

measurements of a sequence common to several targets.

The method's software design allows for large (>10,000) target sets and large probe set sizes (2->1,000,000). While current selection criteria involve a time consuming iterative and manual process, the present invention allows for the identification of a quantitatively optimized probe set which balances probe performance criteria and simultaneously optimizes the sensitivity and specificity of the assay for a given set of targets.

*Applications:* The invention has applications in the design of various important assays, such as those based on microarrays, multiplexed PCR and SPR, targeted protein fragment detection, or any sequence-specific binding and detection. It has application where the number of probes to be used in an assay is too large for manual design and review.

*Inventors:* Eric Billings and Kevin E. Brown (NHLBI).

*Patent Status:* U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/871,447 filed 21 Dec 2006, entitled "Probe Set Global Optimization" (HHS Reference E-332-2005/0-US-01).

*Development Status:* The technology is ready to be applied and validated in many different areas for research and diagnostic purposes.

*Licensing Status:* Available for non-exclusive or exclusive licensing.

*Licensing Contact:* Cristina Thalhammer-Reyero, Ph.D., M.B.A.; 301/435-4507; [thalhamc@mail.nih.gov](mailto:thalhamc@mail.nih.gov).

*Collaborative Research Opportunity:* The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Computational Biophysics Laboratory is seeking statements of capability or interest from parties interested in collaborative research to further develop, evaluate, utilize or commercialize a method for optimizing sequence-based assays. Please contact Dr. Eric Billings, at (301) 496-6520 or via e-mail at [billings@helix.nih.gov](mailto:billings@helix.nih.gov) for more information.

Dated: August 16, 2007.

**Steven M. Ferguson,**

*Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.*

[FR Doc. E7-16644 Filed 8-22-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Institutes of Health**

**National Eye Institute; Notice of Meeting**

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Advisory Eye Council.

The meeting will be open to the public as indicated below, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and/or contract proposals and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications and/or contract proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* National Advisory Eye Council.

*Date:* September 27, 2007.

*Closed:* 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications and/or proposals.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 5635 Fishers Lane, Terrace Level Conference Center, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Open:* 10:30 a.m. to Adjournment.

*Agenda:* Following opening remarks by the Director, NEI there will be presentations by the staff of the Institute and discussions concerning Institute programs.

*Place:* National Institutes of Health, 5635 Fishers Lane, Terrace Level Conference Center, Bethesda, MD 20892.

*Contact Person:* Lore Anne McNicol, PhD, Director, Division of Extramural Research, National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 451-2020.

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

Information is also available on the Institutes's/Center's home page: <http://www.nei.nih.gov>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.867, Vision Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 14, 2007.

**Jennifer Spaeth,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 07-4100 Filed 8-21-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Institutes of Health**

**Supplementary Risk Assessments and Site Suitability Analyses for the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory, Boston University Medical Center**

**ACTION:** Availability of Supplementary Risk Assessments and Site Suitability Analyses for the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory, Boston University Medical Center; notice of hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has placed in the docket for public review and comment the Supplementary Risk Assessments and Site Suitability Analyses for the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory, Boston University Medical Center, which address additional concerns of the local community regarding possible impacts of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory, Boston University Medical Center. The purpose of the Supplementary Risk Assessments and Site Suitability Analyses for the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory was alternative site analysis and risk assessment that investigated potential infectious disease threats that may be posed to the public should an exotic infectious agent be released into the community through an infected laboratory worker, laboratory accident, or other mishap.

**DATES:** Comments on the Supplementary Risk Assessments and Site Suitability Analyses for the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory must be received by Monday, November 12th. A public hearing will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2007, from 7-9 p.m. at Faneuil Hall, Dock Square, Boston, MA 02109.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Valerie Nottingham, Division of Environmental Protection, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 13, Room 2S11, Bethesda, MD 20892, MSC 5746. E-mail comments should be sent to [nihnepa@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nihnepa@mail.nih.gov). Comments sent by e-mail must be received by 11:59

p.m. on the last day of the comment period, Monday, November 12, 2007.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Valerie Nottingham, Division of Environmental Protection, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 13, Room 2S11, Bethesda, MD 20892, MSC 5746, telephone number 301-496-7775, E-mail address: [nihnepa@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nihnepa@mail.nih.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Institutes of Health awarded a construction grant to Boston University to partly fund the design and construction of one of two National Biocontainment Laboratories (NBLs). These advanced biomedical research laboratories are essential to the civilian biodefense initiative providing critically needed Biosafety Levels 2, 3, and 4 research space. The basic and translational research to be conducted in these laboratories over the next 20 years will result in development of new rapid diagnostic assays, vaccines and therapeutics for protection of the American public against intentional misuse or release of harmful biological agents or toxins and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza and the SARS coronavirus.

The NIH completed and published a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and published a Record of Decision as required for major federal actions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Construction of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory (NEIDL) began at the BioSquare II Research Park on Albany Street, Boston, Massachusetts adjacent to the Boston University Medical Center (BUMC).

During the preparation of the EIS, the NIH conducted a thorough review of the possible impacts of the NBL on the public and the environment. That review demonstrated that the construction and operation of the NBL was not a risk to the community in which the laboratory was sited or surrounding communities. In response to additional and lingering concerns raised by some members of the community, the NIH has performed additional reviews of the potential impacts of the NBL. These reviews included additional "hard look" alternative site analyses and risk assessments investigating potential infectious disease threats that may be posed to the public should an exotic infectious agent be released into the community through an infected laboratory worker, laboratory accident or other mishap. Additionally, the risk assessments specifically addressed an

on-going community concern that an Environmental Justice community near the proposed NEIDL site in Boston would be disproportionately impacted should a release occur.

#### **Availability of Copies and Electronic Access**

Copies of the Supplementary Risk Assessments and Site Suitability Analyses for the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory, Boston University Medical Center may be obtained at no cost by calling 301-496-7775, or by emailing requests to [nihnepa@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nihnepa@mail.nih.gov). Documents are available in alternate formats upon request. Persons who want a publication in an alternate format should specify the type of format. The document will also be available on the NIH Web site [http://www.nems.nih.gov/aspects/nat\\_resources/programs/nepa.cfm](http://www.nems.nih.gov/aspects/nat_resources/programs/nepa.cfm).

Dated: August 15, 2007.

**Daniel G. Wheeland,**

*Director, Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations, NIH.*

[FR Doc. E7-16645 Filed 8-22-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **Information Collection Authority Under Homeland Security Acquisition Regulation (HSAR)**

**AGENCY:** Office of Chief Procurement Officer, Acquisition Policy and Legislation Office, DHS.

**ACTION:** Submission for OMB review; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Acquisition Policy and Legislation Office, has submitted the following information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The Office of the Chief Procurement Officer is soliciting comments concerning an extension to an existing collection, Information collection authority under Homeland Security Acquisition Regulation (HSAR).

**DATES:** Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until October 22, 2007. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.1

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and questions about this Information Collection Request should be forwarded to the Acquisition Policy and Legislation

Office, Attn: Kathy Strouss for the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 3114, Washington, DC 20528.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy Strouss, 202-447-5300 (this is not a toll free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of the Chief Procurement Officer requires a renewal request and a revision of an existing OMB Control number for four forms in the HSAR 48 CFR Chapter 30. This notice provides a request for renewal of the designated OMB Control Number 1600-0002 previously granted in September 2004 on the following four forms: DHS Form 0700-01, DHS Form 0700-02, DHS Form 0700-03, and DHS Form 0700-04. These four forms will be used by contractors and/or contract employees during contract administration. A fifth form, DHS Form 0700-05, which was included with initial clearance and approval for this OMB control number 1600-0002 in September 2004, is obsolete due to recent changes in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 48 CFR Chapter 2. The change to FAR Part 45 was effective June 14, 2007 and removed previously existing annual contractor reporting requirements. The DHS Form 0700-05 supported the collection of the annual contractor report. A HSAR change will include designation of the DHS Form 0700-05, Contractor Report of Government Property as obsolete. No extension of the collection is requested for this form. DHS Form 0700-04, Employee Claim for Wage Restitution, requires an amendment to reflect a name change. The office designated for receipt of the claim currently appears as "The General Accounting Office" but the name has changed to "The Government Accountability Office". No other amendments to the DHS HSAR forms are anticipated. The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments regarding the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility;
2. The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information;
3. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
4. Ways to minimize the information collection burden.
5. Estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance,