



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board (JBL/CS SMRB) will be held Wednesday, June 24, 2020, by teleconference. The meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The meeting will have an open session from 3:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. EDT and a closed session from 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. EDT.

The purpose of the open session is to meet with the JBL/CS Service Directors to discuss the overall policies and process for scientific review as well as disseminate information among the Board members regarding the VA research priorities.

The purpose of the closed session is to provide recommendations on the scientific quality, budget, safety and mission relevance of investigator-initiated research applications submitted for VA merit review evaluation. Applications submitted for review include various medical specialties within the general areas of biomedical, behavioral and clinical science research. The JBL/CS SMRB meeting will be closed to the public for the review, discussion, and evaluation of initial and renewal research applications, which involve reference to staff and consultant critiques of research applications. Discussions will deal with scientific merit of each application and qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the

research applications. As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the subcommittee meetings is in accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (6) and (9)(B).

Members of the public who wish to attend the open JBL/CS SMRB teleconference should call 1-800-767-1750 using the passcode 50064#. Those who would like to obtain a copy of the minutes from the closed subcommittee meetings and rosters of the subcommittee members should contact Holly Krull, Ph.D., Designated Federal Officer, (10X2B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, at (202) 632-8522 or email at holly.krull@va.gov.

Dated: May 15, 2020.

LaTonya L. Small,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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