

October 25, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sleep Research Society

FR: Dale Dirks and Dane Christiansen

RE: NHLBI Advisory Council Meeting

On Tuesday, October 24th, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Advisory Council convened for its final public meeting of 2017.

The meeting began with welcoming remarks from the NHLBI Director, Dr. Gary H. Gibbons, followed by administrative announcements from Dr. Laura K. Moen, Executive Secretary of Extramural Research Activities. Dr. Gibbons then gave the Director's Report. Some highlights from the report include the following:

- Dr. Gibbons emphasized the importance of reaching out to early scientists to build the next generation of researchers. He noted that NHLBI is prioritizing these early scientists in funding considerations, including building diversity, career development, and research fellowships. He also added that more emphasis must be given to mid-career scientists.
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) continues to be a major public health problem for the United States and the third leading cause of death. Dr. Gibbons discussed the COPD Action Plan, which is a partnership between Federal agencies and stakeholder patient groups with the goal of developing better outreach, understanding of guidelines, standards of data collection, and developing a research agenda for better detection, diagnosis, and treatment. Dr. Gibbons is pleased with the direction of the program and hopeful that NHLBI will further extend its portfolio in this space.
- Dr. Gibbons touched on innovations in Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) therapy, including a study where a patient who had undergone an engraftment of transduced stem cells sustained normal cell counts over 15 months of follow up. NHLBI is developing a rich and diverse representative data source to better explore gene transfer therapy.
- Finally, Dr. Gibbons gave a quick update on the DECIPHeR Initiative, which seeks to reduce health disparities in heart and lung disease through community-engaged participatory research.