

**Department Of Health and Human Services
Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health
National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council**

**Summary of Meeting¹
March 10, 2026**

The National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NANDS) Council convened on March 10, 2026, via Zoom. Dr. Amy Bany Adams, Acting Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), served as Chairperson.

In accordance with Public Law 92-463, the meeting was:

Open: March 10, 2026: 3 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the review and discussion of initiatives for concept clearance; and
Closed: March 10, 2026: 3:35 p.m. to 4:34 p.m. for the consideration of individual grant applications.

Councilmembers present: Dr. Robert Brown Jr. Dr. Yishi Jin Dr. Jin-Moo Lee Dr. John H.R. Maunsell Dr. Louise McCullough Dr. Hank Paulson	Ex officio members present: Dr. Stuart Hoffman Dr. Terry Rauch
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Council Roster (Attachment 1)

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

¹For the record, it is noted that members absent themselves from the meeting when the Council is discussing applications (a) from their respective institutions or (b) in which a real or apparent conflict of interest might occur.

OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Dr. Amy Bany Adams, Acting Director, NINDS

Dr. Adams welcomed Councilmembers to the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NANDS) Council meeting.

II. Initiatives for Concept Clearance

Dr. Andrea Meredith, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, NINDS

Dr. Meredith briefly discussed the NINDS implementation of the NIH Unified Funding Strategy (UFS), highlighting the shift from payline-based funding to a holistic framework that considers scientific merit alongside programmatic priorities, portfolio balance, and financial stewardship. She noted key positive considerations in funding decisions, including investigator track record, scientific opportunity, strategic alignment, public health need, and support for early-stage and at-risk investigators, as well as those with limited existing funding.

She emphasized that while separate paylines for early-stage investigators have been removed, NINDS remains committed to supporting them through prioritization. She also described negative considerations used to maximize the number of funded investigators, such as large budgets, substantial existing support, limited investigator bandwidth, and overrepresented research areas.

Dr. Meredith further explained updates to the Special Council Review policy, noting that applications from highly funded investigators will receive additional scrutiny under the new framework, with NINDS transitioning to the NIH-wide policy. She concluded by underscoring the multi-level review process to ensure fairness and consistency, and provided a brief update that the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer reauthorization bill has advanced in the Senate and will move to a House vote.

Dr. Meredith then presented five new concepts.

Concept 1: Clinical Trials and Ancillary Studies Conducted within NIH-Funded Clinical Trial Research Networks (UG3/UH3 - Clinical Trial Required), *Lead: Dr. Scott Janis, Program Director, Division of Clinical Research*

Concept 2: Reissue HEAL: Optimization of Therapeutic Medical Devices through Team Science Mechanistic Research (RM1), *Lead: Dr. Erik Hudak, Program Director, Division of Translational Research /Dr. Moria Bittman, Program Director, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering*

Concept 3: Exposomic Contributions to ADRD Pathology and Resilience, *Lead: Dr. Neel Dhruv, Program Director, Division of Translational Research*

Concept 4: Centers without Walls for mechanisms of neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (ADRD), *Lead: Dr. Frank Shewmaker, Program Director, Division of Neuroscience*

Concept 5: Reissue Functional Target Validation for Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias, *Lead: Dr. Pascal Laeng, Program Manager, Division of Translational Research*

The Council voted to approve all proposed concepts.

IX. Adjournment

The open session of the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING

X. Review of Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, and Council Consideration of Pending Applications

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public in accordance with the determination that it was concerned with matters exempt from mandatory disclosure under sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., and section 1009(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. §§ 1001-1014).

Members absented themselves from the meeting during discussion of and voting on applications from their own institutions, or other applications in which there was a potential conflict of interest, real or apparent.

Conflict of Interest – Regulations concerning conflict of interest were reviewed. Councilmembers were reminded that materials furnished for review purposes and discussion during the closed portions of the meeting are considered privileged information. All Councilmembers present signed a statement certifying that they had not been involved in any conflict-of-interest situations during the review of grant applications.

Confidentiality – During the closed session, any information that is discussed and the outcome of any recommendation are considered privileged information. They may not be discussed outside of the closed session. If an applicant requests support for his or her application from a Councilmember, the Councilmember must respond that he/she is not permitted to discuss the application. Any inquiry should be referred to Dr. Andrea Meredith NINDS Advisory Council Executive Secretary, who then will refer the question to the appropriate staff member for response.

Research Training and Career Development Programs – The Council reviewed a total of 446 research career development and institutional training grant applications with primary assignment to NINDS, and 175 of them (39 percent) were scored in the amount of \$26.3 million first-year direct costs. It is anticipated that, of the research career development and institutional training grant applications competing at this Council, NINDS will be able to pay first-year direct costs of approximately \$18.4 million (100 grants).

Research Project and Center Awards – The Council reviewed a total of 1,976 research project and center applications with primary assignment to NINDS, and 773 of them (39 percent) were scored/percentiled in the amount of \$308.7 million first-year direct costs. It is anticipated that,

of the research grants competing at this Council, NINDS will be able to pay first-year direct costs of approximately \$72 million (188 grants).

Senator Jacob Javits Neuroscience Investigator Awards – The Senator Jacob Javits Neuroscience Investigator Awards are made to distinguished investigators who have a record of scientific excellence and productivity, who are actively pursuing an area of research of strategic importance, and who can be expected to continue to be highly productive for a seven-year period. Candidates are nominated and selected at each Council meeting. Council approved three Javits nominations at this meeting Sviatoslav Bagriantsev, Ph.D. (Yale University), Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D. (University of Vermont College of Medicine) and Huda Zoghbi, M.D. (Baylor College of Medicine).

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

We certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and complete.



Andrea Meredith, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council
Director, Division of Extramural Activities
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke



Amy Bany Adams
Chairperson
National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council
Acting Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

These minutes will be formally considered by the Council at its next meeting. Corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council
Roster for Winter 2026 Council Meeting

Attachment 1

Amy Bany Adams, Ph.D. (Chairperson)
Acting Director, National Institute of Neurological
Disorders and Stroke
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892
(Ex Officio member)

Amy E. Brin, MSN, MA, PCNS-BC* (2025)
Executive Director/CEO
Child Neurology Foundation
Lexington, KY 40508

Robert H. Brown, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.* (2025)
Director Program in Neurotherapeutics
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
Worcester, MA 01655

Yishi Jin, Ph.D. (2026)
Distinguished Professor
Co-Director, The Kavli Institute of Brain and Mind
Department of Neurobiology
School of Biological Sciences
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093

Jane Larkindale, D.Phil. (2026)
Vice President
PepGen Inc.
Cambridge, MA 02142

Jin-Moo Lee, M.D., Ph.D., FAHA (2026)
Andrew B. & Gretchen P. Jones Professor
Professor, Department of Radiology
Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Professor, Division of Biology and Biomedical
Sciences
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO 63110

John H.R. Maunsell, Ph.D.* (2025)
Albert D. Lasker Professor
Department of Neurobiology
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL 60637

Louise D. McCullough, M.D., Ph.D.* (2025)
Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology
McGovern Medical School
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Houston, TX 77030

Henry L. Paulson, M.D., Ph.D. (2026)
Lucile Groff Professor of Neurology
Department of Neurology
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Terms end July 31 of the designated year
*Serving on an administrative extension to
participate in the August 2025 Council Meeting

Ex Officio Members

Jayanta Bhattacharya, Ph.D., M.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

Stuart Hoffman, Ph.D.
Senior Health Science Officer
Office of Research and Development
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC 20003

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr, J.D.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

Terry M. Rauch, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.
Director, Medical Research and Development
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health
Affairs)
Department of Defense
Falls Church, VA 22042

Executive Secretary

Andrea Meredith, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Extramural Activities
National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke
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