

Minutes

**National Library of Medicine
Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC)
February 23-24, 2023
Minutes of Meeting**

The ninety-eighth 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 23, 2023. Dr. Kelly Sandberg served as 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. The meeting was open to the public from 1:30 – 2:30 PM on Thursday, February 23rd. The open session was videocast and accessible from the NIH Videocasting website (<http://videocast.nih.gov/>).

For the Record¹

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Norma Alcantar
Dr. Armand Antommara
Dr. Praveen Arany
Dr. Angela Arenas-Gamboa
Dr. Pamela Bagley
Dr. Erik Black
Dr. Steven DiBartola
Dr. Jonathan Eldredge
Dr. Sharon Greenblum
Dr. Erika Newman
Dr. Kelly Sandberg
Dr. Nutan Sharma
Dr. Marina Sokolsky-Papkov
Dr. Julie Ann Sosa
Dr. Henry Young

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Pamela Bagley

NLM STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Dianne Babski
Mr. Philip Banh
Ms. Rebecca Black
Dr. Patricia Flatley Brennan
Ms. Mary Ann Collins
Ms. Judith Eannarino
Ms. Kristina Elliott
Mr. Chris Kelly
Dr. Iulia Kristanciuk
Mr. Derek Maclean
Ms. Jennifer Marill
Dr. Valerie Schneider
Ms. Julie Silverman
Dr. Lauren Topper
Ms. Annemieke van der Sluijs
Ms. Amanda J. Wilson
Mr. Bill Wischmann

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

Dr. Kelly Sandberg called the meeting to order at 10:00AM, Thursday, February 23, 2023, 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 2022 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 2023: June 22-23, 2023 (Confirmed)
- Fall 2023: October 19-20, 2023 (Confirmed)
- Winter 2024: February 22-23, 2024 (Proposed)
- Summer 2024: June 27-28, 2024 (Proposed)

E. Other matters:

- The upcoming Summer 2023 meeting was confirmed as virtual.

III. Director's Update

Dr. Patricia Flatley Brennan opened by thanking the LSTRC members and stressing the importance of the work they do.

She next introduced the NLM Leadership Team and went through some recent updates. Steve Sherry has been selected as the Director of NCBI and is working to reinvigorate some of its critical elements. Wei Ma has been appointed as NLM's Acting Director of OCCS. Dr. Brennan discussed how she restructured the deputy director positions roughly two years ago to include a Deputy Director of Operations and Innovation and a Deputy Director of Policy and External Affairs. Mike Huerta is now serving as Acting Deputy Director of Operations and Innovation and Jerry Sheehan was appointed Deputy Director of Policy and External Affairs. Lisa Federer is currently serving as the Acting Director for the Office of Strategic Initiatives. Dr. Brennan discussed the time it takes to permanently fill top leadership positions, which is why there are several acting positions at present.

Dr. Brennan provided an update on the progress made in the last few months toward the three pillars of NLM's strategic plan. This work includes the Library Operations (LO) long range plan for 2036, which is aimed at preparing LO for the future. She covered several initiatives to improve security at NLM, including a Vulnerability Disclosure Policy monitoring and reporting dashboard for NIH public-facing websites, improving secure access for Lister Hill Center Clinical Data Management, and strengthening NLM's onsite buildings and data center. Dr. Brennan discussed how phase 2 of the PMC preprint pilot recently launched and includes all NIH-funded preprints.

Dr. Brennan covered several recent advances in NLM intramural research, including improvements to the AI-based protein structure prediction process (AlphaFold2) by Lauren Porter's team, the development and validation of an automated visual evaluation of cervical images by Sameer Antani and colleagues, and a recent report by Dina Demner Fushman and colleagues in Nature Scientific Data. On the extramural research side, Dr. Brennan noted how NLM grants support early stage investigators.

Dr. Brennan gave updates on NLM's Racial and Ethnic Equity Plan and provided a timeline overview of NLM's role in supporting the COVID-19 reponse throughout the pandemic. She noted that NLM has received its appropriations budget for FY 2023 and Dr. Brennan is currently reviewing proposals for how the additional allocated funds will be spent.

Finally, she covered NLM's ongoing renovation, which includes better cooling facilities to stabilize NLM's data center and installing a kitchen on the second floor for visitors and staff. NLM's main front entryway will also be redone to allow for an accessible entrance.

IV. Invited Presentation

The invited presentation, The NIH Comparative Genomics Resource (CGR), was given by Dr. Valerie Schneider, NCBI Program Head for Sequence Enhancements, Tools and Delivery and Deputy Director of Sequence Offerings.

Dr. Schneider began by encouraging the LSTRC members to consider in what ways their research relates to CGR-related resources and how this might impact them. She stressed that community engagement is crucial to developing these tools optimally.

Dr. Schneider covered the importance and value of the broad array of research organisms, which enable scientists to understand basic biologic processes as well as understand human diseases. She noted that comparative genomics analyses are poised to make bold new strides and that there has been an explosion in the number of organisms used and sequenced genomes. However, she stressed that there are several limitations and challenges to using the data, including multiple different user interfaces, a limited number of organisms supported, siloed data and applications, and the need to download data to apply tools. Dr. Schneider then introduced the CGR as a potential solution to these challenges.

Dr. Schneider noted that the CGR is a multi-year National Library of Medicine (NLM) project to maximize the impact of eukaryotic research organisms and their genomic data resources to biomedical research. The National Center for Biotechnology Information, as part of NLM, is charged with leading development and engaging genomics communities. The mission of the CGR is to establish an ecosystem to facilitate reliable comparative genomics analyses for all eukaryotic organisms through an interoperable suite of NCBI repositories and knowledgebases offering high-value data, tools, and interfaces compatible with community-provided organism resources.

Dr. Schneider's presentation covered the developments made thus far and their usage, including the existing suite of tools, expanded gene information in records, a new tool for removing data contamination (FCS-GX), and NCBI datasets.

Dr. Schneider concluded by listing several ways for members of the community to get involved and provide feedback, and she directed the committee to the CGR website (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/comparative-genomics-resource/>).

V. Other Matters

A public comment was submitted by Ms. Janine McCarthy, the Science Policy Program Manager with the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. The written comment was shared with all committee members.

VI. Examination and Review of Titles

A total of 56 titles were reviewed at the meeting. The review of titles began on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 10:45 AM and continued until 12:30 PM. The committee resumed the review of titles in the afternoon, after the open portion, at 2:30 PM and continued until 4:00 PM. The review of titles resumed on Friday, February 24th at 10:00 AM and continued until 12:30 PM. The committee resumed review of journals at 1:30 PM and concluded at 3:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM.

VII. 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
Chairperson