

Minutes

**National Library of Medicine
Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC)
October 28-29, 2021
Minutes of Meeting**

The ninety-fourth 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 October 28, 2021. Dr. Nancy Lowe, 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 Antommara
Dr. Angela Arenas-Gamboa
Dr. Pamela Bagley
Dr. Steven DiBartola
Dr. Luisa DiPietro
Dr. Jonathan Eldredge
Dr. Sharon Greenblum
Dr. Dingbo Lin
Dr. Nancy Lowe
Dr. Erika Newman
Dr. Kelly Sandberg
Dr. Nutan Sharma
Dr. Marina Sokolsky-Papkov
Dr. Henry Young

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Alan Louie

NLM STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Dianne Babski
Mr. Philip Banh
Ms. Rebecca Black
Dr. Patti Brennan
Ms. Brittney Davis
Ms. Judith Eannarino
Ms. Kristina Elliott
Ms. Kathryn Funk
Mr. David Gillikin
Mr. Chris Kelly
Ms. Iulia Kristanciuk
Ms. Esther Lee
Ms. Jennifer Marill
Ms. Allie McDougall
Ms. Julie Silverman
Dr. Lauren Topper
Ms. Beth Weston
Ms. Amanda Wilson
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. Nancy Lowe called the meeting to order at 10:00AM, Thursday, October 28, 2021, and welcomed the members and NLM staff.

II. Administrative Matters

A. Introductions:

Dr. Nancy Lowe led introductions of the LSTRC members. Dr. Lauren Topper led introductions of NLM staff members.

B. Consideration of the minutes from the June 2021 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:

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

E. Other matters:

- Dr. Lauren Topper gave a presentation summarizing several relevant updates and announcements on behalf of NLM. She presented updated MEDLINE statistics from fiscal year 2021, including selection statistics as presented on the [MEDLINE statistics webpage](#). She gave an overview of the ongoing MEDLINE 2022 initiative, which aims to move to automated indexing of MEDLINE citations, and progress so far. Finally, she alerted the committee to new changes coming to NCBI accounts, as described in the [NLM technical bulletin article](#), which will affect how individuals log in to the MEDLINE portal.
- Ms. Kathryn Funk gave a presentation to LSTRC members on new and emerging trends in scholarly communications, including an overview of the [NIH preprint pilot](#) and insights learned, as well as the effects of preprints in shaping the scholarly literature at large.

III. Director's Report

Dr. Patricia Brennan began her report by thanking the committee for their work and noting how they contribute to NLM's strategic plan, particularly with respect to NLM's mission to be a trusted resource for the world. NLM creates a new strategic plan every 10 years.

Dr. Brennan noted that NLM has been supporting COVID-19 pandemic responses for the last 1.5 years and continues to support them. She described NLM's efforts with the community engagement alliance (CEAL), which is an attempt to bring community-relevant information into areas of the country not traditionally reached by professional literature or professional services. In addition, Dr. Brennan noted that NLM is the distributor of many terminologies, such as SNOMED, that have supported clinical information during this time. Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) API extensions to support VSAC Covid-19 codes have also been designed. Dr. Brennan described how NLM has been hosting COVID genome sequence data with resources like Genbank. These sequences provide the base sequence against which new treatments can be tested, and NLM has been working with the CDC and NCATS to see which sequences vary enough to be deemed variations of the virus.

Dr. Brennan gave an update on a number of investments NLM made around the country in 2021. NLM processed 43 new awards, ranging from research grants to small business innovation awards to information resources aimed at reducing disparities. NLM awarded 7 five-year NNLM regional grants with related support centers for data science, community engagement, evaluation, and dissemination. In addition, NLM has provided scientific and technical expertise to the NIH. Drs. McDonald and Demner-Fushman have been supporting NIH's [AIM-AHEAD](#) program. Similarly, Yangli Wang has been supporting the [RADx programs](#), aimed at developing novel technologies for

detecting COVID, and Amanda Wilson has been helping with [RECOVER](#), NIH's multi-year initiative to understand post-acute sequelae of COVID infections.

Dr. Brennan briefed the LSTRC on how the NLM has been improving its operation. MEDLINE automated indexing has been increased to 36.3%. NLM implemented the Alma library services platform which replaced the old integrated library system. An NLM evaluation coordinating committee was established to assess the [datascience@nlm](#) program and another for the preprint pilot. NLM has leveraged the Amazon web services open data sponsorship program by moving many of its important services to the cloud. In addition, NLM is renovating buildings 38 and 38a. As part of this process NLM is upgrading its facilities and data center, and moving History of Medicine objects to safe storage.

Dr. Brennan briefed the committee on some good news with respect to NLM's budget: the president is proposing an increase for NLM, which NLM will use to work on its strategic plan. Finally, she updated the LSTRC on the Proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health ([ARPA-H](#)) which was proposed by President Biden and will be housed at the NIH. She noted that there has been unprecedented scientific promise shown recently with cancer immunotherapies and COVID vaccines. This type of progress has led to the question, what can we do to accelerate the pace of other breakthroughs in medicine? APRA-H was designed to capitalize on this.

Dr. Brennan concluded by taking questions from the committee and thanking them again for their work.

IV. Examination and Review of Titles

A total of 56 titles were reviewed at the meeting. The review of titles began on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 11:35 AM and continued until 12:45 PM. The committee resumed the review of titles in the afternoon at 1:45 PM and continued until 4:00 PM. Reviews began again at 10:00 AM on Friday, October 29, 2021 and continued until 12:15 PM. The NLM Director's report occurred at 1:15 PM. After the report, the committee resumed review of journals at 2:05 PM and concluded at 2:50 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 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

Nancy Lowe
Chairman