

Lane, Bethesda, MD 20892-9304, (301) 435-5337, jtoward@mail.nih.gov.

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.

Name of Committee: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Special Emphasis Panel ZAA1 CC (11)—K24 Application Review.

Date: May 6, 2004.

Time: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, NIAAA/Fishers Building, 5635 Fishers Lane, Room 3041, Bethesda, MD 208929, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Mahadev Murthy, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Extramural Project Review Branch, Office of Scientific Affairs, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse, and Alcoholism, 6000 Executive Blvd, Suite 409, Bethesda, MD 20892-7003, (301) 443-2860.

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.

Name of Committee: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Special Emphasis Panel ZAA1 BB (12) Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: May 6, 2004.

Time: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, NIAAA/Fishers Building, 5635 Fishers Lane, Room 3043, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Dorita Sewell, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Office of Extramural Research, 5635 Fishers Lane, Bethesda, MD 20892-9304, (301) 443-2890, dsewell@mail.nih.gov.

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.;271, Alcohol Research Career Development Awards for Scientists and Clinicians; 93.272, Alcohol National Research Service Awards for Research Training; 93.273, Alcohol Research Programs; 93.891, Alcohol Research Center Grants, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 15, 2004.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-9028 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of General Medical Sciences; 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 Institute of General Medical Sciences Special Emphasis Panel Loan Repayment: Clinical and Pediatric Research.

Date: April 29, 2004.

Time: 11 am to 2 pm.

Agenda: to review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Natcher Building, 45 Center Drive, Room 3AN-22, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Helen R. Sunshine, PhD, Chief, Office of Scientific Review, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Natcher Building, Room 3AN-12F, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-594-2881, sunshinh@nigms.nih.gov.

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. 93.375, Minority Biomedical Research Support; 93.821, Cell Biology and Biophysics Research; 93.859, Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry Research; 93.862, Genetics and Developmental Biology Research; 93.88, Minority Access to Research Careers; 93.96, Special Minority Initiatives, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 15, 2004.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-9030 Filed 4-20-04; 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 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), 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: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, Skeletal Muscle Biology Exercise Physiology Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: April 28, 2004.

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4108, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Richard J. Bartlett, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4110, MSC 7814, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-6809.

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.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, National Centers for Biomedical Computing.

Date: May 26-27, 2004.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Latham Hotel, 3000 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20007.

Contact Person: Sally Ann Amero, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4190, MSC 7849, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1159, ameros@csr.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, National Centers for Biomedical Computing.

Date: May 26-27, 2004.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Swissotel Washington, The Watergate, 2650 Virginia Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20037.

Contact Person: George W. Chacko, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for

Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room: 4186, MSC: 7806, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1220, chackoge@csr.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 14, 2004.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-8982 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Toxicology Program (NTP), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Test Methods (NICEATM); *In Vitro* Endocrine Disruptor Test Methods: Request for Comments and Nominations

SUMMARY: The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) and the Scientific Advisory Committee on Alternative Toxicological Methods (SACATM) have identified *in vitro* endocrine disruptor screening methods as a priority for validation. ICCVAM has published guidelines for development of *in vitro* endocrine-disruptor estrogen and androgen receptor binding and transcriptional activation assays. In these guidelines, ICCVAM recommends that priority be given to assays that (1) do not require the use of animal tissue as the receptor source, but rather use recombinant-derived proteins and (2) do not use radioactive materials. On behalf of the ICCVAM, NICEATM invites the nomination for validation studies of *in vitro* test methods that meet these recommendations and for which there are standardized test method protocols, pre-validation data, and proposed validation study designs. At this time, ICCVAM has received nominations for two *in vitro* endocrine-disruptor screening methods purported to meet these recommendations. Information on the nominated methods is posted on the ICCVAM/NICEATM Web site (<http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov>) or available from

NICEATM (contact information provided below). ICCVAM will consider nominations and comments received in response to this notice and develop recommended priorities for proposed evaluation and validation studies of endocrine disruptor screening methods.

Request for Comments and Nomination of *In Vitro* Endocrine Disruptor Test Methods

Comments and nominations submitted in response to this notice should be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail to NICEATM (Dr. William S. Stokes, Director, NICEATM, NIEHS, 79 T. W. Alexander Drive, P.O. Box 12233, MD EC-17, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (phone) 919-541-2384, (fax) 919-541-0947, (e-mail) iccvam@niehs.nih.gov) by June 7, 2004, in order to ensure their consideration by the ICCVAM.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In May 2003, ICCVAM published a report entitled, "ICCVAM Evaluation of *In Vitro* Test Methods for Detecting Potential Endocrine Disruptors: Estrogen Receptor and Androgen Receptor Binding and Transcriptional Activation Assays" (NIH Publication No. 03-4503; available: <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/methods/endocrine.htm>). During its evaluation of *in vitro* endocrine disruptor screening assays, ICCVAM recommended that preference be given to development of assays that (1) do not require the use of animal tissue as the receptor source, but rather use recombinant-derived proteins and (2) do not use radioactive materials. ICCVAM also recommended minimum procedural standards that should be incorporated in standardized test method protocols and minimum lists of chemicals that should be used for validation studies. ICCVAM subsequently received nominations of two methods for validation studies. The first nomination is for a biosensor system that can assess estrogen receptor binding and transcriptional activation. The second nomination is for a stably transfected recombinant cell-based transcriptional method. The methods meet the ICCVAM's recommendations for studies that do not require the use of animals as a receptor source or use radioactive materials. Both methods detect receptor agonist and antagonist activity.

ICCVAM reviewed the two nominations described above and

unanimously approved the following draft recommendation: "Evaluation studies for *in vitro* receptor binding and transcriptional activation test methods that do not require the use of animals should receive a high priority for support. Prior to the initiation of such studies, the proposed validation studies should be evaluated for adherence to relevant recommendations in the report: "ICCVAM Evaluation of *In Vitro* Test Methods for Detecting Potential Endocrine Disruptors: Estrogen Receptor and Androgen Receptor Binding and Transcriptional Activation Assays" (NIH Publication No. 03-4503) by the ICCVAM Endocrine Disruptor Working Group (EDWG) and NICEATM."

ICCVAM subsequently presented these nominations and its recommendation to the SACATM at its March 10-11, 2004 meeting. SACATM concurred with ICCVAM that endocrine disrupting screening assays should be a priority.

Background Information on ICCVAM and NICEATM

ICCVAM is an interagency committee composed of representatives from 15 Federal regulatory and research agencies that use, generate, or disseminate toxicological information. ICCVAM promotes the development, validation, regulatory acceptance, and national and international harmonization of toxicological test methods that more accurately assess the safety or hazards of chemicals and products and test methods that refine, reduce and replace animal use. The ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-545, available at <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/about/PL106545.htm>) established ICCVAM as a permanent interagency committee of the NIEHS under the NICEATM. NICEATM administers the ICCVAM and provides scientific support for ICCVAM and ICCVAM-related activities. NICEATM and ICCVAM work collaboratively to evaluate new and improved test methods applicable to the needs of Federal agencies. Additional information about ICCVAM and NICEATM can be found at the following Web site: <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov>.

Dated: April 9, 2004.

Samuel H. Wilson,

Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[FR Doc. 04-8980 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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