

REQUESTS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF NIH

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS AND BOARDS

*See Federal Register
6/19/79 Part IV
for details
RAB*

NOTICE

INTRODUCTION

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the medical research arm of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (DHEW), invites nominations for membership on national advisory councils and boards.* Each of the NIH bureaus, institutes and divisions (BIDs) awarding grants has a national advisory council whose members generally are leaders in the fundamental sciences, medical sciences, education, or public affairs. Section 301 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. 241), the basic authority under which NIH research project grants are made, provides that no grant may be awarded unless it has been recommended for funding by the appropriate national advisory council.

The councils review and evaluate program accomplishments and help to identify and resolve problems in program planning and development. They provide guidance to the programs of the BIDs in the context of national health needs as part of their statutory responsibilities to "advise, consult with, and make recommendations to" the Secretary, DHEW on "matters relating to health activities ..." The councils also consider the impact of BID decisions on grantee institutions. With increasing frequency, the councils are also asked to review the concept of new initiatives before solicitation of grant applications, Request for Applications (RFA), or contract proposals, Request for Proposals (RFP). Also the councils provide final review for merit and program relevance of all applications for research grants, Institutional National Research Service Awards, and other grant applications that require such approval under the PHS Act.

Information about the functions of each national advisory council, the expertise required, and the number of anticipated vacancies for terms generally beginning November 1, 1980, will be found in the listing which follows. Nominations must be submitted by August 1, 1979, and will be solicited annually thereafter.

Any person may nominate one or more candidates for consideration on one or more specific councils. Self nominations are accepted. NIH/DHEW have a special interest in assuring that women and ethnic minorities are adequately represented on advisory councils and particularly encourage their nominations.

* Hereinafter both referred to as councils

All nominations will receive careful consideration; however, appointment authority resides with the Secretary, DHEW.

Description of the Peer Review System

The NIH peer review system is based upon two sequential levels of review, referred to as the "dual review system." Both levels have statutory bases. The first level of review is performed by scientific review groups which are established, in general, along lines of scientific disciplines and consist of experts in relevant research fields. The scientific review groups managed by the Division of Research Grants are referred to as Study Sections. The Study Sections consist of 12 to 20 scientific members each and have as their primary function the review and evaluation for scientific merit of research grant applications. Other scientific review groups are managed by the BIDs and have diverse review responsibilities, such as multidisciplinary research requests and a variety of other specialized proposals, including research contract proposals.

The second level of review for research grant applications is performed by a national advisory council for each BID which supports extramural research. These groups are comprised of both scientists and non-scientists and have broader responsibilities. The mix of members adds to the grant review and selection process relevant programmatic and policy considerations. The councils also offer advice and make recommendations on public policy and matters of significance to the mission and goals of the BIDs they serve.

Responsibilities of Advisory Councils and Their Members

Each advisory council is composed primarily of non-Federal scientists and public members selected for their competence, interest, and knowledge in the missions of the specific BID involved. Council members review BID program objectives, priorities, balance and accomplishments. They also may make recommendations on factors related to resource allocation, program management and administration. Council members provide assurance of NIH responsiveness to public needs as well as NIH support to high quality biomedical research. Usually a minimum of three meetings are held yearly. Each meeting generally requires two or three days of intensive review of research proposals, policy matters, and program review. At least two weeks before each meeting date, the BID staff sends out material on each grant application, agenda items, and reports to be reviewed. Council members are expected to read and be prepared to contribute to the discussion on all applications and to identify those needing special attention. Specific assignments are made in advance of the meeting so that designated council members can lead the discussion on various matters related to the deliberations and recommendations to be formulated at the meeting.

Occasionally members also participate in project site visits when additional information or personal discussion with the applicant institution and investigators are deemed necessary for the council to reach a definitive recommendation. A BID may convene special council meetings in addition to the minimum of three each year to deal with special reports, new initiatives for the future, and to advise further on public issues related to biomedical research. Furthermore, certain councils are mandated by law to submit annual reports to the Congress on the needs, progress, and achievements of the BID. Members generally serve terms not to exceed four years.

Criteria for Selection of Council Members

The PHS Act directs the Secretary, DHEW, to appoint members to NIH advisory councils in accordance with the requirements set forth by the enabling legislation.* These requirements are designed to assist in the selection and appointment of individuals who are knowledgeable in the programmatic areas of the BID mission, familiar with NIH procedures, aware of the roles of diverse institutions in biomedical research, and mindful of the health needs of the American people. To provide this range of expertise, each council consists of both scientific and public members. Ex-officio members from other agencies are appointed as required by law or for administrative reasons.

Criteria for Selection of Scientific Members

Individuals selected as scientific members are chosen from among those recognized as outstanding leaders and experts in their research fields and considered to have a broad interest in, and understanding of, the relationship of biomedical science to societal needs. Individuals who are regarded as senior scientists are viewed as particularly desirable members because they bring to such deliberative bodies a wealth of experience and perspective gained from scientific research and training. It is expected that council members have made significant research contributions in a field relevant to the mission of the BID and are recognized also for other scientific accomplishments. Scientific members should have an awareness of the standards of scientific merit and of the review criteria utilized by the NIH peer review system. In addition to scientific accomplishment, mature judgment, balanced perspective, and objectivity are essential.

Criteria for Selection of Public Members

Individuals selected as public members are leaders in such fields as education, law, social sciences, public health, or public and community affairs, and must have a demonstrated interest in, and background relevant to, the needs of society in the areas of the mission of the BID. Public members comprise approximately one third of each council.

* Members of the National Cancer Advisory Board are appointed for six year terms by the President

Other Considerations for Membership

Within a given council, representation of scientific disciplines or medical research specialties must permit the attainment and maintenance of a proper balance of expertise to cover the range of the mission and goals of the BID. In addition, such factors as geographic distribution and adequate representation of minority and female candidates must be considered.

No two members of the council are appointed from the same institution or organization. With rare exceptions, no member may serve concurrently on more than one HEW advisory group.

Within these criteria, guidelines, and conditions, the practice is to make selections for advisory service from the widest available pool of qualified candidates.

Nomination Procedures

Recommendations for membership originate with the BID staff who draw on personal knowledge of the disciplines and of the scientists who have made significant research contributions and are regarded as senior scientific statesmen. Recommendations from other NIH staff and current and former members are also considered. Responses to this announcement will constitute an important new source of potential members for BID staff to consider.

Approximately twenty-five percent of the positions become vacant each year. The general procedure is for NIH to nominate one principal and one alternate candidate for each vacancy on an advisory council. Final appointment is made by the Secretary who issues the invitation letter. The PHS Act directs the Secretary to appoint members to advisory councils in accordance with the requirements set forth by each of the sections of the act which apply to the particular council.

How to Respond to the Announcement

This announcement invites nominations to fill vacancies on NIH advisory councils for terms beginning November 1, 1980. The missions of the various BIDs listed below apply to the entire council and are not limited to current vacancies.

Nominations must be received by August 1, 1979. Please submit a mailing address with the name of each nominee so that the nominee may be contacted to provide more detailed information. Specify the council on which you feel the nominee is qualified to serve. An individual may be nominated for more than one council. To be considered, the nomination should include a statement that the nominee is aware of the nomination and is willing to serve.

In addition to the council for which a nominee is proposed, he/she may be considered by the NIH for other consultant activities. Prior to appointment candidates will be asked by the NIH to provide detailed information concerning financial holdings and consultancies to identify any possible conflicts of interest.

Address nominations to: Joan T. Bailey
DRA--Nominations
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health
Room 1B58, Building 31
Bethesda, Maryland 20205

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Name of Nominee

Check--
One { Scientific Member
Public Member

Complete Mailing Address

Council

The above nominee is aware of the nomination and is willing to serve.

Signature of Nominator

Address

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Number of anticipated vacancies: 3

FUNCTIONS: Advises and makes recommendations on programs relating to aging and the elderly. Reviews applications for research projects on the aging process and the disease and other special problems and needs of the aged.

STRUCTURE: Consists of twelve public and professional members, seven of whom are leading medical or scientific authorities skilled in aspects of the basic biological, biomedical, social, and the behavioral sciences related to aging.

NATIONAL ADVISORY ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 1

FUNCTIONS: Advises and assists the Director in development of policy and program; undertakes specific studies to determine national needs; and makes recommendations on matters related to program in the areas of allergy and other immunological diseases, infectious diseases, and the basic disciplinary areas of research related to these health problems. Provides final review of research and training grant applications in these fields of research.

STRUCTURE: Consists of fifteen members, ten of whom are leading medical or scientific authorities outstanding in the study, diagnosis, or treatment of allergy, immunology, and infectious diseases.

NATIONAL ARTHRITIS, METABOLISM, AND DIGESTIVE DISEASES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 3

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for research projects in arthritis, rheumatism, metabolism, diabetes, and digestive diseases. There is within the council a Digestive Diseases Committee which specifically reviews applications for projects relating to digestive diseases and nutrition.

STRUCTURE: Consists of eighteen members, at least fourteen of whom are leading medical or scientific authorities outstanding in the study, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of arthritis, bone and skin diseases, diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, digestive diseases, nutrition, kidney, urologic and blood diseases.

NATIONAL ADVISORY CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 4

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for research projects in the fields of maternal health, child health and human development. Advises on matters relating to maternal health, child health and human development.

STRUCTURE: Consists of fourteen members, nine of whom are leading medical or scientific authorities outstanding in the fields of research or training related to the biological and behavioral facets of maternal health, child health and human development.

NATIONAL ADVISORY DENTAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 3

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for research projects in the field of dental and oral diseases and conditions. Advises on matters relating to programs and activities in this area.

STRUCTURE: Consists of twelve members, six of whom are leading dental, medical or scientific authorities outstanding in the study, diagnosis, or treatment of dental diseases and conditions; at least four of the six are dentists.

NATIONAL ADVISORY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 4

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for research projects and for grants and awards for research and training activities in the environmental health sciences. Advises on matters relating to programs and activities in the area of environmental health sciences.

STRUCTURE: Consists of fifteen members, eleven of whom are leading medical authorities, trained in toxicology, pharmacology, pathology, biochemistry, etc., knowledgeable in environmental health sciences, with special interest and understanding in how environmental contaminants (toxicants) adversely affect human health.

STRUCTURE: Consists of eighteen members, twelve of whom are leading medical or scientific authorities outstanding in the fields of research and/or research administration related to the programs of the Division of Research Resources. Scientific disciplines/expertise are required in the areas of clinical investigation, biomedical engineering, veterinary medicine, pathology, physiology, biochemistry, internal medicine, biophysics, biomedical communications, pediatrics, and research administration. Six members are from the lay community, with expertise in program planning administration, management, and public information.

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE (Terms for this Board begin on August 4, 1980.)

Number of anticipated vacancies: 3

FUNCTIONS: Advises on important matters of policy for the Library, including the acquisition of materials, the scope, content, and organization of the Library's services, and the rules under which its materials, publications, facilities, and services shall be made available to various kinds of users. The Board performs a final review of proposals for support.

STRUCTURE: Consists of ten members selected from among leaders in the various fields of the fundamental sciences, medicine, dentistry, public health, hospital administration, pharmacology, or scientific or medical library work, or public affairs. At least six are selected from among leaders in the fields of medical, dental, or public health research or education.

NATIONAL CANCER ADVISORY BOARD (Six-year terms for this Board begin on March 9, 1980)

Number of anticipated vacancies: 6

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for grants-in-aid relating to cancer research. Advises and assists the Director, National Cancer Institute, with respect to the National Cancer Program.

STRUCTURE: Eighteen members appointed by the President. Not more than twelve of the appointed members shall be scientists or physicians and not more than eight of the appointed members shall be representatives from the general public and not less than five of the appointed members shall be individuals knowledgeable in environmental carcinogenesis (including carcinogenesis, involving occupational and dietary factors.) The scientists and physicians

appointed to the Board shall be appointed from among persons who are among the leading scientific or medical authorities outstanding in the study, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer or in fields related thereto and at least two of the physicians appointed to the Board shall be physicians primarily involved in treating individuals who have cancer. Each appointed member of the Board shall be appointed from among persons who by virtue of their training, experience, and background are especially qualified to appraise the programs of the Institute.

NATIONAL ADVISORY EYE COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 3

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for research projects in the field of eye disease and the visual system. Develops reports on vision research program planning to guide the national effort toward better understanding of the cause, prevention, and treatment of visual system disorders. Reviews research contract projects prior to solicitation of proposals from the scientific community. Makes recommendations on matters relating to diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of visual disorders, and to the mechanism of sight and visual function.

STRUCTURE: Consists of twelve members, eight of whom are leading medical or scientific authorities outstanding in the study, diagnosis, or treatment of blinding eye diseases and visual disorders. Some scientific areas represented on the Council include clinical ophthalmology and research, ophthalmic optics, immunology, physiology, biochemistry, optometry, psychophysics, and microbiology. Also included on the Council are members whose prime interest is eye care service.

NATIONAL ADVISORY GENERAL MEDICAL SCIENCES COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 3

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for research projects and grants and awards for research and research training activities in the basic biomedical fields of cellular biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, pharmacology and physiology and biomedical engineering as well as in certain clinical sciences related to research in medical genetics, clinical pharmacology, anesthesiology and the mechanisms underlying response to trauma and burn injury. Advises on matters relating to general or basic medical sciences, particularly as outlined above.

STRUCTURE: Consists of twelve members, six of whom are leading medical or scientific authorities outstanding in cellular and molecular biology, genetics, pharmacology and clinical pharmacology, physiology, biomedical engineering, and related clinical areas such as anesthesiology and trauma burn studies.

NATIONAL HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 5

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for research and research training in heart, blood vessel, lung, and blood diseases and blood resources. Advises regarding the National Heart, Blood Vessel, Lung, and Blood Diseases Program. Submits report annually on the progress of the Program toward the accomplishment of its objectives. Recommends areas of research to be supported by contracts. Advises on establishment of prevention and control programs and on national research and demonstration centers for these diseases.

STRUCTURE: Consists of eighteen members, eleven of whom are selected from among leading medical or scientific authorities who are skilled in the sciences related to diseases of the heart, blood vessels, lungs, and blood; two members are selected from persons enrolled in residency programs providing training in heart, blood vessel, lung, or blood diseases; and five members are from the general public.

NATIONAL ADVISORY NEUROLOGICAL AND COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS AND STROKE COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 4

FUNCTIONS: Reviews applications for research projects for grants and awards for research and training activities in the fields of neurological and communicative disorders and stroke. Advises on matters relating to programs and activities in these fields.

STRUCTURE: Consists of sixteen members, twelve of whom are leading medical or scientific authorities outstanding in the study, diagnosis, or treatment of neurological and communicative disorders and stroke.

NATIONAL ADVISORY RESEARCH RESOURCES COUNCIL

Number of anticipated vacancies: 4

FUNCTIONS: Advises concerning the Animal Resources, General Clinical Research Centers, Biotechnology Resources, Minority Biomedical Support, Biomedical Research Support, and Biomedical Research Development Programs. Reviews applications for research in these programs. Advises on the establishment and maintenance of ongoing evaluation studies and reports concerning any one or all of the above programs.