

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333; 93.371, Biomedical Technology; 93.389, Research Infrastructure, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 6, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-20828 Filed 8-11-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Eye Institute; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

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 person 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 Eye Institute Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: August 23, 1999.

Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: 6120 Executive Blvd. Suite 350, Rockville, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Andrew P. Mariani, PhD., Chief, Scientific Review Branch, 6120 Executive Blvd, Suite 350, Rockville, MD 20892, 301/496-5561.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.867, Vision Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 6, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Eye Institute; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

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 Eye Institute Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: August 25, 1999.

Time: 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: 6120 Executive Blvd. Suite 350, Rockville, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Andrew P. Mariani, PhD., Chief, Scientific Review Branch, 6120 Executive Blvd., Suite 350, Rockville, MD 20892, 301/496-5561.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.867, Vision Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: August 6, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)—in close collaboration with the members of its National Advisory Council, Board of Scientific Counselors, and other external scientific and lay experts—is embarking on the development of a Strategic Plan that will be reflective of the Institute's unique mission, science and culture. As

part of the NIH response to recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) study on NIH priority-setting and public input, the NIDDK is required to send a draft copy of its Strategic Plan to the NIH Director by December 31, 1999, the NIDDK needs and welcomes public input into this process.

The NIDDK wants to develop a process that considers the views of groups and individuals who are concerned about the Institute's research programs aimed at expanding knowledge about and reducing the burden of the diseases within the NIDDK mission. The development of the NIDDK Strategic Plan will be a continuous, iterative process, during which draft documents will be shared with the scientific and lay community to solicit comments and input at steps along the way. The NIDDK's new Strategic Plan will build upon many existing planning processes that are already in place within the Institute, as well as upon the plans of constituent organizations.

The NIDDK expects to develop its Strategic Plan using *cross-cutting scientific themes* that unite and underpin the disease-oriented programs of the Institute. These cross-cutting themes include genetics, cell biology, mechanisms of disease injury, prevention and treatment of disease, and research infrastructure. Expert Working Groups will provide advice to the Institute on these themes. In the NIDDK Strategic Planning document, disease-oriented research will be used, *by way of example*, to highlight these unifying scientific themes. While the Plan *will not contain budget estimates*, it should include *scientific implementation strategies* for capitalizing on cross-cutting research opportunities and needs. This conceptual framework for developing the NIDDK Strategic Plan was presented to and generally endorsed by the statutory NIDDK National Advisory Council on June 1, 1999.

As one means of gaining public input, the Institute will hold an "Open Meeting for Public Comment on the NIDDK Strategic Planning Process" on Monday, October 18, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a one-hour break for attendees to purchase lunch. This meeting will be held in Conference Room 10 in Building 31, "C" Wing, at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The purpose of this meeting is to enable individuals representing voluntary health and professional organizations, as well as private citizens, to provide oral comment on the process and on an