

**The NIH Director's
Council of *Public Representatives* (COPR)**

COPR-ACD Liaison Report

**June ACD Meeting Highlights
of Potential Interest to the COPR**

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FY2008 Appropriations: Public Access Mandatory

Among other features, the bill makes **public access to NIH-funded research information mandatory** and requires all NIH-funded investigators to submit electronic manuscripts of their scientific work to the National Library of Medicine (NLM).

Discussion of CTSA's

- It is too early to measure the effects of the CTSA's in the clinical research arena; however, an ACD member **predicted that the CTSA's will lead to the spread of best practices.**
- The CTSA program has a committee investigating ways to **support diverse and community-based young researchers** within the program.
- The CTSA program will **emphasize the bedside-to-community aspects** of the research.

NIH Reform Act: Reauthorization

- The **NIH Reform Act of 2006** reauthorizes **NIH** for 2007 and 2008.
- It calls for **new processes for facilitating trans-NIH research.**
- It establishes a Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (**DPCPSI**), which **oversees OPASI.**
- It creates a **Council of Councils.**
- It establishes a **Common Fund to support trans-NIH research** and calls for a **large, biennial report** on the state of biomedical and behavioral research, including the **priorities and plans of the ICs.**
- Other terms include a **public process for reorganizing NIH programs.**

Example of Recent Trans-NIH Initiative

- National Children's Study **involves all NIH Institutes.**
- Study receives **Office of the Director funding.**
- Nine vanguard sites have been launched, and there will be **105 sites eventually.**
- Study will **observe children from preconception to age 21.**
- **Recruitment will begin in 2008.**

Roadmap for Medical Research Program Update—New Initiatives

- Epigenetics (5-year program)
- Human Microbiome (5-year program)
- Protein-capture and phenotyping services and tools (staged approach)
- Connectivity map to discover linkages between diseases, drugs, and genetic manipulation (pilot study)

NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers Update

- NIH cosponsored a **study by the National Academies Committee on Women in Academic Science and Engineering.**
- Report pointed to need to **help women see a career path** that allows them to reach their full intellectual potential.
- It concluded that **unintentional biases and institutional structures hinder access and advancement** of women in the sciences.

NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers Update *(continued)*

- **Consider recommendations** from the National Academies report.
- Give attention to the **NIH intramural community** concerns.
- Consider **broader context of girls and women in science.**
- Provide **special attention** to issues of:
 - **Barriers**
 - **Minority women scientists**
 - **Mentoring**

Center for Scientific Review (CSR) Improvements

CSR has initiated **changes to improve the peer review system**, including but not limited to:

- Increasing **communication** and **transparency**
- Increasing **efficiency** and **effectiveness**
- Increasing **consistency**
- Increasing the **recruitment** of administrators

CSR Improvements *(continued)*

CSR intends to:

- Improve the **alignment of Study Sections**
- **Shorten the review cycle**
- Recruit and retain **high-quality reviewers** and **lessen their burden**
- Better identify significant, innovative, **high-impact research**

Future changes under consideration include: a) **continuous receipt** of applications, b) use of **reviewer rewards**, and c) **editorial board reviews**.

Electronic Research Administration (eRA)

In the past year, NIH has taken large steps toward the fully **electronic submission** of research grant applications.

- About **80%** of applications are now submitted electronically.
- Systems are **performing well**. A few complex programs are still in **transition**.

Office of Extramural Research

Improved Web-Based “Facts and Figures”

- Series of **downloadable slides**
- NIH extramural funding **trends**, numbers of grant applications, **awards and success rates**, mechanisms, types of programs, etc.
- Launching **January 2008**
- **Features of the improved OER reporting Web site**: enhancements to current items; one-stop shopping for reports; easier navigation; tools to customize reports; indications of most frequently visited reports; and links to other sources of information

COPR Liaison Report to ACD

- Suggested **increased synergy and exchange** between the COPR and ACD. For example, a member of one group might join a work group from the other group.
- Encouraged **retiring liaison and new (replacement) liaison to attend a meeting of the other group together.**
- John C. Nelson, who attended the April COPR meeting, was **very impressed** by the scope and depth of the presentations, intensity of the discussions, and use of a meeting chair and procedures, such as voting (suggested for ACD).
- Dr. Zerhouni proposed that the **COPR and ACD hold a common meeting** some time in the future.