

Comments Due Date

Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30-days of the date of this publication.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

Diana Jaeger,

Acting Director, Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-20039 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**National Institutes of Health****National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of 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 a meeting of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council.

The meeting will be open to the public as indicated below, 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.

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/or contract proposals 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 and/or contract proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council.

Date: September 3-4, 1998.

Open: September 3, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Agenda: For discussion of program policies and issues.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, Conference Room 6, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Closed: September 3, 1998, 2:00 PM to Adjournment.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, Conference Room 6, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Ronald G. Geller, PHD, Director, Division of Extramural Affairs,

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, PHS, DHHS, Bethesda, MD 20892. (301) 435-0260.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.233, National Center for Sleep Disorders Research; 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 21, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-20046 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**National Institutes of Health****National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; Amended Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, August 3, 1998, 10:00 AM to August 3, 1998, 1:00 PM, Natcher Bldg., 45 Center Drive, Room 5AS25N, Bethesda, MD, 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on July 10, 1998, 63 FR 37404.

The date was changed from 8/3/98 to 8/13/98. The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-20042 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**National Institutes of Health****National Institute of Mental Health; Amended Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel, July 30, 1998, 12:00 p.m. to July 30, 1998, 1:00 p.m., Parklawn Building, Room 9-101, Russell Martenson, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857 which was published in the **Federal Register** on June 18, 1998, 63 FR 33382.

The meeting will be held July 27, 1998, at 12:00 p.m. at the same location. The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-20043 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**National Institutes of Health****National Institute of Mental Health; Amended Notice of Meeting**

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel, July 31, 1998, 12:00 PM to July 31, 1998, 1:00 PM, Parklawn Building, Room 9-101, Russell Martenson, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857 which was published in the **Federal Register** on June 18, 1998, 63 FR 33382.

The meeting will be held July 29, 1998, at 1:00 PM at the same location. The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: July 21, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-20044 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**National Institutes of Health****National Library of Medicine; 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 contract proposals and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the contract proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Library of Medicine Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: August 4, 1998.

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate contract proposals.

Place: Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814.

Contact Person: SHAREE PEPPER, PHD, SCIENTIFIC REVIEW ADMINISTRATOR,

HEALTH SCIENTIST ADMINISTRATOR,
OFFICE OF EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMS,
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE, 6705
ROCKLEDGE DRIVE, SUITE 301,
BETHESDA, MD 20892.

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.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.879, Medical Library Assistance, National Institutes of Health, HHS).

Dated: July 21, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 98-20045 Filed 7-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Toxicology Program; Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods

Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods, U.S. Public Health Service. The meeting will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 25, 1998 in the Conference Center, Building 101, South Campus, NIEHS, 111 Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, 27709. The meeting will be open to the public from 8:45 a.m. to adjournment with attendance limited only by space available.

Background

Under authority of 42 U.S.C. 217a, Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, the Department of Health and Human Services has established an Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods. The Committee functions to provide advice on the activities and priorities of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (Center) and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM), and to provide advice on ways to foster partnership activities and productive interactions among all stakeholders. The Advisory Committee is composed of knowledgeable representatives drawn from academia, industry, public interest organizations, other state and Federal agencies, and the international community.

The National Toxicology Program established the Center and ICCVAM to fulfill specific mandates provided to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences by P.L. 103-43, Section 1301. The NIEHS was directed to (1) develop and validate toxicological testing methods, including alternative methods than can reduce or eliminate the use of animals in acute or chronic toxicity testing, (2) establish criteria for the validation and regulatory acceptance of alternative testing methods, and (3) recommend a process through which scientifically validated alternative methods can be accepted for regulatory use. Criteria and processes for validation and regulatory acceptance were developed in conjunction with 14 other Federal agencies and programs with broad input from the public. These are described in the document "Validation and Regulatory Acceptance of Toxicological Test Methods: A Report of the Ad Hoc Intragovernmental Coordination Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods" NIH publication 97-3981, March 1997, which is available on the internet at <http://ntp-server.niehs.nih.gov/htdocs/ICCVAM/ICCVAM.htm>, or by request to the Center at the address provided below.

A standing Intragovernmental Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) was subsequently established as a collaborative effort by NIEHS and 13 other Federal regulatory and research agencies and programs. The ICCVAM facilitates cross-agency communication and coordination on issues relating to validation, acceptance, and national/international harmonization of toxicological test methods. The ICCVAM works with the Center to carry out the scientific review of proposed methods of multi-agency interest, and provides recommendations regarding their usefulness to appropriate agencies. The ICCVAM also provides a mechanism for interagency communication with stakeholders throughout the process of test method development and validation. The following Federal regulatory and research agencies and organizations are participating in this effort:

Consumer Product Safety Commission
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Food and Drug Administration
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health/CDC
National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Library of Medicine
Department of the Interior
Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
Environmental Protection Agency

The Center was established to provide operational support for the ICCVAM and to assist Federal Agencies by coordinating and facilitating (1) the interagency review and adoption of toxicological test methods of multi-agency interest and (2) the participation and communication with other stakeholders throughout the process of test methods development and validation. The Center organizes, in collaboration with ICCVAM, independent scientific peer reviews and workshops for test methods of interest to Federal agencies. Peer review panels are convened to develop scientific consensus on the usefulness of test methods to generate information for specific human health and/or ecological risk assessment purposes. Expert workshops are convened to evaluate the adequacy of current test methods for assessing specific toxicities, to identify areas in need of improved or new methods, to evaluate proposed validation studies, and to evaluate the validation status of methods. The Center provides an opportunity for partnerships with other agencies and organizations to facilitate the development, validation, and review of alternative testing methods. The Center and ICCVAM seek to promote the scientific validation and regulatory acceptance of toxicological test methods that will enhance agencies' ability to assess risks and make decisions, and that will refine, reduce, and replace animal use whenever possible. The Center Office is located at NIEHS and can be contacted by telephone at 919-541-3398, fax 919-541-0947, or e-mail, iccvam@niehs.nih.gov.

Agenda

The primary agenda topics are concerned with presentations and discussions relating to processes, priorities, and recent and proposed activities of the NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods.

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Larry Hart, Environmental Toxicology Program, P.O. Box 12233, NIEHS,