

CSR News Flash

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Center for Scientific Review
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Melanie Keller Has Become CSR's New Executive Officer

The NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has named Ms. Melanie Keller as its new Executive Officer. "Melanie shined above all the candidates," says Dr. Toni Scarpa, CSR Director. "Her keen understanding of NIH administrative, personnel, planning, and budget systems and procedures will be invaluable as CSR advances its many new initiatives to improve its peer reviews."



Melanie Keller

"We took extra time to find just the right person," explains Dr. Scarpa, "because the scope and importance of our services are so large." Each year, CSR receives about 80,000 grant applications, uses nearly 20,000 reviewers and hosts over 1,600 review meetings, which require over 60,000 hotel rooms and travel reimbursements. As CSR's Executive Officer, Ms. Keller will oversee staff and contractors who provide critical services to CSR and NIH: administrative, financial management, committee management, information technology, procurement, and management analysis services.

Ms. Keller comes to CSR from the NIH Office of Strategic Management Planning, where she held two positions. She started as the Director of the NIH Training Center before becoming the Director of the Workforce Development Program. Prior to these positions, she worked for the NIH Office of Human Resources, where she was the program manager of the Emerging Leader Intern Program after serving as the Training Program Manager for administrative systems training. Ms. Keller's first job at NIH was as the human resource specialist and administrative officer for the Clinical Genetics Branch and the Nutritional Epidemiology Branch at the National Cancer Institute. Before coming to NIH, she held a number of administrative/personnel positions at the Food and Drug Administration. She also serves on the International Public Management Association for Human Resources—Eastern Region's Executive Committee, and has held a variety of leadership roles in that organization since 1997 at the local, regional and international levels. Ms. Keller holds a B.S. degree in management studies and human resource management from the University of Maryland University College.

About CSR

The Center for Scientific Review organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of grant applications submitted to the National Institutes of Health. CSR recruits about 18,000 outside scientific experts each year for its review groups. CSR also receives all NIH and many Public Health Service grant applications—about 80,000 a year—and assigns them to the appropriate NIH Institutes and Centers and PHS agencies. CSR's primary goal is to see that NIH applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews that are free from inappropriate

influences so NIH can fund the most promising research. For more information, visit <http://www.csr.nih.gov>.