

## Minutes

**National Library of Medicine  
Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC)  
February 22-23, 2024  
Minutes of Meeting**

The one-hundred-and-first 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Dr. Armand Antommara 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 – 1:50 PM on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The open session was videocast and accessible from the NIH Videocasting website (<http://videocast.nih.gov/>).

For the Record<sup>1</sup>

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Norma Alcantar  
Dr. Armand Antommara  
Dr. Angela Arenas-Gambo  
Dr. Sharon Greenblum  
Dr. Nutan Sharma  
Dr. Julie Ann Sosa  
Dr. Henry Young  
Dr. Praveen Arany  
Dr. Steven DiBartola  
Dr. Diana Baptiste  
Dr. Kristen Anderson  
Dr. Weiqun Wang

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Erika Newman  
Dr. Erik Black  
Dr. Jonathan Eldredge

### **NLM STAFF PRESENT**

Dianne Babski  
Dr. Michael Huerta  
Philip Banh  
Rebecca Black  
Kristina Elliott  
Dr. Lauren Topper  
Bill Wischmann  
Gary Hunter  
Julie Silverman  
Julie Volpenhein  
Ariah Long  
Alex Henigman  
Kristi Torp  
Mary Ann Collins  
Esther Lee  
Margaret McGhee  
Erin Zellers  
Dr. Kathel Dunn  
Judith Eannarino  
Dina Paltoo

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<sup>1</sup> 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. Armand Antommara called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, and welcomed the members and NLM staff.

## II. Administrative Matters

### A. Introductions:

Dr. Armand Antommara led introductions of the LSTRC members. Dr. Lauren Topper led introductions of NLM staff members.

### B. Consideration of the minutes from the October 2023 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 2024: June 27-28, 2024 (Confirmed)
- Fall 2024: October 24-25, 2024 (Confirmed)
- Winter 2025: February 20-21, 2025 (Proposed)

### E. Other matters:

- The upcoming Summer 2024 meeting is confirmed as an in-person meeting. The Fall 2024 meeting dates were confirmed as virtual.
- A public comment was received and distributed to the members prior to the meeting.

## III. Director's Update

Dr. Michael Huerta, NLM's Acting Deputy Director for Operations and Innovation and Associate Director for Strategy, gave the Director's Update. He began by briefing the committee on several leadership updates, including the retirement of Dr. Olivier Bodenreider, former Director of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, and the appointment of Jim Mork, who will replace him as the Acting Director. In addition, Dr. Dina Paltoo has been named the NLM Acting Deputy Director of Policy and External Affairs. Dr. Huerta showed an organizational map of the current NLM Senior leadership overview and noted that many of the positions are currently being filled by individuals in an Acting role.

Dr. Huerta noted that Dr. Monica M Bertagnolli has been appointed as the new NIH Director. Dr. Bertagnolli was previously the director of the National Cancer Institute and holds an MD from the University of Utah. Dr. Huerta briefed the LSTRC on some of her guiding principles and priorities, as communicated to the NIH staff members, which include the assertion that, "our work is finished when all people are living long and healthy lives". Dr. Huerta also described how the NIH Director views patients as partners in discovery and believes that scientific research would be strengthened by incorporating them more into the process. Finally, he covered how Dr. Bertagnolli believes progress is accelerated by advanced scientific methods such as new data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI), the latter of which is a specific area in which the director believes NLM can play a major role. She would like to see NLM harness data in ways that achieve faster and more definitive results and launch innovative and ambitious initiatives to propel fusion of biomedicine and AI/machine learning. NLM has been working with the NIH Office of the Director and pursuing these new research and operations directions. The idea is to integrate more data across different dimensions, increase access to those data, start pointing to and connecting through a federated architecture for data sharing, and support all of this by providing education and workforce development so people can use these resources optimally.

Dr. Huerta then reviewed the three pillars of NLM's strategic plan and highlighted some of the recent progress in each area.

Regarding accelerating discovery and advancing health through data driven research, he noted that in FY 2023 NLM intramural researchers published 131 peer-reviewed papers and 29 preprints. NLM intramural researchers had a combined 91 trainees and these trainees won 9 awards. On the

extramural research side, NLM has been recognized for leadership in AI and given two major grant awards through the NIH Director's innovation award programs.

Regarding the second pillar of reaching more people in more ways through enhanced dissemination and engagement, NLM has many recent achievements. Some of them include advancing NLM open science, a group that is working on developing a strategic plan for NLM in open science. NLM has been very active in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Year of Open Science, and NLM has released a new application programming interface (API) endpoint as an improved way to access terminologies supported by NLM. NLM has launched a beta version of the Dataset Catalog featuring discovery of biomedical datasets across different repositories. Finally, the PubMed preprint pilot has entered phase II – at this point over 14,000 preprints have been integrated into PubMed Central, and NLM continues to develop Medical Text Indexer X (MTIX) to perform automated indexing of MeSH for MEDLINE.

Regarding the third pillar, building a workforce for data driven health, NLM is putting together a responsible AI team to ensure the ethical implications of AI are considered as new developments are made.

Dr. Huerta also noted that the NIH fellows have unionized and voted to be represented by the International Union of United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America. NIH has commenced collective bargaining with that union on behalf of those fellows. Finally, Dr. Huerta gave an update on the budget, which he noted is the same information as was shared in October as NLM continues to operate under a continuing resolution with a flat budget. There have been no updates in this area. He noted that, due to the current budget situation, NLM has focused financially on areas that reflect commitment to its mission and excellence for the public good. These include collecting, curating, and preserving biomedical information and connecting to the world, providing credible, equitable, accessible information resources, conducting and supporting transformative research to advance information and library science, engineering, and technology, and leading excellence for resilience, reliability, and representation for information sciences. As such, the guiding principles for NLM investment include continuing to develop NLM's unified collection but with intentional strategies, providing access to NLM collections while protecting the rights of users and contributors, focusing on supporting early career researchers, continuing to invest in high-value technical infrastructure, and ensuring decisions are driven by data. Dr. Huerta concluded his talk and took questions from the committee members.

#### **IV. Examination and Review of Titles**

A total of 48 titles were reviewed at the meeting. The review of titles began on Thursday, February 22nd, 2024 at 10:21 AM and continued until 12:30 PM. The committee resumed the review of titles after the open portion at 1:50 PM and continued until 3:35 PM. The committee opted to adjourn early and begin later the following day due to the low number of journals remaining for discussion. The review of titles resumed on Friday, February 23rd at 11:00 AM and continued until 12:32 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 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

Armand Antommara  
Chairperson