

Scientific Management Review Board Meeting Closing Remarks

Andrea Hayes Dixon, MD

Dean, College of Medicine, Howard University

and

SMRB Chair



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Orientation

- Reviewed Federal Advisory Committee Act requirements (*Claire Harris*)
- Reviewed Conflict of Interest rules and ethics requirements (*Tonia Awoniyi*)

NIH Director's Welcome – Dr. Monica Bertagnoli

- Overview of NIH
 - Challenges: International healthcare system rankings, and health disparities
 - Examples of TransNIH Collaboration: INCLUDE and NIH HEAL Initiative
- Two agency priorities
 - Advancing research equity for health (CARE for Health)
 - Harnessing research using health data

Initial Charge: SMRB Restart

The NIH requests that SMRB **evaluate the current structure of NIH and propose changes that will enhance the ability of the Agency to fulfill its mission.** To address this charge, the SMRB should:

1. Reexamine the 2010 SMRB report, *Deliberating Organizational Change and Effectiveness*.
2. Consider recent congressional proposals.
3. Reevaluate existing guiding principles for the process of deliberating proposed organizational changes.
4. Provide recommendations of any organizational change that will enhance the ability of the Agency to fulfill its mission.

Major Discussion Theme

- How do we reestablish trust and better communicate the impact of NIH investments?
- How do we increase the impact of the agency's work?
- Prioritizing community partnership
- Prioritizing health disparities related activities/research

SMRB Overview - Dr. Lawrence Tabak

- Congressional interest in SMRB restart
- Detailed review of SMRB Charter
 - Statutory authority
 - Purpose
 - Duties
 - Membership and designation
 - Subcommittees
 - Reports
- **Major Discussion Points:**
 - How do we make sure the Board's recommendations are impactful?

NIH Budget - Mr. Neil Shapiro

- Integrated policies, infrastructure, and central services
- NIH budget components and mechanisms
- Extramural budget
 - Common grant types (R01, R21, U, K, SBIR, etc.)
- Funding Opportunity Announcements used to advertise funding opportunities
- NIH grants database (RePORTER)

SMRB History – Dr. Griffin Rogers

- Discussed how the original SMRB functioned and highlighted some key activities
- Board's working processes and the role of WG/Subcommittees
- Published 8 reports (2009-2015)
 - Started with the development of a detailed framework with which to consider and evaluate organizational change
 - Wide range of topics from Clinical Center, translational research, pre-college engagement, and assessing the value of biomedical research
- **Major Discussion Points:**
 - Simultaneous functioning of multiple WGs
 - Selecting questions/topics with the best pathway towards implementation
 - Lessons learned
 - Stakeholder input

Review of SMRB Report on Organizational Change – Dr. Lawrence Tabak

- The current SMRB is not bound by this report
- Guiding principles:
 - Organizational change should strengthen the ability of the NIH to carry out its mission in advancing science to improve public health
 - Organizational change should provide an environment that will enable more effective collaboration, coordination, and interaction across all disciplines to advance the pace of scientific discovery and improve health
 - Organizational change should bring together units in which there are synergies of the scientific and/or clinical foundations for discovery and translation
 - Organizational change should enhance public understanding of, confidence in, and support for science and the NIH
 - Organizational change should increase operational efficiency and ensure a high return on public investment in biomedical research

Review of SMRB Report on Organizational Change (cont.)

- Process
 - Assess the need for change
 - Evaluate options
 - Implementation and evaluation of change
- Underpinning attributes: transparency, communication, and accountability

Current Legislative Proposals for NIH Optimization

- Common themes calling for reform:
 - Despite bipartisan legislative successes and consistent, annual investment in NIH, opportunities remain to improve NIH's operations to better support the U.S. biomedical research enterprise
 - NIH reauthorization/reform is overdue
- Key areas of proposed reform:
 - Structural
 - Leadership
 - Policy/grant
 - Funding

Next Steps

- Discuss the groups overall strategy
 - What has worked/not worked
 - Data over time
- Outline key questions and set priorities
 - Tangible metrics
 - Tactical vs “blue sky”
 - Fiscal stability
 - Implementation science
 - Incubator environment
- Agree on a meeting cadence (virtual and in-person)
 - We will reach out to begin scheduling a shorter, virtual meeting (Jan)
- Establish WGs

Thank you

- SMRB provides an opportunity to evaluate how the NIH can improve
- For more information on SMRB and upcoming meetings, please visit <https://www.nih.gov/scientific-management-review-board> or scan:

