
Re-Viewing Peer Review

**A Self-Study by the NIH
in Partnership with the Scientific Community
to Strengthen Peer Review in
Changing Times**

July 18, 2007

Principles Behind the Study

- The increasing breadth, complexity, and interdisciplinary nature of biomedical science are creating new challenges for the system used by NIH to support biomedical and behavioral research
- Peer review is a key component of this system

NIH must:

- Continue to adapt to rapidly-changing fields of science and ever-growing public health challenges
 - Work to ensure that the processes used to support science are as efficient and effective as possible for applicants and reviewers alike
 - Continue to draw the most talented reviewers
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Core Questions

- Is the system currently used by NIH to support biomedical and behavioral research optimal?
 - Do the best scientists/scientific ideas score highest in review?
 - Are we engaging the best reviewers?
 - Should we increase program flexibility to enhance peer review? If so, how?
 - Should we increase review flexibility to enhance peer review? If so, how?
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The Approach to the Study

- NIH will seek input from the scientific community, including:
 - investigators
 - scientific societies
 - grantee institutions
 - voluntary health organizations
 - NIH will also seek input from its own staff – as we are doing today!
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Milestone: Preparation

- At the Fall 2006 NIH Leadership Forum, IC Directors resolved that enhancing the NIH Peer Review system is a top priority (*completed*)
 - NIH holds brainstorming sessions with IC Directors and Extramural Review and Program Staff to lay the foundation for the process (*completed*)
 - CSR initiatives already underway will work synergistically with this process (*continuing*)
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Milestone: Working Groups

External (ACD WG on Peer Review)

- Keith Yamamoto, Ph.D., UCSF, Co-Chair, ACD, Boundaries Report
- Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., NIDCR, Co-Chair
- Bruce Alberts, Ph.D., UCSF, Chair, Boundaries Report
- Mary Beckerle, Ph.D., U. Utah, ACD
- David Botstein, Ph.D., Princeton, ACD
- Helen Hobbs, M.D., UTSW, HHMI
- Erich Jarvis, Ph.D., Duke
- Alan Leshner, Ph.D., AAAS, ACD
- Philippa Marrack, Ph.D., Natl. Jewish Med., HHMI, Boundaries Report
- Marjorie Mau, M.S., M.D., U. Hawaii, COPR
- Edward Pugh, Ph.D., U. Penn., PRAC
- Tadataka Yamada, M.D., Gates Foundation, ACD

Ex officio

- Norka Ruiz Bravo, OD/OER
 - Toni Scarpa, CSR
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Milestone: Working Groups

Internal (Steering Committee WG on Peer Review)

- Jeremy Berg, Ph.D., NIGMS, Co-Chair
- Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., NIDCR, Co-Chair
- Marvin Kalt, Ph.D., NIAID
- Story Landis, Ph.D., NINDS (Co-chair EAWG)
- Roderic Pettigrew, Ph.D., M.D., NIBIB
- Norka Ruiz Bravo, Ph.D., OD/OER (Co-chair EAWG)
- Toni Scarpa, Ph.D., CSR
- Lana Skirboll, Ph.D., OD/OSP
- Brent Stanfield, Ph.D., NIDDK
- Jane Steinberg, Ph.D., NIMH
- Betty Tai, Ph.D., NIDA

Ex officio

- John Bartrum, OD/OB
 - Jack Jones, Ph.D., Acting CIO
 - Catherine Manzi, OGC
 - Jennifer Spaeth, OD
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Phases for Review

- Diagnostic Phase
 - NIH puts out an RFI and creates an interactive web site for soliciting opinion (July-August 2007)
 - ACD Working Group holds a series of 5 regional town meetings (July to October 2007)
 - SC Working Group holds consultative meetings within NIH and creates a web-based survey for soliciting opinion (July to October 2007)
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Updates Available On-line


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Enhancing Peer Review at NIH



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NIH Internal Activities

- [July 18 NIH Internal Consultation Meeting](#) – Natcher Balcony, 9:00am to Noon – with agenda
- July 31 NIH Internal Consultation Meeting – Rockledge II Conference Room, 9:00am to Noon (agenda to be provided)
- [NIH Staff on-line survey](#)
- NIH IC Peer Review Experiments have been collected and are now being analyzed.
- [Steering Committee Ad Hoc Working Group on Peer Review Roster](#)

Phases: Piloting

- NIH leadership will consider input from the RFI and both working groups and determine next steps, including pilots (February 2008)
 - Design and initiate pilot(s) and associated evaluation(s) (March 2008)
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Phase: Implementation

- Development of implementation plan
 - Briefings for NIH staff
 - Briefings for scientific societies, trade press, advocacy organizations
 - Legislative briefings
 - Expansion of successful pilots
 - Development of new NIH Peer Review Policy
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Breakout Sessions Today

- Challenges/solutions for NIH System of Research Support
Marvin Kalt
 - Challenges/solutions of NIH Peer Review Process
Toni Scarpa
 - Core Values of NIH Peer Review Process
Betty Tai
 - Peer Review Criteria and Scoring
Jane Steinberg
 - Peer Review at Different Career Stages
Story Landis
 - Role of Advisory Councils in the 2nd Level of Review
Rod Pettigrew
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