

voluntary steps to mitigate the impact on the public. Consistent with OII's findings in the NOOH, the OSI Director will thus treat this consideration as unfavorable.

Based on the undisputed record, a 20-year debarment period is appropriate. Although it is undisputed that Dr. Shafa has no previous criminal convictions related to matters within the jurisdiction of FDA, this single favorable factor does not counterbalance the nature and seriousness of his offense and lack of voluntary steps promptly taken to mitigate the impact of his offense on the public. Therefore, the OSI Director concurs with OII's conclusion that "the facts supporting the unfavorable factors outweigh those supporting the favorable factor and therefore warrants the imposition of a twenty-year period of debarment, five years for each conviction."

III. Findings and Order

Therefore, under section 306(a)(2)(B) of the FD&C Act and authority delegated to him by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the OSI Director finds that Dr. Shafa has been convicted of a felony under Federal law for conduct relating to the regulation of drug products under the FD&C Act. The OSI Director also finds that Dr. Shafa has been convicted of a felony under Federal law for conduct relating to the importation into the United States of any drug or controlled substance and is subject to debarment as set forth in section 306(b)(3)(C) of the FD&C Act. The OSI Director considered the applicable factors listed in section 306(c)(3) of the FD&C Act and determined, based on the undisputed record before him, that debarring Dr. Shafa for 20 years from importing or offering for import into the United States any drugs is appropriate.

As a result of the foregoing findings, Dr. Shafa is permanently debarred from providing services in any capacity to a person with an approved or pending drug product application under sections 505, 512, or 802 of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 355, 360b, or 382), or under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262), effective August 31, 2026 (see 21 U.S.C. 335a(c)(1)(B) and (c)(2)(A)(ii) and 21 U.S.C. 321(dd)). Any person with an approved or pending drug product application, who knowingly uses the services of Dr. Shafa, in any capacity during his period of debarment, will be subject to civil money penalties (section 307(a)(6) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 335b(a)(6))). If Dr. Shafa, during his period of debarment, provides services in any capacity to a person with an approved or pending drug product application, he will be

subject to civil money penalties (section 307(a)(7) of the FD&C Act). In addition, FDA will not accept or review any abbreviated new drug applications submitted by or with the assistance of Dr. Shafa during his period of debarment (section 306(c)(1)(B) of the FD&C Act).

Additionally, as a result of the foregoing findings, Dr. Shafa is debarred for a period of 20 years from importing or offering for import any drug into the United States, effective August 31, 2026. Pursuant to section 301(cc) of the FD&C Act, the importing or offering for import into the United States of any drug by, with the assistance of, or at the direction of Dr. Shafa, is a prohibited act.

George M. Warren,

Director, Office of Scientific Integrity.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Interest Rate on Overdue Debts

Section 30.18 of the Department of Health and Human Services' claims collection regulations (45 CFR part 30) provides that the Secretary shall charge an annual rate of interest, which is determined and fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury after considering private consumer rates of interest on the date that the Department of Health and Human Services becomes entitled to recovery. The rate cannot be lower than the Department of Treasury's current value of funds rate or the applicable rate determined from the "Schedule of Certified Interest Rates with Range of Maturities" unless the Secretary waives interest in whole or part, or a different rate is prescribed by statute, contract, or repayment agreement. The Secretary of the Treasury may revise this rate quarterly. The Department of Health and Human Services publishes this rate in the **Federal Register**.

The current rate of 11⁷/₈%, as fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury, is certified for the quarter ended June 30, 2026. This rate is based on the Interest Rates for Specific Legislation, "National Health Services Corps Scholarship Program (42 U.S.C. 254o(b)(1)(A))" and "National Research Service Award Program (42 U.S.C. 288(c)(4)(B))." This interest rate will be applied to overdue

debt until the Department of Health and Human Services publishes a revision.

Yianting Lee,

Acting Director, Office of Financial Policy and Reporting.

[FR Doc. 2026-17759 Filed 8-28-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Advisory Council, September 18, 2026, 11:00 a.m. to September 18, 2026, 05:30 p.m., National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, 9609 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, MD 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on August 03, 2026, 91 FR 48905.

Amendment to add Proposed Organizational Change: Office of Special Initiatives as an open session agenda item. The meeting is partially Closed to the public.

Dated: August 26, 2026.

Bruce A. George,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026-17686 Filed 8-28-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings 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: Genes, Genomes, and Genetics Integrated Review Group;