

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH
MEETING SUMMARY
September 14-15, 2020**

The Open Session of the 91st meeting of the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research (NACHGR) was convened virtually by Zoom at 11:30 PM on Monday, September 14, 2020. 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 – 4:00 PM on September 14, 2020. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was closed to the public from 4:00 PM until adjournment on September 14, 2020 and from 12:00 PM until adjournment on September 15, 2020 for the review, discussion, and evaluation of grant applications.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey Botkin (University of Utah)
Mark Craven (University of Wisconsin)
Wendy Chung (Columbia University)
Patricia Deverka (Deverka Consulting, LLC)
Harry Dietz (Johns Hopkins University)
Jonathan Haines (Case Western Reserve University)
Trey Ideker (University of California, San Diego)
Rafael Irizarry (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute)
Lisa Parker (University of Pittsburgh)
Len Pennacchio (University of California, Berkeley)
Sharon Plon (Baylor College of Medicine)
Stephen Rich (University of Virginia)

NHGRI STAFF PRESENT:

Emma Alme, PPAB
Sarah Bates, CPLB
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
Luis Cubano, ERP
Jyoti Dayal, ERP
Argenia Doss, ERP
Carla Easter, ECIB
Laura Eisenman, ERP
Elise Feingold, ERP
Kimberly Ferguson, ERP
Laurie Findley, ERP
Ann Fitzpatrick, DM
Colin Fletcher, ERP
Valentina Di Francesco, ERP
Prabarna Ganguly, CPLB

Sean Garin, ERP
Sylvia Garvey, ERP
Tina Gatlin, ERP
Elena Ghanaim, PPAB
Daniel Gilchrist, ERP
Madison Goldrich, ERP
Bettie Graham, ERP
Linda Hall, ERP
Peggy Hall, ERP
Edith DeHaut, ERP
Lucia Hindorff, ERP
Belén Hurle, ECIB
Carolyn Hutter, ERP
Deanna Ingersoll, ERP
Cristina Kapustij, PPAB
Dave Kaufman, ERP
Jim Kees, ERP
Julie Kim, ERP
Natalie Kucher, ERP
Grace Lamoure, ERP
Rongling Li, ERP
Natalie Linear, ERP
Nicole Lockhart, ERP
Ebony Madden, ERP

Kerri Magerowski, ERP
Teri Manolio, ERP
William Maye, ITB
Allison McCague, PPAB
Donna Messersmith, ECIB
Stephanie Morris, ERP
Kimberly Jacoby Morris, ECIB
Ken Nakamura, ERP
Emily Neveux, DM
Briana Nuñez, ERP
Allie Osgood, ERP
Mike Pazin, ERP
Ajay Pillai, ERP
Natalie Pino, ERP
Erin Ramos, ERP
Alex Raphael, ERP
Kathleen Renna, ERP
Ellen Rolfes, DM
Tiffany Rolle, ECIB
Robb Rowley, ERP
Lorjetta Schools, ERP

Baergen Schultz, ERP
Jamil Scott, OD
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
Barbara Thomas, ERP
Jennifer Troyer, ERP
Susan Vasquez, IOD
Simona Volpi, ERP
Harry Wedel, CPLB
Chris Wellington, ERP
Kris Wetterstrand, IOD
Ken Wiley, ERP
Rosann Wise, ECIB

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR A PORTION OF THE MEETING:

Michael Lauer, Office of the NIH Director

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 at: [\[link\]](#)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the May 2020 Meeting minutes by a unanimous vote.

FUTURE NACHGR MEETING DATES

- February 22-23, 2021
- May 17-18, 2021
- September 13-14, 2021
- February 7-8, 2022
- May 16-17, 2022
- September 19-20, 2022

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 at: [\[link\]](#)

PRESENTATION – *Foreign Interference on Research Integrity: NIH Experience and Advice* – Dr. Michael Lauer

Dr. Lauer, Deputy Director of the NIH Office of Extramural Research, gave a presentation on foreign interference on NIH research integrity. Dr. Lauer described three recently identified forms of foreign interference: undisclosed research support, undisclosed conflict of interest, and violations of the NIH peer-review process. He described examples of recent cases of

undisclosed research support that occurred through the “Thousand Talents Program” sponsored by the People’s Republic of China. A trans-government effort to investigate the extent of these types of violations is ongoing. The Office of Science and Technology Policy is working on guidance and educational materials for institutions and investigators to help them understand the current problems and mitigate any future situations.

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

CONCEPT CLEARANCE – Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award (F99/K00) to Promote Diversity – PAR – Dr. Luis Cubano

Dr. Luis Cubano presented the Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award to Promote Diversity concept. The concept was developed in response to a report and a set of recommendations from the NHGRI Training Task Force to expand the scope of NHGRI’s training program and to increase the diversity of the genomics workforce. The concept is designed to support individuals as they complete their graduate education in genomics with a two-year F99 award and transition to a postdoctoral fellowship position with a three-year K00 award.

NACHGR Members approved the concept unanimously. A video of Dr. Cubano’s presentation and the related discussion can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

CONCEPT CLEARANCE – Short-Term Research Career Enhancement Award for Established Investigators (K18) to Promote Diversity – PAR – Dr. Luis Cubano

Dr. Cubano presented the Short-Term Research Career Enhancement Award for Established Investigators to Promote Diversity concept. This concept is designed to provide investigators from diverse backgrounds with short-term training experiences to strengthen their ability to apply for longer-term research grants in genomics. Candidates could be genomic investigators seeking to enrich their existing genomic research activities or investigators working in other fields who want to acquire training and experience in genomics research.

NACHGR Members approved the concept unanimously. A video of Dr. Cubano’s presentation and the related discussion can be found here: [\[link\]](#)

PRESENTATION – Perspectives in Comparative Genomics and Evolution – Dr. Elinor Karlsson

Dr. Elinor Karlsson, Director of the Vertebrate Genomics Institute at the Broad Institute, gave a presentation on important insights offered by comparative genomics, a field that seeks to identify the similarities and differences among the Earth’s estimated 10-14 million species. Dr. Karlsson highlighted the application of comparative genomics to human health, scientific innovation, and agricultural and environmental conservation. Identifying conserved regions of the genomes among different species can allow researchers to make inferences about a gene’s function or a certain species’ susceptibility to disease. Dr. Karlsson also highlighted a number of challenges in the field, including the trans-disciplinary nature of this research and the limited pool of appropriately trained investigators working in this research area.

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

PRESENTATION – ELSI Research Activities across NIH – Dr. Lawrence Brody

Dr. Larry Brody gave an overview of ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) research in genetics and genomics across the NIH. NHGRI is congressionally mandated to spend 5% of its research budget on ELSI research. In Fiscal Year 2020, NHGRI provided approximately \$22M to fund 65 ELSI grants. ELSI research in genetics and genomics is supported by other NIH institutes through joint-institute program announcements or notices of special interest. Most

non-NHGRI-funded ELSI research in genetics and genomics is funded by NICHD and NCI. Other NIH institutes also provide funding for ELSI research in genetics and genomics as a result of their related interests in research in the behavioral and social sciences and bioethics more broadly.

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

COUNCIL-INITIATED DISCUSSION

Council members requested a presentation at the February 2021 Council meeting on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on NHGRI programs and grantees, along with the broader NIH. Council members noted a variety of important changes caused by the pandemic that could have an impact on the research community, including postponed or suspended research activities, decreased productivity due to lockdowns, or disrupted research findings due to novel or unexpected circumstances. Council members expressed hope this assessment would help NHGRI respond to the needs of the research community in Fiscal Year 2021 and beyond.

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 167 applications, requesting \$90,982,367 (direct costs). The applications included: 86 research project applications (R01, R03, R15, R21, or RM1); 23 cooperative agreement applications (U01, UM1, U24, or U41); 14 career development or career transition applications (K99/R00, K01, or K08); 3 conference applications (R13); 6 education applications (R25); 20 SBIR Phase I applications (R43); 9 SBIR Phase II applications (R44); and 6 STTR Phase 1 application (R41).

This NACHGR Meeting Summary document was prepared by Natalie Pino, NHGRI Scientific Program Analyst.

2/24/2021

Date

Rudy Pozzatti

Rudy Pozzatti, Ph.D.

Executive Secretary

National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research

3/08/2021

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 2/22/2021