

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities**

**National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Tuesday, September 20, 2005**

Meeting Minutes

The National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD) met on September 20, 2005 at the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD), National Institutes of Health, 6707 Democracy Blvd., Suite 800, Bethesda, Maryland. Donna A. Brooks, Executive Secretary, NACMHD called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. John Ruffin, Ph.D., Director, NCMHD and Chairman, National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities presided over the meeting. Caroline Kane, Ph.D., Professor in Residence, University of California, Berkeley, served as chair designee and facilitated the proceedings. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the meeting was open to the public from 10:25 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and reconvened in open session from 1:30 p.m. to 4:21 p.m.

Council Members present:

John Ruffin, Ph.D., Chair

Regina M. Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A. (via telephone)

Carl Franzblau, Ph.D.

Thomas E. Gaiter, M.D.

Pamela V. Hammond, Ph.D., F.A.A.N.

Warren A. Jones, M.D.

Ruth Johnson, J.D.

Caroline M. Kane, Ph.D.

Grace L. Shu, D.O.M., Ph.D.

Pitambar Somani, M.D., Ph.D.

Louis W. Sullivan, M.D. (via telephone)

Augustus A. White, III, M.D., Ph.D.

Ex-officio members present:

David B. Abrams, Ph.D.

Michael J. Fine, M.D., M.Sc.

Kevin R. Porter, M.D.

Council Members Absent:

Melvina McCabe, M.D.

Executive Secretary:

Donna A. Brooks

OPENING REMARKS: Dr. Ruffin welcomed the group to the tenth meeting of the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities. He acknowledged the devastation created by Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast. He expressed deep concern for the individuals, families, communities, and institutions that were impacted. Dr. Ruffin gave an update on some of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NCMHD steps to provide assistance in the region.

NIH offered a delay in the application receipt date for principal investigators in the region directly affected by Hurricane Katrina, as well as for other PIs who are assisting with relief efforts. NIH has also provided an online query system for researchers in New Orleans to obtain contact information for their programs and grant officials. Thirdly, NIH deployed a team of medical professionals to Mississippi and made 100 beds available at the Clinical Center in case they were needed. NIH Commissioned Corps officers were also on standby for possible deployment.

From the HHS perspective, Secretary Leavitt declared several states as public health emergency states including Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. These are states that were either directly hit by the hurricane or states that took in large numbers of evacuees. The DHHS also set up a website to provide regular updates on the agency's relief efforts.

Dr. Ruffin reminded the audience that September 20th marked the DHHS annual Take A Loved One for a Check-up Day. He shared with them the significance of that initiative as well as the Celebra La Vida initiative, which are both cornerstone initiatives of the DHHS Closing the Gap campaign, co-funded by the NCMHD. This year the Closing the Health Gap campaign also is promoting the new Medicare prescription drug benefit that will begin in January 1, 2006. Medicare recipients can begin enrolling in Medicare prescription drug plans on November 15, 2005. The Office of Minority Health is the lead DHHS entity on the Closing the Gap campaign, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid is the DHHS agency for information on the new Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Dr. Ruffin gave an overview of the meeting's agenda and closed his opening remarks with the introduction of two new staff members. Ms. Leslie Atkinson is the new Endowment Program Director. She comes to us from the United Negro College Fund where she served as the director of government affairs. Mr. Carl Hill is a research health scientist in the Division of Research and Training Activities, completing all activities associated with his doctorate degree at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIALITY & CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As Chair designee, Dr. Kane reviewed several Advisory Council policies and procedures. Dr. Kane reminded the Council that its meetings are open to the public and that closed sessions were reserved for the review of grant applications. She reminded members that the Advisory Council's standards of conduct were in their desk folder. She reviewed the confidentiality and conflict of interest policies citing a few examples of potential conflict and reminded members that any potential conflicts should be reconciled in advance of Council deliberations.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL'S JUNE 2005 MINUTES

The Advisory Council reviewed the June 21, 2005, meeting minutes and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

FUTURE MEETING DATES & OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

February 21, 2006
June 13, 2006
September 12, 2006.

NCMHD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For fiscal year 2005, the NCMHD released program announcements for the Loan Repayment Program (LRP). In addition, Requests For Applications (RFA) were available for the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) Program; the Research Endowment Program; the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Program; the Center of Excellence Program (P20 mechanism); and the Community-Based Participatory Research Program.

NCMHD awarded the first set of *MHIRT Program* awards since the transfer of the program from Fogarty International Center. A total of 23 awards were made for approximately \$5 million. Of these, there were 17 renewal applications, and six new MHIRT grantees. The diversity of disciplines represented on the review panel included: international health; psychology; biology; nursing; medicine; environmental health; public health; behavioral science; and pharmacology. The current group of MHIRT institutions is spread across 18 states. The participants in the MHIRT Program are generally undergraduate, graduate, and other health professions students who participate in short-term research training programs at international sites. The students are from disciplines such as: sociology; psychology; anthropology; epidemiology; the basic sciences; biology; and medicine. Some of the international sites where research will be conducted are: Ethiopia, Ghana, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Thailand, China, Botswana, Guatemala, Australia, and Spain.

The Loan Repayment Program, this year NCMHD received 480 applications, and expect to distribute awards to approximately 244 health professionals for a total estimate of \$10 million. Of these, 140 were new applications and 104 were renewals. A total of 209 individuals received awards through the Health Disparities Research Loan Repayment Program, and 35 through the Extramural Clinical Research Program. The review panel was diverse in its racial/ethnic composition (62% racial/ethnic minority; 38% Caucasian), as well as the representation of disciplines: medicine; behavioral science; health policy; nursing; anthropology; epidemiology; dentistry; community health; health services; nutrition; and statistics.

The Research Endowment Program: Dr. Ruffin noted that the Endowment Program is now reaching maturation. The results of the interest institutions are gaining on their endowment are beginning to accrue. He gave examples of how some institutions were using their income.

Howard University Excellence in Health Professional Education Program, provided scholarship awards to 18 students in the fall of 2004. This allowed the students to engage in research, and make several poster presentations on their research activities. The University of Kansas, through its Endowment Program for Disadvantaged Students, has exceeded its core goal of providing financial support to students. A total of 23 students have received scholarships. The NCMHD grant has helped the institution to strengthen the curriculum and cultural and linguistic competencies by hiring a medical Spanish/cultural competency instructor, as well as provided other academic support and retention efforts. Tuskegee University provided scholarship for veterinary and nursing students, as well as support for faculty. The endowment funds stimulated the alumni establishment of two additional endowments and expansion of the summer research, or the Externship Program, which is sending students outside of the institution for various kinds of experience.

Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Program - Presently, there are 16 institutions that are receiving funding through the RIMI Program. During the closed session, the Council conducted the second level of review for 11 applications.

Community-Based Participatory Research Program - This is the NCMHD newest grant program for which the NCMHD received an overwhelming response to the RFA. The initial review committee reviewed a total of 161 applications. The primary area of study proposed by applicants: were cancer; cardiovascular disease; child health improvement; diabetes; HIV/AIDS; and obesity. There were 17 states represented among the applications that were reviewed, including: Alaska; California; Hawaii; Idaho; Michigan and Missouri; South Dakota; Texas; and Wisconsin.

Center of Excellence Program, (Project EXPORT) - An RFA was released for the Center of Excellence Program P20 mechanism, also referred to as exploratory center grants. Dr. Ruffin reminded the group that the R24 which was a three year planning was not renewable. Some of first institutions funded with a R24 grant were approaching their expiration term. A total of 28 applications were received. The release of the P20 RFA was an opportunity for the 15 eligible R24 Project EXPORT grantees to apply, and nine of them actually submitted applications.

Several NCMHD supported Project EXPORT Centers have matured to where signs of productivity are evident by articles appearing in peer reviewed journals, with acknowledgement of NCMHD support. Some have published in *Ethnicity and Disease*; *Pain Medicine*; the *American Journal of Public Health*; *Social Science and Medicine*; the *Journal of Telemedicine*; and the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. The articles cover areas such as rural health; cultural competence; post-traumatic stress disorder; diabetes; and trauma. The most widely studied diseases among our Project EXPORT grantees are diabetes and obesity. Other major areas of studies are behavioral health, cardiovascular disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, hypertension; mental health; and nutrition.

The IOM Assessment of NIH Health Disparities Strategic Plan: The Institute of Medicine is working to complete its report on the assessment of the NIH Health Disparities Strategic Plan, which is slated for the end of this year. The study committee held a total of five meetings that involved select NIH institutes and centers, stakeholders, community organizations, and grantees.

NIH Reauthorization - On July 19, 2005, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which is chaired by Joe Barton, held a hearing on the reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Zerhouni testified before the committee. The bill is still in draft form but some of the key points deal with the categorization of ICs as mission-specific or science-enabling, and the establishment of a Division of Program Coordination.

National Academy of Sciences' Assessment of the NIH Minority Research Training Programs: The final in a series of three reports is now available. The Academy briefed the NIH leadership on the report at the July 28, 2005 Institute and Center (IC) directors meeting. The outcome was a recommendation and agreement to establish an NIH executive committee for minority research and training to review the report, determine the implementation course, and develop an action plan. Dr. Ruffin, along with Jeremy Berg, director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) will co-chair the committee. A preliminary list of the membership has been compiled. The group will include some of the original members of the committee for the phase one and phase two reports, as well as other individuals who are involved in minority health and training issues in the ICs.

Electronic Submission of grant applications will begin on December 1, 2005 with the SBIR/STTR. All competing grant mechanisms will gradually transition from being received on paper to being received electronically. The goal is for all NIH competing grant applications to be submitted electronically by May 2007.

Hurricane Katrina Relief - The NCMHD has been asked to collaborate with the HHS Office of Minority Health to provide financial resources to support the HHS hurricane relief efforts that are of a health disparity nature. NCMHD provided \$5.2 million. The NCMHD contribution to the relief effort will be coordinated under the aegis of the NIH and DHHS efforts. Dr. David Satcher, former surgeon general, and also the director of one of the NCMHD Centers of Excellence, will work with the NCMHD and HHS to coordinate the involvement of the NCMHD Health Disparities Centers of Excellence.

This concluded the report of the NCMHD director, followed by questions and comments from the Council members on various areas primarily the programs and the HHS Katrina relief efforts.

NCMHD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Community-Based Collaboration: National Alliance for Hispanic Health - The National Alliance for Hispanic Health (The Alliance) is the nation's largest and oldest organization of health and human service providers to Hispanics. Dr. Jane Delgado, President and Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Adolph Falcon, Vice President for Science and Policy gave an update on the organizations work through NCMJD funding. Dr. Delgado reviewed the mission and structure of the organization. Some of the key projects of the Alliance are:

- The creation of electronic medical records in collaboration with the California Medical Association.

- The Patient Safety Institute has been established to reduce patient adverse events through the creation of a secure, inclusive and “trusted” communications network. A system for interoperability of diverse electronic medical records has been beta tested in Seattle with Swedish and Providence Hospitals.
- Awareness campaigns: 1) *¡Vive Tu Vida!* – Get Up! Get Moving! 2) *Unidos Por La Salud: United for Health*. The Alliance’s interactions with the community suggested that physical activity is most important, and thus both initiatives promote healthy living. Through partnership with the Office of Research on Minority Health (ORMH – predecessor to NCMHD), the Alliance was able to be a part of the National Hispanic Leadership Initiative on Cancer. This was a national initiative to look at breast cancer, but it was also an opportunity to get the cancer comprehensive centers to reach out to the Hispanic community. The information that was generated was used to develop a resource kit for community educators that had to talk to people about cancer.
- Proyecto Ciencia: (Project Science) focuses on science, the community, research and the delivery of health. Key accomplishments include: a senior level liaison network with 62 universities; a very extensive online communication infrastructure; a series of meetings on health disparities with a number of the NIH institute directors; a scientific update of the Alliance’s landmark publications: *Delivering Health Care to Hispanics*, and the *Primer for Cultural Proficiency*, which were released in partnership with the American Hospital Association; a new delivery mechanism for getting information to the media on new data and new findings in science, which is called "Nuestros Numeros:" Our Numbers or Data; and distribution of a number of NIH consumer materials through our National Hispanic Family Help line, 866-SU-FAMILIA.
- The report "Genes, Culture and Medicine," is the first report that brought together the emerging science about genetics and the Hispanic community, and the impact on medicines. The second report was a scientific update of "Delivering Health Care to Hispanics" which was aimed at getting to the issue of delivering quality health care.
- Another key data area of focus is the Hispanic Health Needs Assessment, which is assisting researchers and communities to do a better job of doing research on what their community needs are. A new area of transformation for the Alliance is clinical trials and harnessing the power of electronic records. The Alliance has also set up a relationship with the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium, which is developing a lot of the data standards for clinical trials.

Research Endowment Program - The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Dr. Martha Medrano, Clinical Associate Professor/Director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence discussed some of the high points of the university’s accomplishments through NCMHD endowment funding. The focus of the Hispanic Center of Excellence is on student recruitment, student retention, faculty development, summer research programs for students, information resources in particular as they relate to Hispanic health research issues.

The NIH endowment grant supports the Academic Centers of Excellence in Teaching and the Academic Enhancement Program. The Academic Center of Excellence in Teaching: is to create an organizational environment within the University of Texas Health Science Center to promote excellence in teaching, and increase opportunities for all students to achieve academic success. The idea is to build a learning organization that has as some of its components systems thinking, personal mastery, mental models, building a shared vision, as well as team learning.

The Academic Enhancement Program begins in the pre-matriculation program, for freshmen, 6-8 weeks prior to entering their first year of medical school. The goals of the Academic Enhancement Program are to help students begin to identify, describe and understand their individual learning styles. A key to the success of the program has been the ability to teach students their individual learning style, how it relates to their personality make-up, and teaching them that they in fact also can use other learning styles. Students are taught to be active learners as well.

With the focus on a learning organization and a learning environment, outcomes include: 1) tutors learned what their individual learning styles were, and began to teach them to help students move to a more effective learning style. Thus, the tutors themselves were able to be more effective at tutoring; 2) the students that participated in the Academic Enhancement Program did just as well if not better than their peers; and 3) the faculty at the health science center was increased by 5 percent as compared to the first submission of the endowment grant.

Health Disparities Centers of Excellence (Project EXPORT) - Emory University

Dr. Otis Brawley, Associate Director, Winship Cancer Institute/Professor of Hematology, Oncology, Medicine and Epidemiology at Emory University presented on some of the projects funded through the Health Disparities Center of Excellence. Partnerships have been created with: Grady Health System, Morehouse School of Medicine; Clark-Atlanta University; Emory University School of Nursing and the School of Public Health.

The NCMHD grant has helped the Georgia Center for Health Equality (which is the name of the EXPORT Center) to:

- Bring a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional group of professionals together to tackle issues in health disparities such as social scientists, medical scientists, community advocates, and student trainees. An objective is to bring the students along as the research is conducted;
- Build a Cancer Center;
- Create professional mentorship for students. All of the schools are providing individuals who take part in that mentorship.
- Support the Morehouse School of Medicine's annual primary care and prevention conference;
- Support community outreach and educational events involving Parent Teacher Associations, community groups and visits to housing projects.

Through the training core, six Clark-Atlanta University graduate students have been identified

for support. Four are PhD social work students who are working with Emory faculty, and two PhD biology students are supported to work in Clark-Atlanta, Morehouse School of Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratories. One student works between Morehouse School of Medicine and CDC. The Georgia Center also pays partial salaries of six junior faculty members on the Morehouse School of Medicine staff.

Areas of research study are: racial disparities in colon cancer, lymphoma, and especially lymphoma amongst women with HIV; HIV/AIDS among young black men; and the changing prevalence among HIV in elderly women, especially black elderly women. Funding has been provided for students to give presentations at various conferences. The Center has also instituted a breast cancer survivor supporting survivors program, and Breast Cancer 101. A research question now under study is: “does educating folks intensively on how breast cancer should be treated improve compliance?” Social work students from Clark-Atlanta are also working with faculty at the School of Nursing at Emory to look at perceptions of care needs and support among older African American patients and family members.

In an effort to diversify the Center is moving beyond cancer and starting to support the Diabetic Health Research Collaborative at Grady Hospital. Its education programs with ladies in pink, stresses cancer therapy compliance, early detection and a sense of well-being.

NIGMS' Health Disparities Research Report - Dr. Jeremy Berg, Director, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

Dr. Berg gave an overview of the mission of the NIGMS which was founded to support research and training with respect to general or basic medical sciences and related natural and behavioral sciences. It also has been a really natural place for broad training programs, PhD training, the MD-PhD program, as well as programs related to minorities in research. There are four divisions within the institute: Cell Biology and Biophysics, Genetics and Developmental Biology, Pharmacology, Physiology and Biological Chemistry, and then the Division of Minority Opportunities in Research (MORE). Within the last few years, a new Center was created within the institute, the Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. It's an exciting new area that cuts across a lot of the activities within the institute.

Training is really a crucial part of the institute. Each of the divisions supports research programs, but they also support training programs. The Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) branch within the MORE division is to increase the number of minority faculty students and investigators engaged in biomedical research; to broaden opportunities in biomedical research for minority faculty, students, and investigators; and provide general support for biomedical research programs at eligible institutions.

The Support of Continuous Research Excellence (SCORE) program --provides research support to minority-serving institutions to develop biomedical research faculty that are committed to improving competitive research programs, and increasing the number of underrepresented minorities professionally engaged in biomedical research. In order to achieve this mission, financial assistance is provided to competitive developing research programs in all areas of biomedical and behavioral research at institutions with significant underrepresented minority

student enrollments. The program supports faculty-initiated, scientifically meritorious research projects, including pilot research projects.

The Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program is directed towards student development rather than research support. It seeks to enhance the research environment at minority-serving institutions. The overall goal is to increase the interest, skills, and competitiveness of students and faculty in pursuit of biomedical research careers. The program offers support for faculty and student development activities, which can include on- or off-campus workshops, specialty courses, travel to scientific meetings, and research experiences at on- or off-campus laboratories. Support is available for evaluation activities, as well. These are interconnected in the sense that one reason for the research support is to improve the experiences that students have and increase the likelihood that they will be knowledgeable of and interested in research careers.

A more recent program, the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity (IMSD) program, seeks to encourage the development and/or expansion of innovative programs to improve the academic and research competitiveness of underrepresented minority students at the undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral levels and to facilitate their progress toward careers in biomedical research.

The other major branch within the MORE division is the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) branch. Its mission is to expand opportunities for research experience and doctoral training. The Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (U*STAR) Program is an institutional grant program to four-year colleges, which have a substantial enrollment of underrepresented minorities. It supports honors junior and senior students majoring in sciences relative to biomedicine who are interested in biomedical or behavioral research. It also supports curriculum development and other programs that lead into the support for students.

The NCMHD and NIGMS are partners in the Bridges Program, which is intended to facilitate the transition from associate programs to baccalaureate programs, or from masters programs into doctoral programs.

The Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA) Program is a new program. This is a post-doctoral program that combines a traditional mentored postdoctoral research experience with an opportunity to develop teaching skills through mentored assignments at a minority-serving institution. This program is expected to facilitate the progress of postdoctoral candidates toward research and teaching careers in academia. Other goals are to provide a resource to motivate the next generation of scientists at minority-serving institutions, and to promote linkages between research-intensive institutions and minority-serving institutions that can lead to further collaborations in research and teaching.

Other NIGMS initiatives include: The Pharmacogenetics Research Network has just been funded for its second five-year cycle. It will look at genetic factors associated with differential responsiveness to drugs. This program is directed toward differences in individuals and how they respond to drugs. The initial goals are to improve screening for particular genotypes which lead to potential bad responses to drugs and a general understanding of how these genetic factors

play to improve the efficacy of drugs that are out there; and also to try to avoid some of the adverse events that have plagued the pharmaceutical industry and human health. NIGMS also has a substantial portfolio in burn and trauma research.

The open session was adjourned at 4:21 pm.

CLOSED PORTION - NCMHD

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public in accordance with the determination that it was concerned with 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 U.S.C. appendix 2).

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

The Council considered 215 applications requesting an estimate \$87,229,435 in total costs. Applications that were noncompetitive, unscored, or were not recommended for further consideration by the scientific review groups were not considered by Council. The Council by way of en bloc voting concurred with the first-level peer review on 215 applications.

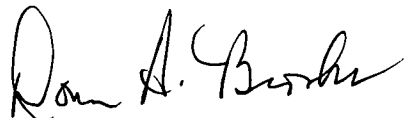
Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



John Ruffin, Ph.D.

Chairman, National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Director, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH



Donna A. Brooks

Executive Secretary, National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NCMHD, NIH