

CSR News Flash

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Center for Scientific Review
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Dr. Cathleen Cooper Selected to Be Director of CSR's Division of Receipt and Referral



The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has named Dr. Cathleen Cooper as the new Director of its Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR). Dr. Cooper has served as acting Director of DRR since September 2012, and she previously served as a review group Chief as well as a Scientific Review Officer and a Referral Officer.

DRR receives over 80,000 grant applications a year and refers them to CSR peer review groups and to the NIH Institutes and Centers as well as other agencies that may fund them.

“Dr. Cooper is a proven manager with a profound appreciation of the NIH peer review and referral systems,” said CSR Director, Dr. Richard Nakamura. “She also has excelled in working with the scientific community in positive ways during difficult times.” He noted that her Integrated Review Group (IRG) has been one of CSR's most productive.

Dr. Cooper will lead a key service-oriented component of CSR. As the portal for incoming NIH grant applications, this division serves principal investigators and their institutions, and NIH extramural staff as well as CSR staff.

With a staff of twenty-seven professional, including seven full- and twenty part-time, scientists, DRR:

- Checks incoming applications for compliance with a multiple of NIH policies
- Refers applications to the most appropriate review groups and funding Institute(s) or Center(s).
- Reviews and clears all NIH Funding Opportunity Announcements and Notices.
- Responds to submission- and referral-related questions and resolves problems.

In addition to NIH grant applications, DRR receives and assigns groups of applications for other components of the Department of Health and Human Services, such as the Centers for Disease Control, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Agency for Children and Families.

Dr. Cooper has a 12-year tenure at CSR. She recently served as Chief of CSR's Oncology 1: Basic and Translational Integrated Review Group. Between 2000 and 2009, Dr. Cooper was the Scientific Review Officer of CSR's Experimental Immunology (EI) and Transplantation, Tolerance and Tumor Immunology (TTT) study sections. Dr. Cooper earned a Ph.D. in pathology at the University of Southern California where she studied naturally occurring delayed-type hypersensitivity reactions to mycobacteria. She did her postdoctoral training in molecular immunology at Columbia University then went to the University of Massachusetts Medical School as an assistant professor in the Department of Cell Biology and the Cancer Center. There, she led a research team studying the molecular regulation of early events in hematopoietic development with special emphasis on B lymphocyte and neutrophil differentiation. Her work was funded by NIH, American Cancer Society, and private foundations.

About CSR

CSR organizes the peer review groups that evaluate the majority of grant applications submitted to NIH. These groups include experienced and respected researchers from across the country and abroad. Since 1946, CSR's mission has been to see that NIH grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews — free from inappropriate influences — so NIH can fund the most promising research.

CSR also receives all incoming applications and assigns them to the NIH Institutes and Centers that fund grants. For more information, go to CSR's Web site— <http://www.csr.nih.gov> —or phone 301-435-1111.

About NIH

NIH — the Nation's Medical Research Agency — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit <http://www.nih.gov>