

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**National Institutes of Health**

**National Institute of Nursing Research**

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

May 20, 2025

The 115th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) was convened on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The open session was held virtually and was broadcast to the public by National Institutes of Health (NIH) videocast. The open session adjourned at 11:42 a.m. The closed session of the meeting, which included consideration of grant applications, was convened on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. and continued until adjournment at 12:18 p.m. Dr. Courtney Aklin, Chair, NACNR, presided over both meeting sessions.

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**OPEN SESSION**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

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

Dr. Aklin called the 115<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 will be archived on the NIH videocast website.

**II. 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. Minutes of September 12, 2024, NACNR meeting were distributed through the Electronic Council Book. A motion to accept these minutes was 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 are posted in the NIH Electronic Council Book for Council members. The next Council meetings will be held in June (date to be announced), on September 9, 2025, and on January 27, 2026. 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 she would provide specific instructions about conflict of interest and confidentiality at the beginning of the Closed Session in the afternoon.

### **III. NINR ACTING DIRECTOR’S REMARKS**

Dr. Courtney Aklin

Dr. Aklin welcomed Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda, a new Council member to the Council meeting. Dr. Aklin then gave the Acting Director’s update, which included a series of updates about NIH and NINR, including:

- Staff separations due to reduction-in-force actions
- Staff changes: New NINR Executive Officer Barbara J. Sanford
- Federal leadership changes: HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya
- FY 2025 budget update: A full-year Continuing Resolution was signed on March 15, 2025, with the NIH budget \$48.5 B; NINR \$197.7 M, consistent with FY 2024 level.
- Key NIH policy updates:
  - [Public Access to NIH-Supported Research](#)
  - [Centralizing Peer Review to Improve Efficiency and Strengthen Integrity](#)
  - [New NIH Foreign Subaward Structure](#)
  - [Updated NIH Processes for No-Cost Extensions](#)
- NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya’s five priorities: Tackle chronic diseases and conditions that affect people, reproducibility, drive innovation, research transparency and safety, and academic freedom
- NINR mission reaffirmed; research portfolio addresses chronic disease, community-engaged solutions, and holistic care
- New strategic imperative: School Health
- Upcoming NINR scientific events
  - Artificial Intelligence Virtual Boot Camp June 2-3, 2025
  - Workshop “Advancing Nursing Research to Support Healthy School Environments for All” June 11, 2025
  - Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Research Institute Faculty Convening and Early-Stage Investigator Workshop, September 16-17, 2025
  - NINR 40th Anniversary Symposium (September 17, 2025)

### **IV. REVIEW OF COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov

NACNR General Operating Procedures were made available for Council members’ review on the Electronic Council Book. Council members had no questions or comments.

### **V. TRIENNIAL INCLUSION REPORT**

Dr. William Duval, Deputy Director, Division of Extramural Science Programs, NINR

Dr. Duval reported that NIH is required to submit a triennial report to Congress on sex, race, and ethnicity in extramurally funded clinical research. He presented NINR’s 2022–2024 enrollment figures and noted that female participation hovered in the mid-50% to low-60% range—a balance compared with the 83% peak in 2016. He highlighted racial and ethnic representation: American Indian/Alaska Native representation slipped below 1% in 2024 (down from 2.4% in 2021 and below the 1.3% U.S. benchmark), Black/African American enrollment rose to the low-30% range (well above the 14% national level), and a sharp uptick in “unknown/not reported” responses complicated trend analysis. Finally, he observed that

Hispanic/Latino participation in NINR studies crept up from 10.1% in 2019 to 11.6% in 2024 yet still lagged national demographics. He reminded council members that the full draft report is available in the Electronic Council Book.

## **VI. NACNR WORKING GROUP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE UPDATE**

Dr. Patricia Stone, Council Member and Dr. Yvonne Bryan, Senior Advisor to the Director, NINR

Dr. Stone reported that the AI and Data Science Working Group—convened in September 2024 and meeting three times that fall—agreed on a working definition of artificial intelligence, identified four ranked research priorities (leveraging AI to address differences in health and disease distribution, strengthening digital infrastructure, engaging communities throughout algorithm development, and embedding conditions-of-daily-life perspectives to minimize differences in outcomes ), and proposed two equally important training priorities: targeted AI curricula for nurse scientists and foundational AI education across all NINR training grants. Dr. Bryan then supplemented the group’s findings with additional recommendations that NINR foster nurse-industry partnerships for patient-centered AI tools; adopt standardized nursing data structures to enable large-scale harmonization; promote systematic AI integration into clinical decision support, documentation, education, and analytics; prioritize research to detect and mitigate algorithmic bias—backed by continuous monitoring frameworks; cultivate nurses’ critical appraisal of AI outputs; and support adaptable research strategies capable of keeping pace with rapid technological change.

In a discussion after the presentation, council members endorsed the AI working group’s recommendations and urged NINR to back nurse-led research and training that harnesses the AI already embedded in EHRs while guarding against bias.

## **VII. PRESENTATION: NINR INTERVENTION RESEARCH**

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov

Dr. Tarlov reaffirmed NINR’s mission to lead nursing research that translates into real-world practice and policy, noting that the institute now ranks second at NIH in both intervention research and studies centered on social determinants of health. She outlined several NINR solutions-oriented initiatives and spotlighted current projects as examples. NINR continues to emphasize authentic community partnerships and NINR’s leadership roles on the NIH SDOH Research Coordinating Committee and Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative. NINR is committed to supporting innovative, rigorous research focused on solutions to confront persistent U.S. health challenges and advance health for all.

In a discussion after the presentation, a council member offered to have Illinois’ infant–maternal-mortality task force and local public-health leaders engage with NINR’s initiative.

## **VIII. CONCEPT CLEARANCE**

### **Advancing Nutrition-Related Research Across the Lifespan**

**Dr. Nadra Tyus, NINR**

Description: The purpose of this concept is to advance research to improve nutrition-related health outcomes for all people across the lifespan. The proposed concept encourages the development and evaluation of rigorous research that addresses the conditions of daily life, and the wider set of factors influencing them, to improve nutrition-related health outcomes for all people across the lifespan (prenatal, early childhood, adolescence, adults, and aging populations).

In a discussion after the presentation, Council members welcomed the concept's reach across all nursing roles and settings, urging studies that pair implementation strategies with mechanistic insights, address behavior change, utilize precision-nutrition and AI tools, test reimbursable nurse-practitioner models, and tackle rural food insecurity and the marketing power of ultra-processed foods.

### **NINR Mentoring Resources and Activities**

#### **Dr. Karen Kehl, NINR**

Description: The purpose of this concept is to support mentoring activities that expand, promote, and accelerate the development of the nurse scientist workforce to advance the NINR Mission. This concept encourages activities that provide career mentoring and applied, hands-on, mentored research experiences to promote career advancement among nurse scientists and expand the population of nurse scientists with NIH-funded research programs.

In a discussion after the presentation, Council members welcomed the concept's flexible, cross-institutional mentoring model and debated its scope—whether it should target PhD nurse-scientists alone or also DNP-prepared clinicians—and proposed solutions such as summer intensives, supplemental slots on funded teams, transdisciplinary mentoring networks, and strategies to offset infrastructure gaps between mentor and mentee institutions. They also stressed rebuilding the nurse-scientist pipeline by offering undergraduate research exposure and incentives for PhD study.

### **Leveraging Nursing Research to Advance Healthy School Environments for All**

#### **Dr. Dara Blachman-Demner, NINR**

Description: This concept is intended to foster multi-disciplinary and multisectoral research to fill critical research gaps in understanding and intervening on the complex interplay between school environments, education, health services, and the surrounding ecosystem to optimize educational and health outcomes for all youth.

In a discussion after the presentation, Council members expressed support for the school-health concept's cross-sector, community-engaged focus and for elevating school nurses as central research partners, and suggested that studies address chronic absenteeism, family engagement, and the realities of post-COVID school environments.

### **Interrupting the Cycle of Violence Against Women Through Targeted Approaches: The We Care Initiative**

#### **Dr. Shalanda Bynum, NINR**

Description: The purpose of this concept is to advance research that addresses the conditions of daily life to prevent, treat, and eliminate violence against women to improve health outcomes for all. This concept encourages research employing a range of research designs and methods to expand the evidence base on best approaches to prevent, treat, and eliminate violence against women to improve health outcomes for all women.

In a discussion after the presentation, participants emphasized that the true scope of violence against women is likely far greater than current statistics suggest, highlighting urgent gaps in standardized measurement, data infrastructure, and understanding of how neighborhood poverty, household economics, and other social determinants fuel victimization, revictimization, and inter-generational transmission. Suggestions included to prioritize “primordial” and primary prevention—especially school-based and community-engaged strategies, implementation science to scale proven approaches, and studies that

examine perpetration and leverage community strengths—while capitalizing on nurses trusted frontline role.

The council adjourned for the public portion of the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

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## 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.

Council members considered 116 research and training grant applications on which NINR was the primary Institute; these applications requested a total of \$46,107,465 (direct costs year 01). The Council also considered 258 applications, on which another Institute/Center was primary and NINR was secondary; these applications requested a total of \$90,423,783 (direct costs year 01). The Council concurred with the Institutional Review Group recommendations on these 374 applications. All applications (including those for which early concurrence was obtained) requested a total of \$136,531,248 (direct costs year 01).

## REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Dr. Tarlov provided a report of applications that received early concurrence.

Dr. Tarlov called for a motion for *en bloc* concurrence with the scientific review group's recommendations for all applications. The motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Council members did not bring forward any applications for discussion. Council members were reminded that their recommendation is advisory to the NIH Director.

## ADJOURNMENT

The 115<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NACNR was adjourned at 12:18 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

## CERTIFICATION

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

**COURTNEY F. AKLIN -S**  
Digitally signed by  
COURTNEY F. AKLIN -S  
Date: 2025.06.10  
13:19:27 -04'00'

Courtney Aklin, PhD

Acting Director

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

**ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S**  
Digitally signed by  
ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S  
Date: 2025.06.11 05:12:05  
-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. Guadalupe X. Ayala  
Dr. Betty Bekemeier  
Mr. Daniel E. Dawes  
Dr. Anne M. Fitzpatrick  
Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos  
Mr. Joseph Harrington  
Dr. Patricia W. Stone  
Dr. Jing Wang  
Dr. Cubby L. Gardner, *Ex Officio*  
Dr. Sheila Cox Sullivan, *Ex Officio*

## **PRESENTERS**

Dara Blachman-Demner  
Yvonne Bryan  
Shalanda Bynum  
William Duval  
Karen Kehl  
Nadra Tyus

## **NIH STAFF PRESENT at OPEN SESSION**

Courtney Aklin  
Dara Blachman-Demner  
Yvonne Bryan  
Shalanda Bynum  
William Duval  
Karen Kehl  
Nadra Tyus  
Elizabeth Tarlov

## **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  
Karen Huss  
Karen Kehl  
Weiqun Li  
Karen McNamara  
Julia Seay

Elizabeth Tarlov  
David Tilley  
Nadra Tyus  
Leigh Willis  
Joshua Wolff

## **MEETING AND WEBINAR SUPPORT**

Joanna Case  
Wayne Pereanu  
Sean Tolliver