

Minutes

**National Library of Medicine
Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC)
February 24-25, 2022
Minutes of Meeting**

The ninety-fifth meeting of the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC) (roster under ATTACHMENT A) of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) convened virtually at 10:00 AM on February 24, 2022. Dr. Kelly Sandberg served as Acting Chair of the Committee and presided over the meeting. In accordance with P.L. 92-463 and the determination of the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH), the meeting was announced in the [Federal Register](#). In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 552b(c)(9)(B), Title 5, U.S.C., Pub. L. 92-463, the meeting was closed to the public for the review and discussion of journals as potential titles to be indexed by the NLM.

For the Record¹

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Armand Antommara
Dr. Angela Arenas-Gamboa
Dr. Pamela Bagley
Dr. Steven DiBartola
Dr. Luisa DiPietro
Dr. Jonathan Eldredge
Dr. Sharon Greenblum
Dr. Dingbo Lin
Dr. Alan Louie
Dr. Kelly Sandberg
Dr. Nutan Sharma
Dr. Marina Sokolsky-Papkov
Dr. Henry Young

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Erika Newman
Dr. Nancy Lowe

NLM STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Dianne Babski
Mr. Philip Banh
Ms. Rebecca Black
Dr. Patti Brennan
Ms. Brittney Davis
Dr. Kathel Dunn
Ms. Judith Eannarino
Ms. Kristina Elliott
Mr. Chris Kelly
Ms. Iulia Kristanciuk
Mr. Luke Kudryashov
Ms. Jennifer Marill
Ms. Allie McDougall
Ms. Julie Silverman
Ms. Simone Stone
Dr. Lauren Topper
Ms. Beth Weston
Ms. Sam Kennefick Wilairat
Ms. Amanda Wilson
Ms. Annemieke van der Sluijs
Mr. Frank Vitale
Dr. Maryam Zaringhalam
Ms. Erin Zellers

¹ It is noted that members absent themselves from the meeting when the Committee is discussing journal titles in which a conflict of interest might occur.

I. Call to Order

As Dr. Nancy Lowe was unable to attend this meeting, Dr. Kelly Sandberg served as acting chair. Dr. Sandberg called the meeting to order at 10:00AM, Thursday, February 24, 2022, and welcomed the members and NLM staff.

II. Administrative Matters

A. Introductions:

Dr. Kelly Sandberg led introductions of the LSTRC members. Dr. Lauren Topper led introductions of NLM staff members.

B. Consideration of the minutes from the October 2021 meeting: The minutes were approved as written.

C. Conflict of Interest Forms: Conflict of Interest forms were distributed to LSTRC members prior to the meeting, and were completed before members participated.

D. Dates of future meetings:

- Summer 2022: June 23-24, 2022 (Confirmed)
- Fall 2022: October 27-28, 2022 (Confirmed)
- Winter 2023: February 23-24, 2023 (Proposed)

E. Other matters:

- Dr. Kelly Sandberg notified the committee that the Summer 2022 meeting will take place virtually. The dates for the Fall 2022 meeting were confirmed.

III. Invited Presentation: Advancing a Culture of Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusivity at the NIH

Dr. Maryam Zaringhalam, NLM Data Science and Open Science Officer, presented to the committee on NIH's [UNITE initiative](#) which aims to "identify and address structural racism within the NIH-supported and the greater scientific community." She gave background on what spurred the UNITE initiative at the NIH and a timeline of its progress thus far. Dr. Zaringhalam briefed the group on the different committees, each representing a different letter of UNITE, and their respective missions. Dr. Zaringhalam serves on a committee within the "E" group, so she spent time discussing what this group has done so far and their mission. The group has identified four key areas to focus on, including enhancing career pathways for under-represented and minority groups, addressing the limited resources of many minority institutions, and raising awareness of opportunities at the NIH.

In addition to the work of the E committee, Dr. Zaringhalam noted that the "I" committee has recommended that each NIH institute and center develop a plan as part of UNITE that is consistent with their own unique needs. She briefed the committee on NLM's plan, known as the Racial and Ethnic Equity Plan (REEP). As a first step, an NLM idea council was launched in 2021 with the purpose of developing the REEP and laying out steps for implementation. Dr. Zaringhalam ended by taking questions from the committee and inviting the members to attend an upcoming lecture hosted by NLM that will highlight societal and ethical considerations with the use of advanced technologies in conducting biomedical research.

IV. Director's Report

Dr. Patricia Flatley Brennan began by thanking the committee for their important work for the NLM and the scientific community. She next gave an overview of NLM leadership, including the heads of the major divisions and programs, and noted that the NLM has roughly 1700 staff members. Dr. Brennan noted that NLM is still driven by the three pillars of its strategic plan, which are to

- Accelerate discovery and advance health through data-driven research
- Reach more people in more ways through enhanced dissemination and engagement
- Build a workforce for data-driven research and health

Dr. Brennan highlighted several key areas of support by the NLM in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She discussed how NLM has improved discoverability and access to the literature,

including adding COVID-19 and related terms to the 2022 version of MeSH. In addition, NLM restarted fulfilling interlibrary loan requests in September of 2021, with roughly 6500 requests filled through December, despite limited staff presence onsite. Submissions of SARS-CoV-2 data to sequencing databases such as GenBank have been simplified. The NLM researcher Dr. Eugene Koonin and his team identified multiple insertions in the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, including some that could allow escape from neutralizing antibodies. Finally, several NLM staff members continue to lend their expertise to NIH initiatives [RADx](#) and [RECOVER](#), as detailed by Dr. Brennan in her October 2021 address.

The NLM has continued to work to improve operations, including launching the NIH Generalist Repository Ecosystem Initiative, holding the Petabyte-scale Sequence Code-a-thon in conjunction with the Office of Data Science Strategy to find solutions to building new tools to search large databases, and making NLM resources more accessible. The NLM building continues to undergo renovations, including work on the data center utility buildings and tunnel, updates to improve modernization, and new conference and café space onsite.

Dr. Brennan gave several updates on the NLM budget according to the budget authority and the President's budget, but noted that NLM has been operating under a continuous resolution. She announced the sad passing of 5 individuals who made substantial contributions to the NLM: David Kenton, Frances Spina, Darlene Dodson, Patricia Gallagher, and Edward Huth. Finally, she gave an update on the search for several key leadership positions, including the NLM Scientific Director (currently in interviews stage) the NLM Associate Director for Scientific Data Resources and Director, NCBI (to be posted May, 2022) and the Director, Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications (planned search).

Dr. Brennan concluded by taking questions from the committee, inviting them to contribute to her blog "NLM Musings from the Mezzanine", and thanking them again for their work.

V. Examination and Review of Titles

A total of 52 titles were reviewed at the meeting. The review of titles began on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 10:45 AM and continued until 12:30 PM. The committee resumed the review of titles in the afternoon at 1:30 PM and continued until 2:35 PM. Reviews began again at 3:30 PM, following the invited presentation, and continued until 4:00 PM. The review of titles resumed on Friday, February 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM and continued until 12:30 PM. The NLM Director's report occurred at 1:30 PM. After the report, the committee resumed review of journals at 2:10 PM and concluded at 2:50 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

VI. Certification

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and complete.

Dianne Babski
Scientific Review Administrator

Kelly Sandberg
Acting Chairperson