

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH
MEETING SUMMARY
May 17-18, 2021**

The Open Session of the 93rd meeting of the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research (NACHGR) was convened virtually by Zoom at 11:30 AM on Monday, May 17, 2021. Dr. Eric Green, Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), called the meeting to order.

The meeting was open to the public from 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM on May 17, 2021. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was closed to the public from 5:00 PM until adjournment on May 17, 2021 and from 12:00 PM until adjournment on May 18, 2021 for the review, discussion, and evaluation of grant applications.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Chang (Stanford University)
Wendy Chung (Columbia University)
Mark Craven (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
Patricia Deverka (Deverka Consulting, LLC)
Hal Dietz (Johns Hopkins University)
Stephen Fodor (13.8 Inc.)
Rafael Irizarry (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute)
Lisa Parker (University of Pittsburgh)
Len Pennacchio (University of California, Berkeley)
Stephen Rich (University of Virginia)
Olga Troyanskaya (Princeton University)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS, NHGRI STAFF, LIAISONS, AND GUESTS

Dr. Rudy Pozzatti began the Open Session with the introduction of new members of the NHGRI staff, liaisons, and guests, which can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the February 2021 Meeting Minutes by a unanimous vote.

FUTURE NACHGR MEETING DATES

- September 13-14, 2021
- February 7-8, 2022
- May 16-17, 2022
- September 19-20, 2022
- February 13-14, 2023
- May 15-16, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NHGRI ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Dr. Eric Green announced his intention to appoint Mr. Vence L. Bonham, JD, as the Acting Deputy Director of NHGRI. In this role, Mr. Bonham will lead the establishment of a new Office of Workforce Diversity and Health Equity within NHGRI. This office will work towards championing a diverse genomics workforce, addressing health disparities, and reaching a more equitable and healthy society.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Eric Green gave his Director's Report, which included a series of updates about

NHGRI, NIH, and the broader genomics research community. A [video](#) of his presentation and the [slides](#) are available here: [\[link\]](#)

ANNUAL REPORT – Genomics & Society Working Group of NACHGR – Dr. Steven Joffe

Dr. Steven Joffe, Chair of the Genomics & Society Working Group (GSWG), gave an annual report of the GSWG activities. The mission of this group is to provide NACHGR advice on short- and long-term planning and priority setting for genomics and society research activities at NHGRI. In the last year, the field saw major effects from COVID-19, including delays in studies, cancelation of meetings, and the various impacts of these delays on trainees. The GSWG urged NHGRI to ensure that the concerns of diverse and disadvantaged populations are included in the conversations surrounding the effects of COVID-19 as the pandemic continues to affect investigators and trainees. Dr. Joffe discussed the role of ELSI research in combatting structural racism, attracting junior and established scholars from diverse backgrounds, and increasing the proportion of the ELSI research portfolio that is focused on health disparities. The GSWG recommended continuing conversations of how concepts of race and ethnicity are used in research and publications and how these topics play into the ELSI grant application and review process.

A video of Dr. Joffe's presentation and the related discussion can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

ANNUAL REPORT – Genomic Medicine Working Group of NACHGR – Dr. Teri Manolio

Dr. Teri Manolio gave an overview of the activities for the Genomic Medicine Working Group (GMWG). The mission of this group is to assist in advising NHGRI on research needed to evaluate and move genomics into routine medical practice. Most recently, the GMWG spearheaded the creation of a searchable genomic medicine literature archive available on the NHGRI website [genome.gov](#) that features notable accomplishments in the field. The GMWG also developed the Genomic Medicine Year in Review as an annual publication in the *American Journal of Human Genetics* (so far published in 2019 and 2020), giving readers an overview of where the field is and where it is headed. About once a year, the GMWG holds a meeting on genomic medicine implementation, which showcases developments in the field; these meetings have often led to programmatic developments within the NHGRI Division of Genomic Medicine. Among these developments, Dr. Manolio highlighted the increasing portfolio of investigator-initiated grants related to genomic medicine implementation. Moving forward, a major effort within the GMWG and the Division of Genomic Medicine is the implementation of genomic medicine learning healthcare systems, which can lead to both new research and genomic medicine practice innovations.

A video of Dr. Manolio's presentation and the related discussion can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

CONCEPT CLEARANCE – Supporting Talented Early Career Researchers in Genomics (RFA) – Dr. Lisa Chadwick

Dr. Lisa Chadwick presented the Supporting Talented Early Career Researchers in Genomics concept. The purpose of this program is to identify and support promising early career scientists with a long-term career interest in pursuing research in genomics. This opportunity builds on the success of the Genomic Innovator program and incorporates changes intended to better assist emerging researchers in the field as they establish vibrant, independent research programs in genomics.

NACHGR Members approved the concept unanimously. A video of Dr. Chadwick's presentation can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

CONCEPT CLEARANCE – *Centers of Excellence in Genomic Science (CEGS) Program Announcement Renewal* – Dr. Adam Felsenfeld

Dr. Adam Felsenfeld presented a concept for the renewal of the Centers of Excellence in Genomic Science (CEGS) Program Announcement. CEGS is a long-standing NHGRI program that establishes centers that will conduct multidisciplinary and highly innovative research that will drive genomics research. This concept proposes to maintain the CEGS program in its current form, with some changes to align the program with the 2020 NHGRI Strategic Vision. The changes include fostering research areas that have been under-represented in CEGS, increasing requirements for outreach and training, and encouraging applications from institutions that have not previously received a CEGS award.

NACHGR Members approved the concept unanimously. A video of Dr. Felsenfeld's presentation can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

CONCEPT CLEARANCE – *The Knockout Mouse Phenotyping Program (RFA)* – Dr. Colin Fletcher

Dr. Colin Fletcher presented a renewal of the Knockout Mouse Phenotyping Program (KOMP2) concept. KOMP2 is part of the global International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium (IMPC) effort, which aims to knock out and characterize all protein-coding genes in the mouse genome. The KOMP program has empowered research by providing innovative hypotheses and tools as well as important insights in human/mouse biology. The goal of this concept will be to support the production and phenotyping of 1,000-1,200 mouse knockouts from a high-priority group of genes. This program will continue its current management structure, with funding directed towards Production and Phenotyping Centers and a Data Coordinating Center and Data Base.

NACHGR Members approved the concept unanimously. A video of Dr. Fletcher's presentation can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

CONCEPT CLEARANCE – *Genomics Curriculum Development for Medical Students (PAR)* – Dr. Heather Colley

Dr. Heather Colley presented the Genomics Curriculum Development for Medical Students concept. This concept emanates from a recommendation of the NACHGR Training Task Force to develop and disseminate modular training materials and genomic curricula for various career levels. The goal of this program is to support the training of medical students in genomics through the development of genomics curricula. These curricula would be designed to improve genomic competencies, apply genomics to research and patient care, and give medical students the opportunity to earn a master's degree in genomics, genomic medicine, or genomic informatics.

NACHGR Members approved the concept unanimously. A video of Dr. Colley's presentation can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

COUNCIL-INITIATED DISCUSSION

For future Council meetings, Council members recommended presentations from new NIH Institute Directors, such as Dr. Lindsey Criswell, the Director of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

Council members also requested a presentation about the AnVIL program on sustainability models. Concerns were expressed about cloud computing being made available to early stage

investigators without cost for a limited time, but these investigators will need to pay for this resource later on (possibly before they can secure grant funding). There were questions about genomic data sharing for international projects and how international computing space can be achieved effectively.

Council members raised concern about the recent required changes to biosketches in NIH applications and documentation of other support in applications. Council members requested clarification and definition on what is meant by “research datasets with value.”

A video of the Council-initiated discussion can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Dr. Rudy Pozzatti read the Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Policy to Council and asked the members to sign the conflict of interest forms provided to them. Council Members will absent themselves from the meeting when the Council discusses applications from their own institutions or when a conflict of interest may occur for other reasons.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

In the Closed Session, the NACHGR reviewed 371 applications, requesting \$217,605,542 (direct costs). The applications included: 194 research project applications (R01, R03, R15, R21, R35, or RM1); 5 education applications (R25); 135 cooperative agreement applications (U01, UM1, or U24); 4 career development (K99/R00 applications); 4 conference applications (R13); 17 SBIR Phase I applications (R43); 10 SBIR Phase II applications (R44); and 2 STTR Phase 1 application (R41).

NHGRI STAFF PRESENT:

Sarah Bates, CPLB
Yasmeen Beckett, IOD
Vence Bonham, IOD
Joy Boyer, ERP
Lawrence Brody, ERP
Comfort Browne, ERP
Alicia Caffi, DM
Eileen Cahill, ERP
Lisa Chadwick, ERP
Christine Chang, ERP
Monika Christman, ERP
Heather Colley, ERP
Amanda Conti, PPAB
Priscilla Crockett, ERP
Luis Cubano, ERP
Jyoti Dayal, ERP
Argenia Doss, ERP
Laura Eisenman, ERP
Elise Feingold, ERP
Adam Felsenfeld, ERP
Kimberly Ferguson, ERP
Laurie Findley, ERP
Ann Fitzpatrick, DM

Colin Fletcher, ERP
Valentina Di Francesco, ERP
Prabarna Ganguly, CPLB
Sean Garin, ERP
Tina Gatlin, ERP
Elena Ghanaim, PPAB
Daniel Gilchrist, ERP
Madison Goldrich, ERP
Bettie Graham, ERP
Chris Gunter, IOD
Linda Hall, ERP
Peggy Hall, ERP
Zephaun Harvey, ERP
Edith DeHaut, ERP
Lucia Hindorff, ERP
Belén Hurle, ECIB
Carolyn Hutter, ERP
Deanna Ingersoll, ERP
Cristina Kapustij, PPAB
Dave Kaufman, ERP
Julie Kim, ERP
Natalie Kucher, ERP
Grace Lamoure, ERP

Darryl Leja, CPLB
Rongling Li, ERP
Asiyah Lin, ERP
Natalie Linear, ERP
Nicole Lockhart, ERP
Ebony Madden, ERP
Teri Manolio, ERP
Joanella Morales, ERP
Marcia Morris, ERP
Stephanie Morris, ERP
Mukul Nerurkar, CPLB
Briana Nuñez, ERP
Allie Osgood, ERP
Mike Pazin, ERP
Devona Perrineau, CPLB
Ajay Pillai, ERP
Natalie Pino, ERP
Rudy Pozzatti, ERP
Erin Ramos, ERP
Alex Raphael, ERP
Kathleen Renna, ERP
Enitza Rodriguez, ERP
Ellen Rolfes, DM

Robb Rowley, ERP
Lorjetta Schools, ERP
Baergen Schultz, ERP
Jamil Scott, IOD
Shurjo Sen, ERP
Michael Smith, ERP
Grace Snyder, ERP
Heidi Sofia, ERP
Jerryl Somani, ITB
Rene Sterling, ERP
Ana Stevens, ERP
Jennifer Strasburger, ERP
Michelle Tallman, ERP
Jill Thomas, CPLB
Jennifer Troyer, ERP
Susan Vasquez, IOD
Simona Volpi, ERP
Harry Wedel, CPLB
Chris Wellington, ERP
Kris Wetterstrand, IOD
Ken Wiley, ERP
Valerie Willis, ERP
Rachael Zisk, CPLB

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR A PORTION OF THE MEETING:

Dr. Steven Joffe, University of Pennsylvania

ERP = Extramural Research Program
CPLB = Communications and Public Liaison Branch
IOD = Immediate Office of the Director
DM = Division of Management
ECIB = Education and Community Involvement Branch
ITB = Information Technology Branch
PPAB = Policy and Program Analysis Branch

This NACHGR Meeting Summary was prepared by Briana Nuñez, NHGRI Scientific Program Analyst.

09/14/2021

Date

Rudy Pozzatti

Rudy Pozzatti, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research

09/17/2021

Date

Eric D. Green

Eric Green, M.D, Ph.D.
Chairman
National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research

This report was approved by the NACHGR on September 13, 2021