

**Department Of Health and Human Services
Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health
National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council**

**Summary of Meeting¹
June 30, 2026**

The National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NANDS) Council convened on March 10, 2026, via Zoom. Dr. Amy Bany Adams, Acting Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), served as Chairperson.

In accordance with Public Law 92-463, the meeting was:

Open: June 30, 2026: 12 p.m. to 12:03 p.m. for the review and discussion of initiatives for concept clearance; and
Closed: June 30, 2026: 12:32 p.m. to 2:08 p.m. for the consideration of individual grant applications.

Councilmembers present: Dr. Robert Brown Jr. Dr. Jane Larkindale Dr. Jin-Moo Lee Dr. John H.R. Maunsell Dr. Louise McCullough Dr. Henry Paulson	Ex officio members present: Dr. Amy Adams Dr. Stuart Hoffman
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Council Roster (Attachment 1)

NINDS employees and members of the public in attendance (Attachment 2)

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Dr. Amy Bany Adams, Acting Director, NINDS

Dr. Adams called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees, noting that today's meeting would be predominantly focused on the closed session for second-level peer review of the most recent round of applications, following a brief open session.

¹For the record, it is noted that members absent themselves from the meeting when the Council is discussing applications (a) from their respective institutions or (b) in which a real or apparent conflict of interest might occur.

Dr. Adams turned the meeting over to Dr. Andy Meredith, NINDS Director, for the open session.

II. DEA Director Update

Dr. Andrea Meredith, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, NINDS

Dr. Meredith and Dr. Adams thanked Council members for their ongoing efforts in the second-level review and concurrence process.

Dr. Adams noted that the institute is hopeful for an approved new roster of Council members and expressed gratitude to members whose terms are being extended in the interim. Dr. Meredith noted that formal recognition (previously provided via engraved crystal or certificates during in-person meetings) would be explored for departing members. Dr. Meredith then presented Council with a brief DEA Director update.

First, Dr. Meredith discussed NIH communications, reminding Council that individual NIH Institute, Center, and Office (IC) websites are being phased out, with consolidated information moving to the main NIH grants and funding site (grants.nih.gov).

She then highlighted five open RFIs/funding opportunities, including the congressionally mandated National Plan to End Parkinson's, RFIs on measuring/rewarding scientific impact, capping research project grants per investigator, and youth participatory action research in prevention, as well as a HEAL Initiative Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness (N CREW) Program funding opportunity for Native research resource partners.

Next, Dr. Meredith highlighted the NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Program, noting that fiscal year 2027 applications for awards will be accepted between September and November 2026. Eligible individuals may receive up to \$50,000 in educational loan repayment. NINDS noted it prioritizes applicants demonstrating a clear, ongoing commitment to research, including basic scientists, clinician-scientists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, and other clinical specialists within the NINDS mission who carry substantial debt.

Dr. Meredith announced the appointment of Dr. Warren Casey as the inaugural director of the new Office of Research Innovation, Validation and Application (ORIVA), housed within the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI), Office of the NIH Director. ORIVA will coordinate NIH-wide efforts to develop, validate, and scale human-based science and technology — including 3D human tissue models, computational tools, and other non-animal methods — and will serve as a hub for interagency coordination and regulatory translation.

Dr. Meredith briefly reviewed NIH modified peer review practices, noting that they will continue these practices for advisory councils through October 2026:

- Top third of applications by score: discussed at most meetings (primary funding pool)
- Middle third: competitive but not discussed; eligible for funding as resources allow

- Bottom third: deemed not competitive but not discussed

The Center for Scientific Review continues to issue simplified summary statements using bullet points to highlight main score-driving factors.

Dr. Meredith reminded Council that the continuous submission policy for experienced reviewers remains halted; however, a two-week late submission window remains available. Council members were directed to the relevant Guide notice for details.

To conclude her remarks, Dr. Meredith gave a brief overview of the numerous upcoming events and workshops to be held at NINDS, accessible via the events hub (QR codes provided in the presentation slides).

III. Initiatives for Concept Clearance

Dr. Andrea Meredith, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, NINDS

Dr. Meredith then presented two concepts.

Concept 1 (Reissue): Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network (BPN): Small Molecule Drug Discovery and Development, *Lead: Dr. Pascal Laeng, Program Manager, Division of Translational Research*

Concept 2 (New): Research to improve reproducibility and replicability in biomedical and behavioral sciences; *Lead: Dr. Michael Freed, Chief of the Services Research and Clinical Epidemiology Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health*

Dr. Freed presented a revised concept addressing longstanding, well-documented concerns about reproducibility and replicability in biomedical and behavioral research — an area NIH is positioned to support given that such work is structurally underfunded and under-published relative to its value to the field. In response to Council's May feedback, the concept was streamlined to two goals: identifying where replication research would have the greatest scientific, clinical, and economic value, and supporting investigator-initiated studies to assess replicability, with success criteria revised to emphasize measurable outcomes.

Councilmembers welcomed the added clarity and responsiveness to prior feedback, discussed how the initiative might prioritize preclinical findings headed toward clinical trials, and confirmed support for a decentralized, investigator-initiated approach consistent with how NIH manages other broad funding programs. One member cautioned that some focus areas may be needed at the funding-opportunity stage to avoid diffusing impact, and members overall expressed enthusiasm for the concept's potential to improve research efficiency.

The Council voted to approve both proposed concepts.

IX. Adjournment

The open session of the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING

X. Review of Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, and Council Consideration of Pending Applications

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public in accordance with the determination that it was concerned with matters exempt from mandatory disclosure under sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., and section 1009(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. §§ 1001-1014).

Members absented themselves from the meeting during discussion of and voting on applications from their own institutions, or other applications in which there was a potential conflict of interest, real or apparent.

Conflict of Interest – Regulations concerning conflict of interest were reviewed. Councilmembers were reminded that materials furnished for review purposes and discussion during the closed portions of the meeting are considered privileged information. All Councilmembers present signed a statement certifying that they had not been involved in any conflict-of-interest situations during the review of grant applications.

Confidentiality – During the closed session, any information that is discussed and the outcome of any recommendation are considered privileged information. They may not be discussed outside of the closed session. If an applicant requests support for his or her application from a Councilmember, the Councilmember must respond that he/she is not permitted to discuss the application. Any inquiry should be referred to Dr. Andrea Meredith NINDS Advisory Council Executive Secretary, who then will refer the question to the appropriate staff member for response.

Research Training and Career Development Programs – The Council reviewed a total of 460 research career development and institutional training grant applications with primary assignment to NINDS, and 172 of them (37 percent) were scored in the amount of \$13.6 million first-year direct costs. It is anticipated that, of the research career development and institutional training grant applications competing at this Council, NINDS will be able to pay first-year direct costs of approximately \$6.3 million (79 grants).

Research Project and Center Awards – The Council reviewed a total of 2,127 research project and center applications with primary assignment to NINDS, and 871 of them (41 percent) were scored in the amount of \$341.8 million first-year direct costs. It is anticipated that, of the research grants competing at this Council, NINDS will be able to pay first-year direct costs of approximately \$82.7 million (249 grants).

Senator Jacob Javits Neuroscience Investigator Awards – The Senator Jacob Javits Neuroscience Investigator Awards are made to distinguished investigators who have a record of scientific excellence and productivity, who are actively pursuing an area of research of strategic importance, and who can be expected to continue to be highly productive for a seven-year period. Candidates are nominated and selected at each Council meeting. Council approved three Javits nominations at this meeting Georgio Ascoli, Ph.D. (George Mason University), Edwin

Levitan, Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh), and Georgios Skinotis (St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital).

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

We certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and complete.



Andrea Meredith, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council
Director, Division of Extramural Activities
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke



Amy Bany Adams
Chairperson
National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council
Acting Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

These minutes will be formally considered by the Council at its next meeting. Corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

**National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council
Roster for Spring 2026 Council Meeting
Attachment 1**

Amy Bany Adams, Ph.D. (Chairperson)
Acting Director, National Institute of
Neurological
Disorders and Stroke
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892
(Ex Officio member)

Robert H. Brown, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.* (2025)
Director Program in Neurotherapeutics
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical
School
Worcester, MA 01655

Jane Larkindale, D.Phil. (2026)
Vice President
PepGen Inc.
Cambridge, MA 02142

Jin-Moo Lee, M.D., Ph.D., FAHA (2026)
Andrew B. & Gretchen P. Jones Professor
Professor, Department of Radiology
Professor, Department of Biomedical
Engineering
Professor, Division of Biology and Biomedical
Sciences
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO 63110

Henry L. Paulson, M.D., Ph.D. (2026)
Lucile Groff Professor of Neurology
Department of Neurology
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Ex Officio Members

Jayanta Bhattacharya, Ph.D., M.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

Stuart Hoffman, Ph.D.
Senior Health Science Officer
Office of Research and Development
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20003

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr, J.D.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

Terry M. Rauch, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.
Director, Medical Research and Development
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Health Affairs)
Department of Defense
Falls Church, VA 22042

Executive Secretary

Andrea Meredith, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Extramural Activities
National Institute of Neurological Disorders &
Stroke
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

Terms end July 31 of the designated year

*Serving on an administrative extension to participate in the June 2026 Council Meeting

National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NANDS) Council
June 30, 2026, Meeting
Attachment 2

NINDS employees present for portions of the meeting included:

Amy Adams	Jordan Gladman	Joan Ohayon
Mariam Afzal	Tom Greenwell	Oreisa Oneil
Diana Alkire	Brooks Gross	Leslie Osborne
Heather Allison	Amelie Gubitz	Adam Palumbo
Ram Arudchandran	Kristi Hardy	Marcy Pape
Herson Astacio	Jill Harper	Tatiana Pasternak
Taryn Aubrecht	Ali Hassani	Michele Pearson
Jennifer Barnes	Brian Haugen	Pragya Prakash
Pat Bellgowan	Lanier Heyburn	Rebecca Price
Heidi Bonilla-Ramos	Rebecca Hommer	Michele Pucak
Naomi Booker	Mariah Hoye	Shamsi Raeissi
Francesca Bosetti	Nina Hsu	Shanta Rajaram
Chris Boshoff	Eric Hudak	Yogendra Raol
Joe Bruder	Grace Hwang	K. Rezaizadeh
Roger Campbell	Smriti Iyengar	Sarah Robinson Schwartz
Emily Caporello	Justin Jang	Becky Roof
Stacey Chambers	Scott Janis	Joshua Sanchez
Chi Chang	Kevin Jones	Cheryse Sankar
Maria Charlier	Noam Keren	Shireen Sarraf
Ben Churn	Jenny Kim	Lumy Sawaki-Adams
Carolyn Conlin	Aaron Kinchen	Gretchen Scott
Christopher Conrad	Brian Klein	Mengge Shan
Devon Crawford	Jeffrey Kopsick	Kelly Sheppard
Cheryl Cudzilo	Svetlana Kotliarova	Frank Shewmaker
Adi Cymerblit-Sabba	Doe Kumsa	Sudha Srinivasan
William Daley	Pascal Laeng	Valerie Stoehr
Alexander Denker	Christine Lam	Tao Sun
Neel Dhruv	Nick Langhals	Elizabeth Sypek
Sara Dodson	Timothy Lavaute	Thomas Taetzsch
Anthony Domenichiello	Miriam Leenders	Amir Tamiz
Adele Doperalski	Madeline Ludwig	Carol Taylor-Burds
Argenia Doss	Quynh Ly	Shruthi Thomas
Anahid Ebrahimi	Tim Lyden	Natalie Trzcinski
Judy Fabrikant	Dina Lyon	William Tyler
Carlos Faraco	Laura Mamounas	Lauren Ullrich
Nicole Farhat	Heidi Matos	George Umanah
Claudia Figueroa-Romero	Marguerite Matthews	Nsini Umoh
Jessica Forbes	Sean McCarthy	Ursula Utz
Megan Frankowski	Linda McGavern	Claudio Villalobos Dintrans
Michael Freed	Jennifer McNeal	Natalia Volfovsky
Lauren Friedman	Carolina Mendoza-Puccini	Rachel Weinberg
Hermon Gebrehiwet	Andrea Meredith	Vicky Whittemore
Annette Gilchrist	Daniel Miller	Shellie Wilburn

Ling Wong
Clinton Wright

Patrick Wright
Guangying Wu

Xiling Yin
Arlene Zheng