

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)  
National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD)**

9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD  
Building 31, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 6  
September 12, 2016 (Closed Session) 3:00PM – 5:00PM  
September 13, 2016 (Open Session) 8:00AM – 2:37PM

**Meeting Minutes**

**Council Members Present**

Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D., Chairperson, Director, NIMHD  
Linda T. Adams, Ph.D., RN, FAAN  
Margarita Alegria, BA, MA, Ph.D.  
Maria R. Araneta, Ph.D.  
Linda Burhansstipanov, MSPH, DrPH  
Sandro Galea, M.D., MPH, DrPH  
Eddie L. Greene, M.D.  
Linda S. Greene, BA, J.D.  
Ross Hammond, Ph.D.  
Hilton M. Hudson II, M.D., FACS  
Fernando Sanchez Mendoza, M.D., MPH  
Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.  
Brian Rivers, Ph.D., MPH  
Gregory Talavera, M.D., MPH

***Ex Officio* Members Present**

Cara Krulewitch, CNM, Ph.D., FACNM  
William Riley, PhD

**Council Members Absent**

Judith Bradford B., PhD  
Lisa Newman, A., MD, MPH, FACS, FASCO  
Michael Rashid, A., MBA  
Said Ibrahim A., MD, MPH

**Executive Secretary**

Joyce A. Hunter, Ph.D.

**Presenters**

Francis S. Collins, M.D.  
Thomas A. LaVeist, Ph.D.  
Chau Trinh-Shevrin, DrPH

## CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The 43rd meeting of the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD) was held on Monday, September 12, 2016 and Tuesday, September 13, 2016 in Building 31, Conference Room 6. The closed session began at 3:00 pm on September 12, and adjourned at 5:00 pm. The session was open to the public on September 13th from 8:00am until adjournment at 2:37 pm.

Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), presided as Chair and called the meeting to order. Dr. Joyce Hunter, Deputy Director, and NACMHD Executive Secretary, reviewed the confidentiality and conflict of interest information with Council members. Dr. Pérez-Stable asked Council members to introduce themselves, followed by NIMHD staff and invited guests.

## COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL – JUNE 7, 2016

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of the June 7, 2016 Council meeting. **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

### **2017 Council Dates**

February 27-28, 2017

June 5-6, 2017

September 7-8, 2017

## NIMHD DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Pérez-Stable reported on current NIH and NIMHD activities.

### *NIH News*

- Dr. Joshua A. Gordon was named director of National Institute of Mental Health.
- Dr. Diana W. Bianchi was named director of Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
- Dr. Patricia Flatley Brennan was named director of the National Library of Medicine.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers attended a PMI Cohort Program kickoff on July 6-8, 2016; NIMHD representatives were present.
- Launching in September 2016, the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study, run by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, will enroll 10,000 healthy participants and follow them for 10 years. NIMHD is co-funding the ABCD study and about 50% of participants are expected to be race/ethnic minorities.
- The HHS Office for Civil Rights in Action has published a declaration against racial discrimination that outlines response/recovery for such events.
- Dr. Donna Ginther has published a paper with her collaborators in a recent issue of Academic Medicine on the topic of discrimination in research funding, specifically highlighting the results of a double blind study as to whether women of color were less likely to be funded. Dr. Hannah Valentine is leading a team at the NIH to investigate potential remedies to this disparity.
- NIH has been working on the Cancer Moonshot program, championed by Vice President Joe Biden.
- The Office of the Director of NIH has established an Office of Sexual and Gender Minority Research and Dr. Karen Parker was named Director.
- The NIH is searching for a director for its Tribal Affairs office.

- Improved relations with Cuba have allowed the NIH to deepen its relationship to the Cuban Ministry of Health. In June, a high-level delegation from the ministry signed a memorandum of understanding with HHS, effectively declaring their intent for future collaboration.
- NIMHD continues to work on its Definitions of Minority Health, Health Disparities, Inclusion, and Diversity through a trans-NIH committee.
- NIMHD has launched a precision medicine research initiative focusing on health disparities; funded institutions include Vanderbilt University, Stanford University, Medical University of South Carolina, Yale University and Northwestern University
- A new NIMHD Transdisciplinary Collaborative Research Center (TCC) to address health disparities in chronic disease prevention has been established; funded institutions are Washington State University and Michigan State University
- Dr. Marjorie Mau, Principal Investigator and Director, Center for Native and Pacific Health Disparities Research is the first Native Hawaiian to be recognized as a “Master Physician” by the American College of Physicians

#### *NIMHD News*

- The first NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute was held August 2016 after receiving nearly 500 applications. The weeklong event was attended by 51 academic early career research scholars who participated in interactive sessions along with scientific lectures by extramural faculty. Our goal is to have these scholars be the future R01 recipients from NIMHD.
- The National Native American Youth Initiative visited NIH in July. Native American youth interested in biomedical research participated in the conference.

#### *NIMHD Staff News*

- Four adjunct investigators have been appointed to the NIMHD Division of Intramural Research, Drs. Michele Evans, Anne Sumner, Tiffany Powell-Wiley, and Chandra Jackson, all of whom are based in other institutes. Dr. Fasil Tekola Ayele has also been appointed as an adjunct investigator/postdoctoral IRTA Fellow. Dr. Jean Nepo Utumatwishima from Rwanda has joined NIMHD as a clinical research fellow for one year, studying detection and prevention techniques for diabetes in Africa.
- The Postbac IRTA Fellowship program brings promising young minority scientists to the NIH campus for a 2 to 3-day visit, laying the groundwork for future recruitment.
- NIMHD staff presented research at the 2016 Epidemiology Congress of the Americas in June 2016 and the Chemical and Engineering News webinar in March 2016.

#### *Noteworthy Publications*

- NIMHD staff have published a few noteworthy papers. Drs. Sherine El-Toukhy and Kelvin Choi have published a research paper in *Nicotine Tobacco Research*; Dr. Adelaida Rosario Eliseo Pérez-Stable an editorial in *Circulation*; Dr. Xinzhi Zhang, in *Ethnic Disparities*; Dr. Anne Sumner, in *The Journal of Ethnic Disparities*; and Dr. Rina Das and Dr. Pérez-Stable co-authored a review of genetic factors in cancer among Latinos in *Current Epidemiology*

#### *Noteworthy Staff Achievements*

- Dr. Lauren Amable, a staff scientist from Intramural Research, was accepted into the Society of Toxicology.
- Dr. Xinzhi Zhang was promoted to Lt. Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service.
- Dr. Jessica Escobedo, health policy analyst, received the NIH Director’s Award for making significant contributions to the NIH’s Strategic Plan.

- Ligia Artiles received the 2016 Harvey J. Bullock, Jr. Award for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion by the Office of Equity for her leadership in NIMHD.

#### *NIMHD Funded Science Advances*

- Dr. Pérez-Stable mentioned two papers highlighting the importance of considering disparities in research. The first is a recent JAMA paper that outlined two different disparities in mortality, where those in the top 5% lived about 10-14 years longer than those in the bottom 5%. It also showed that residents of more affluent cities tend to live 3-4 years longer than in those that are more economically depressed.
- The second was an article in the New England Journal of Medicine on hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which discussed how a lack of diversity among test subjects inadvertently led genes to be characterized as higher risk for the disease.

#### **STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

Priscilla Grant, Chief Grants Management Officer, NIMHD, briefly outlined the statement of understanding between NIMHD and the National Advisory Council. The statement defined the scope and function of the council and the functions of its members. In its open session, the Council will discuss scientific and policy issues as well as “concept clearances” of new initiatives; in the closed session, it will undertake secondary review of grant applications.

#### **REPORT FROM THE NIH DIRECTOR**

Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the NIH, spoke to the Council about priorities he sees in minority health and health disparities research. Dr. Collins praised Dr. Pérez-Stable for his work fostering partnerships with other NIH institutes. NIH has established several other venues that might serve as allies to NIMHD, including the Tribal Health Research Office, the Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee, and the Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office as well as the appointment of Dr. Hannah Valentine as Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity.

**Advancing Health Equity through the Lens of Context and Opportunity: Lessons Learned from the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health-** Dr Char Trinh-Shevrin, Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH), NYU School of Medicine

Dr. Shevrin’s presentation focused on what she has learned studying health disparities among Asian Americans over the last fifteen years. She discussed how context, identity and agency affect an individual’s opportunity to achieve good health within a community. Dr. Trinh-Shevrin spoke about CSAAH and how it changed New York City’s approach to Asian American health. CSAAH began in 2003 through an NIMHD infrastructure grant meant to establish and a campus-community partnership. This funding led to innovative studies of Asian American health in the New York City.

**My Journey to Discover the Reasons for Racial Disparities in Health-**Dr. Thomas LaViest, George Washington University

Dr. LaVeist mentioned some of the accomplishments of NIMHD and the influence they’ve had on his career. While at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. LaViest created the “Program for Research on Black

Americans.” The program has been very successful, producing many papers and counting notable researchers among its alumni. Through the work he did at the center, Dr. LaVeist himself was able to become Hopkins’s first minority full professor and first minority endowed professor. Moreover, the center now counts more African-Americans among its faculty than any other school in the country.

Dr. LaVeist highlighted a several of his research studies, including one that showed disparities in referrals for cardiac procedures among African Americans as compared to Whites. Another study found that in a community where African Americans and Whites have statistically equivalent education and income, risk factors for conditions like diabetes or obesity were essentially indifferent to race, while the risk factor for hypertension was reduced.

### **CONCEPT CLEARANCES**

Dr. Nathaniel Stinson, Director of the NIMHD Division of Extramural Scientific Programs led the discussion of three new initiatives presented by NIMHD program officials. Council engaged in detailed discussions. While generally supportive, members had a number of questions and recommendations for consideration prior to their approval. The NIMHD will consider the recommendations as well as other budgetary and programmatic issues in determining which of the proposed initiatives, if any, to implement.

**Title: Mechanisms and Consequences of Sleep Disparities – Dr. Rina Das**

**Purpose:** The initiative seeks to uncover the underlying mechanisms behind sleep deficiencies among various health disparity populations and how these deficiencies affect health outcomes. Sleep deficiency is characterized by irregular sleep patterns, less than 7 hours per night for adults, poor sleep quality and circadian disorders.

**Title: Youth Violence Prevention Interventions – Dr. Jennifer Alvidrez**

**Purpose:** The initiative will develop and test violence prevention strategies that incorporate racism/discrimination prevention components among students ages 11-18. The interventions will attempt to address either/both interpersonal and structural racism among health disparity populations.

**Title: Understanding the Mechanisms of Liver Cancer Disparities in the U.S.– Dr. Rina Das**

**Purpose:** The initiative proposes to understand better liver cancer disparities among minority and low socioeconomic status population in the U.S.

A motion to approve the three concepts was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Dr. Pérez-Stable opened the floor to public comments and questions. Dr. Victoria Mitrani, Principal Investigator for the Center of Excellence at the University of Miami, praised the scientific presenters of the concept clearances for promoting the role that Centers of Excellence play in researching these issues in ways that are superior to R01 institutions.

Dr. Amy Elliott, Principal Investigator for Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health (CRCAIH), stated that the transdisciplinary center grant (TCC), has been a tremendous support for building opportunities in her region.

Dr. Ray Samuel of Hampton University spoke, on behalf of smaller historically black colleges and universities. These institutions can address the particular needs of disenfranchised communities because they are in the best position to understand their needs.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

*A portion of the meeting was closed to the public in accordance with provisions set forth in Sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C., and Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, U.S.C. Appendix 2.*

#### **REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Dr. Pérez-Stable called the Closed Session to order at 3:00PM. Dr. Hunter led the second level review of grant applications submitted to NIMHD programs. The Council considered 287 applications requesting an estimated \$97,672,365 in total costs. Funding recommendations for all applications submitted in response to program announcements and special program review announcements were made by the Council through *en bloc* voting.

#### **CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Pérez-Stable asked members to consider over the next five months the intersection of NIMHD's goals with the goals of the NIMHD Strategic Plan. He thanked members for their contributions and expressed that he is available to members for questions and comments by phone or email.

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