

Minutes

**National Library of Medicine
Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC)
February 25-26, 2021
Minutes of Meeting**

The ninety-second 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, February 25, 2021. Dr. Scott LeMaire, Chairman of the Committee, presided. 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 Antommaria
Dr. Angela Arenas-Gamboa
Dr. Pamela Bagley
Dr. Luisa DiPietro
Dr. Sharon Greenblum
Dr. Melissa Haendel
Dr. Scott LeMaire
Dr. Dingbo Lin
Dr. Alan Louie
Dr. Nancy Lowe
Dr. Elijah Paintsil
Dr. Kelly Sandberg
Dr. Marina Sokolsky-Papkov
Dr. Henry Young

NLM STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Dianne Babski
Mr. Philip Banh
Ms. Rebecca Black
Dr. Patti Brennan
Ms. Mitzi Diley
Ms. Judith Eannarino
Ms. Kristina Elliott
Mr. David Gillikin
Ms. Esther Lee
Ms. Jennifer Marill
Ms. Allie McDougall
Ms. Jennifer Quimbao
Ms. Julie Silverman
Dr. Lauren Topper
Ms. Beth Weston
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

Dr. Scott LeMaire called the meeting to order at 10:00AM, Thursday, February 25, 2021, and welcomed the members and NLM staff.

II. Administrative Matters

A. Introductions:

Dr. Scott LeMaire led introductions of the LSTRC members and NLM staff.

B. Consideration of the minutes from the October 2020 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:

- Spring 2021: June 24-25, 2021 (Confirmed)
- Fall 2021: October 28-29, 2021 (Confirmed)
- Winter 2022: February 24-25, 2022 (Proposed)
- Summer 2022: June 23-24, 2022 (Proposed)
- Fall 2022: October 27-28, 2022 (Proposed)

III. Director's Report

Dr. Patricia Brennan gave an update on NLM's progress toward reaching its strategic plan, with the goal of accelerating discovery and data-powered health. Three pillars underlie NLM's strategic plan: accelerating discovery and advancing health through data-driven research, reaching more people in more ways through enhanced dissemination and engagement, and building a workforce for data-driven research and health. A current focus is improving the workspace for NLM staff through ongoing renovations, as well as making the technical infrastructure that supports NLM products more robust. A highlight of NLM's recent efforts has been the All of Us Research Program Partnership which has helped underserved communities during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Other NLM initiatives include an emphasis on the use of common data elements to enhance data interoperability, a concept plan with the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications that focuses on data structures, the ability to make good use of data, and strengthening scientific computing, and efforts to refresh and renew existing resources at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), such as a new interface for ClinicalTrials.gov.

Dr. Brennan gave an update on the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative, which started in March of last year. RADx is creating programs that will rapidly scale-up testing across the country and enhance access to those most in need. Focuses of the various programs include identifying the best at-home or point-of-care tests for COVID-19, enhancing testing in vulnerable and underserved populations, and developing novel approaches to testing. Dr. Brennan also detailed other ways in which the NLM is supporting the NIH response to COVID-19, such as the NCBI computational biology branch's efforts to help detect COVID-19 in wastewater and NLM's work to help with Operation Warp Speed and determining over 100,000 different sequences of COVID-19.

Dr. Brennan gave an update on the NLM budget, which increased by 1.5% in 2021. Finally, she shared the results of an NIH COVID-19 workforce survey looking at the impact of COVID-19 on NIH staff and scientists which was distributed in October/November of 2020. Roughly half of the researchers surveyed indicated some type of negative effect on their career and were particularly concerned with their ability to apply for grants. Importantly, the survey results showed that underrepresented groups, such as women and minorities, were experiencing the most negative impacts. Dr. Brennan gave some updates on the ways in which the NIH is planning to combat these negative effects, such as grant extensions, working groups, and other initiatives. The LSTRC then discussed the concerns surrounding diversity and inclusion in the scholarly publishing fields.

IV. Examination and Review of Titles

A total of 83 titles were reviewed at the meeting. The review of titles began on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 11:15 AM and continued until 12:45 PM. The committee resumed the review of titles in the afternoon at 2:45 PM, following the Director's report, and continued until 4:00 PM. Reviews began again at 10:00 AM on Friday, February 26, 2021 and continued until 12:30 PM. The committee resumed reviews after the break at 1:30 PM and concluded at 3:15 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

V. 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

Scott LeMaire
Chairman