

Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Nursing Research

Minutes of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

September 12, 2024

The 114th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) was convened on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The open session was held in-person and by National Institutes of Health (NIH) videocast. 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, September 12, 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

Welcome

Dr. Shannon N. Zenk

Dr. Zenk called the 114th 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. Dr. Zenk welcomed Mr. Joseph M. Harrington, a new Council member to the Council meeting.

Roll call

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov

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

Minutes of the Previous NACNR Meeting

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov

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

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

- January 28, 2025
- May 20, 2025
- September 9, 2025

Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Statement

Dr. Elizabeth Tarlov

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

Dr. Zenk gave the Director's Report, which included a series of updates about NINR, including:

- Recently updated descriptions of the five research lenses in the NINR 2022-2026 Strategic Plan
- Recently awarded R01 and R21 grants in response to NINR Program Announcements and RFAs
- Social Determinants of Health Summer Research Institute (July 29-31, 2024)
- Recently awarded R25 grants for Short Courses in Social Determinants of Health for Education in Nursing Research (RFA-NR-24-002)
- Recently announced funding opportunities: Advancing Health Equity through Interventions to Prevent and Address Housing Instability (Notice of Intent to Publish NOT-NR-24-011) – estimated publication October 2024; an OBSSR-led NOSI: Improving Adherence to Treatment

and Prevention Regimens and Maintenance of Health Behaviors to Promote Health (NOT-OD-24-146); and an NIMHD-led funding opportunity: Advancing Healthcare for Older Adults from Populations that Experience Health Disparities (PAR-24-273)

- New publications by NINR-funded investigators
- Recognition and congratulations to an NINR-funded investigator, Dr. Kendra Kamp for being recognized as one of three finalists for the Mitchell Max Award at the 19th Annual NIH Pain Consortium Symposium on Advances in Pain Research on May 30
- Intramural Updates including welcomes to new investigators Dr. Quynh Nguyen and Dr. Kirstin Dickens, recognition of Dr. Leroy Saligan featured in a recent international bibliometric analysis paper by Li and colleagues (2024), and summer intern Amarachukwu Uzundu featured on NIH's 'I am Intramural' Blog about Summer Poster Days
- Updates on major NIH-wide initiatives in which NINR is playing a leading role: Community Partnerships to Advance Science for Society (ComPASS); Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative
- Updates on Council Working Groups: The Working Group on AI and Data Science is being co-chaired by Council Member Dr. Stone with NINR's Dr. Yvonne Bryan and is ready to launch. A working group on SDOH common data elements is in discussion with the NIH-Wide SDOH Research Coordinating Committee about a possible joint effort.
- Scientific Events and Outreach Activities: NINR Director's Lectures by Dr. Vincent Guilam-Ramos on the Ending Unequal Treatment report (August 2024) and Dr. Mahasin Mujahid on maternal health and SDOH (July 2024); Director's Panel at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research hosted by Dr. Zenk; and conference presentations and outreach to extramural investigators by NINR extramural Program Officers.
- Congressional Updates
- Staffing Updates
- NIH, HHS and White House News and Announcements

III. UNEQUAL TREATMENT REVISITED: SETTING THE STAGE

Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos

Dr. Ramos addressed the findings of the National Academies “Ending Unequal Treatment” report on healthcare inequities over the last 20 years, highlighting the limited progress in addressing systemic racial and ethnic disparities. The report emphasized the persistence of inequities in marginalized communities

and called for a shift from advancing health equity to actively eliminating healthcare inequities. Dr. Ramos discussed strategies, including integrating social care with clinical systems, expanding primary care, and fostering a more representative healthcare workforce. He also highlighted nursing science's critical role in leading these efforts, stressing the need for scaling successful interventions and developing new approaches to tackle systemic challenges. Finally, he reflected on the past contributions of nursing and the future opportunities for nursing to further advance the elimination of healthcare inequities.

Council [discussion followed \(NIH VideoCast @ 1:14\)](#)

IV. HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH: NINR'S NORTH STAR

Dr. Courtney Aklin

Dr. Aklin discussed NINR's commitment to health equity as its guiding “North Star,” outlining the progress made through the 2022–2026 strategic plan. She highlighted the expansion of NINR’s portfolio, with nearly half of its budget supporting health disparities research and increased enrollment of minority participants. The talk emphasized the importance of addressing social determinants of health, implementing structural interventions, and fostering community partnerships. Dr. Aklin also shared examples of related NINR initiatives like the Bridge-to-Care program and the need for research that impacts policy change. The presentation closed by stressing the shift towards strength-based community-engaged models and the ongoing efforts to refine and maximize the impact of health equity research.

[Council discussion followed \(NIH VideoCast @ 2:30\)](#)

V. NINR-FUNDED HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCHER

Dr. Melissa Horning

Dr. Horning discussed her community-engaged research project focused on addressing dietary quality and food insecurity through the Twin Cities Mobile Market, a service providing affordable food to communities experiencing low-income. She emphasized the role of partnerships in the success of research with the mobile market, highlighting the importance of community involvement in both the development and evaluation of the program. Dr. Horning explained the importance and challenges of balancing real-world implementation with rigorous research, including navigating program changes during the COVID-19 pandemic and dealing with logistical issues such as bus breakdowns. The study, funded in 2022, aims to evaluate the mobile market’s impact on dietary quality and food security and also focuses on participant experiences and community input. She also emphasized the need for sustainable, adaptable

partnerships and discussed strategies for conducting meaningful research in complex, changing environments.

[Council discussion followed \(NIH VideoCast @ 2:30\)](#)

VI. ENVISIONING NURSING RESEARCH INTO THE FUTURE

Dr. Monica McLemore

Dr. McLemore challenged traditional research practices and urged the audience to rethink how they engage with diverse communities, advocating for truth and reconciliation efforts to address past harms. Dr. McLemore emphasized the need for collaborative work with communities, not just as subjects but as equal partners, particularly in designing and implementing health interventions. She highlighted the potential of non-traditional funding sources to support nursing science. She called for innovations such as community-based review boards and equitable compensation for community partners. Throughout her talk, she emphasized the need for meaningful investments in community engagement to sustain long-term health outcomes and build trust between researchers and the populations they serve.

[Council discussion followed \(NIH VideoCast @ 3:47\)](#)

VII. STRATEGIES FOR MOVING NURSING SCIENCE UPSTREAM TO FOCUS ON STRUCTURAL SDOH

Dr. Shawn Kneipp

Dr. Kneipp discussed strategies for advancing nursing science to address structural social determinants of health (SDOH) from an upstream approach. She emphasized focusing beyond traditional biological and behavioral health factors, advocating for a framework that considers power dynamics and their influence on health inequities. She referenced various models, including Heller's work, which highlights the significance of power in shaping social structures and processes. Many of these play out daily in the delivery of health and social services across a wide array of program structures and processes, where nurses are poised to make important contributions. Dr. Kneipp called for nurses to engage with community settings beyond acute care and the traditional healthcare system to observe how SDOH function in real-world contexts. She outlined recommendations such as encouraging institutions to increase exposure to SDOH for nurse researchers as part of their academic roles, enhancing theoretical understandings of and methods for studying power, and encouraging funding agencies to support research beyond simple interventions, urging a focus on structural changes that disrupt power imbalances and improve health equity.

[Council discussion followed \(NIH VideoCast @ 3:47\)](#)

VIII. CONCEPTS

Dr. Karen Kehl

Dr. Kehl, along with her team, presented a concept aimed at addressing health equity through the development of innovative nursing research centers. The initiative focused on fostering community-partnered, solutions-oriented research to tackle social and structural disparities in health, especially for historically disadvantaged communities. Dr. Kehl emphasized the importance of community engagement throughout the research process, from identifying challenges to implementing and evaluating solutions. The initiative aimed to build research capacity in Schools and Colleges of Nursing, particularly those with limited NIH funding, by leveraging existing community partnerships and supporting interdisciplinary research teams. Key objectives included pilot projects addressing community priorities, interdisciplinary collaboration, and mentorship for nurse scientists, with the ultimate goal of enhancing competitiveness for future NIH funding.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The council adjourned for the public portion of the meeting at 3:21p.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 257 research and training grant applications on which NINR was the primary Institute; these applications requested a total of \$101,459,968 (direct costs year 01). The Council also considered 131 applications on which another Institute/Center was primary and NINR was secondary. The Council concurred with the Institutional Review Group recommendations on these 388 applications. All applications (including those for which early concurrence was obtained) requested a total of \$159,440,114 (direct costs year 01).

X. 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.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The 114th meeting of the NACNR was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2024.

XII. CERTIFICATION

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

Shannon N. Zenk -S
Digitally signed by
Shannon N. Zenk -S
Date: 2024.12.28
11:04:50 -05'00'

Shannon N. Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN

Chair

National Advisory Council for Nursing Research

ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S
Digitally signed by
ELIZABETH C. TARLOV -S
Date: 2025.01.07
20:17:13 -05'00'

Elizabeth Tarlov, PhD, RN

Executive Secretary

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
Mr. Daniel E. Dawes
Dr. Vincent Guilamo-Ramos
Mr. Joseph Harrington
Dr. Patricia W. Stone
Dr. Anne Fitzpatrick
Dr. Jing Wang
Dr. Cubby L. Gardner, *Ex Officio*

PRESENTERS

Courtney Aklin
Karen Kehl
Shawn Kneipp
Monica McLemore

NIH STAFF PRESENT at OPEN SESSION

Olga Acosta
Courtney Aklin
Anita Ambs
Yvonne Bryan
Nyala Johnson
Maureen Akubu-Odero
Dara Blachman-Demner
Libbey Bowen
Edmond Byrnes
Hristina Denic-Roberts
Bill Duval
Demond Gibson

Dionne Godette-Greer
John Grason
Rebecca Hawes
Karen Huss
Karen Kehl
Jo-Ann Kriebel
Karen Marie McNamara
Samantha Sanchez
Julia Seay
Don Seymour
David Tilley
Nadra Tyus
Leigh A. Willis
Kevin Wilson
Josh Wolff

NIH STAFF PRESENT at CLOSED SESSION

Anita Ambs
Dara Blachman-Demner
Libbey Bowen
Shalanda Bynum
Dionne Godette-Greer
John Grason
Karen Huss
Karen Kehl
Jo-Ann Kriebel
Karen Marie McNamara
Nadra Tyus
Leigh A. Willis

MEETING AND WEBINAR SUPPORT

Joanna Case
Wayne Pereanu

Sean Tolliver