harrington  
Dr. Jing Wang  
Lt. Col Cubby Gardner

## **NIH STAFF PRESENT at CLOSED SESSION**

Courtney Aklin  
Maureen Akubu-Odero  
Brian Albertini  
Mary Bowen  
Shannon Bradley Givens  
Yvonne Bryan  
Shalanda Bynum  
Dara Demner  
William Duval  
Dionne Godette  
Ashlea Irick  
Karen Kehl  
Karen McNamara  
Miguelina Perez  
Barbara Sanford  
Julia Seay  
Elizabeth Tarlov  
David Tilley  
Jessica Tucker  
Nadra Tyus  
Latashia Whitlowe  
Joshua Wolff

## **BETAH**

Joanna Case  
Linda Dhawan