

PEER REVIEW NOTES

January 2003

Study Section Reorganization Update

As of January 1, 2003, the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) had convened 15 of the planned 17 Study Section Boundaries (SSB) Team meetings. SSB Teams recommend study section review responsibilities for each Integrated Review Group (IRG) proposed in the [Phase 1 report of the Panel on Scientific Boundaries for Review \(PSBR\)](#). All SSB Team recommendations are released on [CSR's Web site](#) and are open to public comment for 90-days. Key 2003 SSB Team activities and dates—

- Respiratory Sciences SSB Team recommendations available for comment through Feb. 18
- Biological Chemistry and Macromolecular Biophysics SSB Team meets Feb. 26-28
- Genes, Genomes & Genetics SSB Team recommendations available for comment through Mar. 31
- Molecular Approaches to Cell Function and Interactions SSB Team meets Apr. 2-4

At its September 2002 meeting, the CSR Advisory Committee recommended that the CSR Director approve the following SSB Team IRG guidelines: Biology of Development and Aging; Musculoskeletal, Oral, and Skin Sciences; and Oncological Sciences. Study sections within these three IRGs may meet for the first time in October 2003. In May 2002, our Advisory Committee recommended the SSB Team guidelines for the Hematology IRG. This IRG's study sections will first meet in June 2003. Preliminary study section rosters are now available at http://www.csr.nih.gov/PSBR/HEM/HEM_Rosters.pdf.

The *Reorganization Activities* page on CSR's Web site has been revamped to improve access to all PSBR-related information: <http://www.csr.nih.gov/review/reorgact.asp>. In addition, a "[Reorganization Timeline](#)" has been developed and linked into the *Reorganization Activities* page.

Visit the Phase 2 PSBR Update page for additional information and the latest news about CSR's PSBR reorganization process: <http://www.csr.nih.gov/events/updatephase2.htm>.

CSR Processes and Reviews Record Numbers of Applications in FY 2002

While you probably know that CSR reviews the majority (about 70%) of the grant applications sent to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), you may not know that CSR receives and performs the initial processing of all NIH grant applications as well as some of the grants sent to other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services.

In fiscal year (FY) 2002, which ended September 31, 2002, CSR received and reviewed record numbers of NIH and non-NIH grant applications. For NIH, CSR received and processed 48,677 grant applications—a 12% increase over FY 2001, which was a record-setting year. Regarding peer reviews, CSR oversaw the review of 34,135 NIH applications—an 11% increase over the 30,665 applications reviewed in 2001.

Over the past 5 years, the number of applications CSR reviewed is up 26%. It appears this upward trend will continue in FY 2003. Indeed, in the first 3 months of FY 2003, CSR received nearly 4,000 more applications than at the same time last year. For more information about NIH grant application and award trends, please visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/award/award.htm>.

Please send your comments to PRN@csr.nih.gov

CSR Expands and Reorganizes Its Scientific Review Division Structure

Over the past several years, increases in the numbers of grant applications to NIH and the changing landscape of biomedical research have resulted in an increased and more-complicated workload for CSR. To better manage expanding responsibilities for coordinating peer reviews, [CSR has restructured its three review divisions into four new divisions](#): (1) Division of Biologic Basis of Disease, (2) Division of Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms, (3) Division of Physiology and Pathology, and (4) Division of Clinical and Population-Based Studies.

In the reorganization, [Dr. Anita Miller Sostek](#) was named Director of the Division of Clinical and Population-Based Studies and Dr. Elliot Postow became Director of the new Division of Biological Basis of Disease. Drs. Michael Martin and Donald Schneider remain Directors of the Division of Physiology and Pathology and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms, respectively.

Additional information on these and other developments is available on our Web site: <http://www.csr.nih.gov/NewsFlash/newsflash.asp>.

Continuing Resolution Continues

When the *Peer Review Notes* went to press, NIH and the other agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services were operating under a continuing resolution. Until an appropriation is signed into law for FY 2003, NIH will operate at FY 2002 funding levels. In the short-term, this continuing resolution is not expected to affect CSR operations. However, some NIH funding institutes have established interim funding policies that may impact new and competing Research Project Grant paylines. For example, the National Cancer Institute has issued a temporary funding policy statement regarding new and competing continuation research project grants with start dates of December 1, 2002 or later (<http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/grantspolicies/IntFundLtrFY03.htm>).

Visit your funding institute's Web site for more information about any interim funding policies resulting from the continuing resolution: <http://www.nih.gov/icd>.

All Applicants and Grantees to Benefit from Electronic Research Administration

NIH is set to offer all applicants and grantees access to the Electronic Research Administration Commons Version 2 system in early 2003. This system was previously open to only a limited number of institutions.

What can NIH Commons Version 2 do for you and your institution?

- **Check Grant Status:** Principal Investigators can review the status of all their grant applications. For example, they can view their scores and the summary statement immediately after the SRA completes them. They also may review detailed information associated with their grants.
- **Perform Administrative Tasks:** Signing Officials can maintain their institution's NIH file information online.
- **Update Personal Profile:** Grantees can update their NIH account data, such as degrees, addresses, and publications online.

For more information about Commons, visit its Web site at the following address: <https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/index.jsp>.

Please send your comments to PRN@csr.nih.gov