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 23, 2024

The 113th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) was convened on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. (all times Eastern). The open session was held on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) campus, Building 31C, Room Conference Room 6C6. The open session adjourned at 3:22 p.m. The closed session of the meeting, which included consideration of grant applications, was convened on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 3:29 p.m. and continued until adjournment at 3:36 p.m. Dr. Shannon N. Zenk, Chair, NACNR, presided over both meeting sessions.

OPEN SESSION

I. CALL TO ORDER, OPENING REMARKS, AND COUNCIL PROCEDURES (NIH VideoCast@00:05)

Welcome

Dr. Shannon N. Zenk (NIH VideoCast@0:07)

Dr. Zenk called the 113th 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. Dr. Zenk thanked Dr. Mallory Johnson, Dr. Christopher Lee, Dr. Cindy Munro, and Dr. Elias Provencio-Vasquez for their service to the Council, as this was their last Council meeting. Dr. Zenk welcomed two new Council members, Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos and Dr. Jing Wang, as well an ad hoc Council member, Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda, to the May 2025 Council meeting.

Roll Call

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov (NIH VideoCast@3:50)

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

Minutes of Previous NACNR Meeting

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov (NIH VideoCast@5:22)

Minutes of the January 25, 2024, NACNR meeting were distributed to Council members 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).

Dates of Future Council Meetings

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov (NIH VideoCast@6:31)

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

- September 12, 2024
- January 28, 2025
- May 20, 2025

Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Statement

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov (NIH VideoCast@6:58)

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.

II. REPORT OF THE NINR DIRECTOR

Dr. Shannon N. Zenk, Director, NINR (NIH VideoCast@7:42)

Dr. Zenk gave the Director's Report, with a series of updates including:

- Advancing the science (including recent NINR RFAs and notices)
- Reaching audiences for NINR funding opportunities
- NINR publications of note
- Council Climate Change and Health Working Group report
- NINR research portfolio highlights in behavioral and social sciences, as well as social determinants of health
- NINR inclusion data
- Scientific events
- Outreach activities
- NINR news and announcements

- Congressional updates
- NIH news and announcements

III. STRENGTHENING NIH PEER REVIEW – CHANGES TO REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dr. Valerie Durrant (NIH VideoCast@1:05:26)

Dr. Durrant delivered a comprehensive presentation discussing significant changes and updates within the NIH's Center for Scientific Review, focusing on NIH-wide modifications to the peer review process. She detailed the restructuring of review criteria, aiming to streamline evaluations, increase fairness, and reduce administrative burdens, thereby emphasizing scientific merit. Dr. Durrant also highlighted the volume of grant applications managed by the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) and reiterated its mission to ensure unbiased, high-quality scientific reviews. She touched upon integrating revised strategies into NIH's broader objectives to enhance scientific research effectiveness. Throughout her talk, Dr. Durrant emphasized transparency and preparedness, informing stakeholders of forthcoming changes and providing resources for adaptation.

IV. HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH: NIH AND NINR UPDATES

Dr. John Grason (NIH VideoCast@1:56:09)

Dr. Grason spoke about the recent changes at NIH regarding categorizing health disparities research. He highlighted the transition from manual to automated coding through the Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization (RCDC) system, which utilizes text mining to enhance the accuracy and consistency of research categorization. Dr. Grason emphasized the importance of health disparities as a long-standing research focus at NINR and the entire NIH, and detailed how these changes aim to improve the ways in which research is tracked and reported. He also discussed the impact of the changes on the reporting and analysis of NINR research activities, and mentioned the appropriation of additional funds from Congress specifically for health disparities research.

V. C3 CARES | FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION: THE EVOLUTION OF THE C3 CARES MODEL

Dr. Erin Athey (NIH VideoCast@2:38:42)

Dr. Athey discussed her 26-year career as a nurse and how her initial work in hospital nursing, where she saw many preventable chronic illnesses, led her to pursue community health nursing and public health.

Dr. Athey also described her work to found C3 Cares, a nurse-led, place-based medical service that offers healthcare in Washington, DC's public housing. She detailed their innovative approaches to community health, which aim to integrate healthcare more deeply and effectively into community settings. Dr. Athey was joined by several community partners, including Mr. Keith Pettigrew, Executive Director of the DC Housing Authority, and Ms. Karen Dale, CEO, AmeriHealth Caritas, DC, who provided their perspectives on place-based community health services, including C3 Cares.

VI. FOCUSING THE LENS: SDOH ACTIVITIES AT NINR

Dr. Alison Colbert (NIH VideoCast@3:18:53)

Dr. Colbert discussed NINR's activities related to its social determinants of health (SDOH) research lens. She highlighted NINR's leadership in SDOH-focused research, emphasizing the effective strategies implemented to maximize research quality and opportunities. Dr. Colbert detailed the Institute's goals, which include advancing SDOH research, positioning NINR as a leader in the field, and equipping nurse investigators with necessary tools and resources. She also spoke about NINR's efforts in creating research frameworks that integrate health equity and SDOH, ensuring that NINR-funded research is aligned with these critical perspectives. Dr. Colbert described NINR's research portfolio in terms of its spending on SDOH-related research, highlighted NIH SDOH programs for which NINR serves in leadership roles, described NINR's recent strategic imperative on firearm injury prevention, and shared information on NINR SDOH training activities.

VII. AI AND HEALTH EQUITY

Dr. Omolola Ogunyemi (NIH VideoCast@3:48:57)

Dr. Ogunyemi, who serves in several roles at Charles R. Drew University, including as director of its Center for Biomedical Informatics, spoke on artificial intelligence (AI) and health equity. Dr. Ogunyemi described her academic and professional journey, emphasizing her work at medical schools and hospitals and shared insights into her research and efforts at Charles R. Drew University, where she focuses on addressing healthcare disparities through biomedical informatics in medically underserved communities. She provided an overview of AI and machine learning and discussed her work in using AI in identifying risk factors for diabetic retinopathy from electronic health records. She discussed potential uses for AI in healthcare while noting potential ethical considerations, including that AI can reproduce the biases that it is trained on and that not all patients might equitably benefit from AI advances. Moreover, there is the

possibility for AI to unintentionally reinforce and even exacerbate racial biases in healthcare. Dr. Ogunyemi did note however, that including SDOH in AI models could improve predictive accuracy vs. using clinical data alone.

VIII. CONCEPT: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY

Dr. Libbey Bowen ([NIH VideoCast](#)@4:44:52)

Dr. Bowen presented a concept for Council discussion on understanding and addressing SDOH in AI models and systems and to use SDOH to improve AI models and systems to reduce health inequalities and advance health equity. She explained that AI encompasses a range of techniques, including deep neural networks and natural language processing, which are used for predictive and analytical purposes. Dr. Bowen highlighted the potential of AI to significantly improve healthcare across diagnostics and treatments, noting existing evidence of AI algorithms performing at or above the human level in tasks like medical image analysis. Despite these advancements, she raised concerns about AI in healthcare regarding fairness, transparency, and the inclusiveness of diverse data. She emphasized that many AI systems fail to adequately consider SDOH, which can skew results and perpetuate inequalities. The presentation stressed the importance of interdisciplinary teams in AI research to incorporate a wide array of SDOH, thus improving model outcomes and reducing health disparities. This concept aims to promote SDOH research utilizing a variety of methods and measures to understand and address known biases in AI, and to understand how SDOH may be used in AI to optimize health and advance health equity.

IX. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

([NIH VideoCast](#)@5:03:34)

Dr. Guilamo Ramos pointed out the strategic opportunity presented by the forthcoming "Unequal Treatment Revisited Report" from the National Academies, questioning how the NINR could lead in utilizing its findings, while noting that a detailed discussion could be scheduled for a later date.

X. ADJOURNMENT

([NIH VideoCast](#)@5:05:39)

The council adjourned for the public portion of the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

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 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 statement to this effect.

Council members considered 140 research and training grant applications on which NINR was the primary Institute; these applications requested a total of $33,992,533 (direct costs year 01). The Council also considered 187 applications on which another Institute/Center was primary and NINR was secondary; these applications requested a total of $68,541,912 (direct costs year 01). The Council concurred with the Institutional Review Group recommendations on these 327 applications. All applications (including those for which early concurrence was obtained) requested a total of $102,534,445 (direct costs year 01).

XI. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The 113th meeting of the NACNR was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

XIII. CERTIFICATION

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

Shannon N. Zenk -S
Digitally signed by Shannon N. Zenk -S
Date: 2024.08.29 20:35:13 -04'00'

ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S
Digitally signed by ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S
Date: 2024.08.30 11:23:54 -04'00'

Shannon N. Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN

Elizabeth Tarlov, PhD, RN

Chair

Executive Secretary

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Shannon N. Zenk, Council Chair
Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov, Executive Secretary
Dr. Robert L. Atkins
Dr. Guadalupe X. Ayala
Dr. Betty Bekemeier
Prof. Daniel E. Dawes
Dr. Anne M. Fitzpatrick
Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos
Dr. Mallory O. Johnson
Dr. Christopher Lee
Dr. Cindy L. Munro
Dr. Patricia W. Stone
Dr. Jing Wang
Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda, *Ad Hoc*
Dr. Cubby L. Gardner, *Ex Officio*
Dr. Sheila Cox Sullivan, *Ex Officio*

NIH STAFF PRESENT AT OPEN SESSION

Olga Acosta
Courtney Aklin
Anita Ambs
Nissan Bhattacharyya
Frances Bevington
Dara Blachman-Demner
Libbey Bowen
Yvonne Bryan
Adrienne Burroughs
Shalanda Bynum
Eddie Byrnes

Alison Colbert
Bill Duval
John Grason
Kevin Green
Dionne Godette
Lauren Olivera Hashiguchi
Karen Huss
Nyala Johnson
Jo-Ann Kriebel
Sylvia Long
Mia Rochelle Lowden
Karen Marie McNamara
Wendy Pond
Liz Peruccio
Samantha Sánchez
Julia Seay
David Timpane
Leigh Willis
Kevin Wilson

GUESTS AT OPEN SESSION

Adel Alazazi
Joanna Case
Karen Dale
Linda Dewan
Valerie Durrant
Omolola Ogunyemi
Keith Pettigrew
Wayne Pereanu

NIH STAFF PRESENT AT CLOSED SESSION

Courtney Aklin
Anita Ambs
Frances Bevington
Nissan Bhattacharyya
Dara Blachman-Demner
Libbey Bowen
Yvonne Bryan
Shalanda Bynum
Dionne Godette-Greer
John Grason
Karen Huss
Jo-Ann Kriebel
Sylvia Long
Karen Marie McNamara

Lauren Olivera Hashiguchi
Julia Seay
Leigh Willis

GUESTS AT CLOSED SESSION

Joanna Case
Linda Dewan
Wayne Pereanu