AMENDED CHARTER
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH PEER REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(Formerly Center for Scientific Review Advisory Committee)

PURPOSE

The National Institutes of Health Peer Review Advisory Committee (PRAC, also referred to as Committee) provides technical and scientific advice to the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Deputy Director for Extramural Research, NIH, and the Director, Center for Scientific Review (CSR), on matters relating broadly to review procedures and policies for the evaluation of scientific and technical merit of applications for grants and awards.

AUTHORITY

42 U.S.C. 282 (b) (6), section 402 (b) (6) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as amended. The PRAC is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

FUNCTION

The PRAC shall advise the Director, NIH, and the Deputy Director for Extramural Research, NIH, concerning matters of policy and practice pertaining to monitoring of, coordination of, and evaluation of peer review at NIH. The PRAC shall also advise the Director, CSR, concerning matters of policy and practice relating to the receipt, referral, and peer review in CSR and the Directors of other NIH institutes and centers (ICs) concerning the scope and manner of operation of peer review within those ICs. The PRAC's recommendations and advice regarding CSR and IC specific matters shall be made to the Director, NIH and the Deputy Director for Extramural Research, NIH, and, as appropriate, to the Director, CSR, and/or to the relevant NIH IC Director.

As needed, the PRAC shall seek advice from special consultants; assemble ad hoc working groups; and convene conferences, workshops, or other activities.

STRUCTURE

The PRAC shall consist of 16 members, including the Cochairs, and the Director, CSR. The Director, NIH, may select the Director, CSR, and a senior staff member from one of the ICs to be the Cochairs. Appointed members shall be selected from authorities who are knowledgeable in fields relevant to the peer review mission of NIH and have had experience with peer review. Members shall include experts such as physicians, basic and clinical investigators, and educators. In addition, members may include senior NIH staff members that are NIH stakeholders in peer

review. A quorum for the conduct of business by the Committee shall consist of a majority of currently appointed members. A quorum for each subcommittee shall be three members.

Members and the Cochairs shall be invited to serve for overlapping terms of up to four years. Terms of more than two years are contingent upon renewal of the Committee's Charter by appropriate action prior to its expiration. A member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has been appointed.

As necessary, standing and ad hoc subcommittees may be established to perform specific functions within the Committee's charge. The Department Committee Management Officer shall be notified upon establishment of each standing subcommittee, and shall be provided information as to its name, membership, function, and estimated frequency of meetings.

Management and support services shall be provided by the Division of Management Services, CSR, and the Office of the Director, CSR.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the full Committee shall be held approximately three times a year at the call of the Cochairs, with the advance approval of a Government official who shall approve the agenda. A Government official shall be present at all meetings.

Meetings shall be open to the public except as determined otherwise by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Notice of all meetings shall be given to the public.

Meetings shall be conducted and records of the proceedings kept as required by applicable laws and Departmental policies.

COMPENSATION

Members shall be paid at the rate of $200 per day, plus per diem and travel expenses, as authorized by section 5703, Title 5 U. S. C., as amended, for persons in the Government Service employed intermittently. Members who are officers or employees of the United States Government shall not receive compensation for service on the PRAC.

ANNUAL COST ESTIMATE

The estimated annual cost for operating the PRAC, including compensation and travel expenses for members, but excluding staff support, is $43,961. The estimate of annual person-years of staff support required is 0.2, at an estimated cost of $20,046.

REPORTS

In the event a portion of a meeting is closed to the public, a report shall be prepared which shall contain as a minimum, a list of members and their business addresses, the PRAC's functions, dates and places of meetings, and a summary of the PRAC's activities and recommendations made during the fiscal year. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Department Committee Management Officer.

TERMINATION DATE

Unless renewed by appropriate action prior to its expiration, the Charter for the National Institutes of Health Peer Review Advisory Committee will expire on March 31, 2005.

APPROVED:

10/29/2004
Date

/s/
Director, NIH