

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

**225th Meeting of the
NATIONAL DIABETES and DIGESTIVE and KIDNEY DISEASES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES and NUTRITION SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Summary**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Hybrid Meeting**

Open Session

- 1) Dr. David Saslowsky opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- 2) The minutes of the January 10, 2024, subcommittee meeting were approved.
- 3) Nine DDDN Initiative Concept Clearances were presented and discussed:
 - a) The Role of Neuroimmune Interactions in Gastrointestinal Health and Disease (New)
 - b) Continuation of the Liver Cirrhosis Network (LCN) (Renewal)
 - i) Question: How does DDDN guarantee a balanced racial-ethnic distribution in LCN?
 - ii) Answer: The 10 different sites in LCN have markedly different racial and ethnic distributions so we focused on the racial-ethnic populations seen in those sites. Currently, The National Cancer Institute is funding two ancillary studies from the LCN analyzing racial and ethnic differences.
 - c) Exploratory and Developmental HIV/AIDS Research Within the NIDDK's Mission (Renewal)
 - d) Priority HIV/AIDS Research Within the Mission of the NIDDK (Renewal)
 - e) Silvio O. Conte Digestive Diseases Research Core Centers (DDRCC) (Renewal)
 - f) Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) Program (Renewal)
 - i) Question: Is the NORC Program coordinating with other centers?
 - ii) Answer: Yes, we are encouraging and actively exploring those opportunities.
 - g) NIDDK Catalyst Award (Renewal)
 - h) Optimal Treatment Strategies for use of Anti-Obesity Medications (AOMs) in Children and Adolescents (New)
 - i) Novel Device Neurotechnologies for Probing Peripheral or Body-Brain Neural Processes within the Mission of NIDDK (New)
- 4) Dr. Saslowsky reminded everyone that current NIDDK funding opportunities can be found at <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/current-opportunities>. He presented NIH-wide updates on the Simplified Review Framework that will be implemented for applications submitted after January 25, 2025; the revisions to the review of NRSA Fellowship applications was also presented.
- 5) Planned Workshops:
 - a) Council members were reminded of the **Heterogeneity in Pancreatitis: Recognizing Heterogeneity and Its role in the Management of Pancreatitis** workshop which will be held as a hybrid meeting online and in-person at the Westin Cincinnati Hotel in Cincinnati, OH on July 24, 2024. The following sessions will be held at the workshop:
 - (1) Session 1: The Role of Heterogeneity in the Management of the Disease and its Complications (e.g., Are etiologic subtypes indicators for specific forms of treatment? Is etiology still important in advanced stage disease?)
 - (2) Session 2: How Should the Heterogeneity of Pain, the Principal Symptom of Pancreatitis, Inform Treatment Trials? (e.g., How can the conversion of nociceptive pain to

- neuropathic pain with central sensitization be prevented? What is the neurophysiologic basis of CBT and VR treatments?)
- (3) Session 3: Treatment Trials in Pancreatitis: Current and Future Considerations (e.g., Should interventional trials be limited to advanced stage disease? What can we learn from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation?)
 - (4) Session 4: General Recommendations and an Action Plan (e.g., What is required to establish a Pancreatitis Clinical Trials Network?)
- b) **Exploring the Impact of Dietary Exposures on the Development of Mucosal Immunity and Immune-mediated Digestive Diseases** workshop will be held in Rockville, MD, August 21-22, 2024. The following sessions will be held at the workshop:
- (1) Session 1: Gut mucosa and immune system development.
 - (2) Session 2: Influence of dietary exposures on the gut microbiome & metabolome.
 - (3) Session 3: Role of dietary exposures on the development of the gut mucosa.
 - (4) Session 4: Role of dietary exposures on the immune system response.
 - (5) Session 5: Nutritional immunology across the lifespan: with a focus on developmental windows.
- 6) Completed Workshops:
- a) **Understanding the Biological Mechanisms Underlying the Health Consequences of Racism, Marginalization, and Discrimination** workshop <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/news/meetings-workshops/2024/understanding-the-biological-mechanisms-2024> was held as a hybrid meeting online and in-person at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott April 17-18, 2024. The purpose of this workshop was to convene people from diverse populations living with or at risk for diabetes and digestive and kidney diseases and conditions. Researchers and clinicians across disciplines were also invited to help understand the state of the science and identify opportunities for considering common biological pathways underlying the consequences of racism, marginalization, and discrimination across population groups and disease areas. A summary of the workshop will be in publication soon.
 - b) **Gut Feelings: Interoceptive Contributions to Obesity and Disorders of Gut-Brain Interaction** workshop <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/news/meetings-workshops/2024/niddk-gut-feelings-2024> was held as a hybrid meeting online and in person at The Neuroscience Center Building in North Bethesda, MD April 30 – May 1, 2024. The purpose of this workshop was to bring together experts in interoception, obesity, and disorders of gut–brain interaction (DGBIs) to examine the contribution of interoceptive processes to the development or exacerbation of these diseases and identify research gaps and opportunities to advance the field. A summary of the workshop will be in publication soon.

Closed Session

- 1) Dr. Stephen James reviewed the management of confidentiality and conflict of interest.
- 2) The following were reviewed:
 - a) General overview of competing applications.
 - b) FY 2024 funding plan.
- 3) The following council action items were discussed:
 - a) One application requiring Special Council Review was discussed with >\$2M in NIH funding (total costs). The Council members voted to concur with program recommendation to not make an award due to substantial overlap with current funding.
 - b) There were no appeals.
 - c) There was one foreign application in response to an RFA that did not receive a vote as program will not include the application in the funding plan.
- 4) The Council members were directed to the ECB for write ups of special emphasis (beyond payline) recommendations and one restoration.

Dr. James thanked everyone for attending both in-person and via webinar. Comments and critiques regarding discussion topics and initiatives from council members are welcome and should be emailed to Drs. James and Saslowsky in advance of the next meeting.