

- Social and Community Influences on Health Integrated Review Group
- Surgical Sciences, Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering Integrated Review Group
- Vaccine Research Center Board of Scientific Counselors National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- Vascular and Hematology Integrated Review Group

5. *Justification that the information or advice provided by the Federal advisory committee or subcommittee is not available from another Federal advisory committee, another Federal Government source, or any other more cost-effective and less burdensome source:*

FICAB provides expert advice in global health research, training, international collaboration, and research capacity strengthening that is not available from other Federal Advisory Committees or government sources. FIC Advisory Board members bring specialized scientific expertise and extensive experience working internationally and conducting global research. There is no comparable committee with the unique combination of expertise in research and global health. The independent expertise of the Board strengthens FIC's global health research and training activities and helps to ensure these activities align with U.S. and NIH health, security, and scientific policies and goals.

The costs to convene FICAB are described in response to item #1. The Board conducts the statutorily required second-level review of grant applications, ensuring appropriate evaluation of funding recommendations following initial peer review. This grant review cannot be conducted through more cost-effective or less burdensome alternative mechanisms.

6. *If the consultation is a committee renewal, a summary of the previous accomplishments of the committee and the reasons it needs to continue:*

FIC's uniquely international mission requires external expertise to support sound decision-making, responsible use of public funds, and alignment with U.S. priorities. The Board has played a key role in shaping FIC's strategic direction, program priorities, and funding decisions. Its guidance has helped to ensure that FIC's portfolio remains rigorous, relevant, and aligned with NIH and HHS priorities. The Board has also provided advice to shape NIH global research that has helped position the U.S. as a global leader in biomedical research.

7. *Explanation of why the committee/subcommittee is essential to the conduct of agency business:*

FIC is essential to agency operations because it fulfills the required second-level review of FIC grant applications, as required under section 492 of the PHS Act. The Board also provides critical advice to the NIH Director and FIC Director on scientific, programmatic, and policy matters related to global health research. The Board advises on research investments and international collaborations that strengthen global capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to emerging health threats, thereby supporting U.S. health security. It also provides insight on program design and performance to ensure FIC's initiatives promote scientific excellence and responsible oversight of federal resources. This independent guidance ensures that FIC's portfolio aligns with U.S. health, security, and scientific policies and goals to make America safer, stronger and more prosperous.

In conclusion, this public interest determination documents that renewing the committee is in the public interest, essential to the conduct of agency business, and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

Inquiries may be directed to Patricia Brandt Hansberger, Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 1000, Bethesda, Maryland 20892 (Mail code 4875), Telephone (301) 496-2123, or patricia.hansberger@nih.gov.

Dated: August 4, 2026.

Margaret N. Vardanian,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and

the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council.

Date: September 3, 2026.

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852.

Meeting Format: In Person and Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Rebecca Wagenaar-Miller, Ph.D., Director, Division of Extramural Activities, NIDCD/NIH, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-8693, rebecca.wagenaar-miller@nih.gov.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/about/advisory-council>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.173, Biological Research Related to Deafness and Communicative Disorders, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 5, 2026.

Rosalind M. Niamke,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Committee: National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council.

Date: September 4, 2026.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.