National Institutes of Health

National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council

Minutes of Meeting

June 2, 2025

The 210th meeting of the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council (NAAIDC) convened at 10:30 a.m., on **Monday, June 2, 2025**. Dr. Jeffery Taubenberger, Acting Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) presided as chair.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 10:30 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. The meeting was closed to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for review and consideration of individual grant applications. Notice of the meeting was published in the *Federal Register.*

Meeting Attendees

Council Members Present:

Dr. Grace Aldrovandi
Dr. Mary Estes
Dr. James Gern
Dr. Laurence Morel
Dr. Guy Palmer
Dr. Maria Pascual
Dr. R. Stokes Peebles
Ms. Seema Shah

***Ex Officio* Members Present:**

Dr. Sean Biggerstaff
Dr. Charlesnika Evans
Dr. Daniel Jernigan
Dr. Jeffery Taubenberger

Council Members Absent:

Ms. Emily Brown

NIAID Senior Staff Present:

Dr. John Beigel
Dr. Carl Dieffenbach
Dr. Jill Harper
Dr. Kelly Poe
Dr. Daniel Rotrosen

I. Review of Grant Applications

The National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council convened in closed session to consider applications in allergy and immunology, microbiology and infectious diseases, and AIDS.

Funding Actions: The Council reviewed 5,010 research and training applications with primary assignment to NIAID for a requested amount of $1,835,744,398 in first-year direct costs and recommended approval of 2,517 applications with $940,479,481 in first-year direct costs.

II. Remarks of the Acting Director, NIAID—Jeffery Taubenberger, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Taubenberger opened the Council session by welcoming everyone and thanking all the Council members for participating in the meeting.

In addition to being the Acting Director of NIAID, Dr. Taubenberger is also a senior investigator in NIAID's intramural research program. He serves as Chief of the Viral Pathogenesis and Evolution Section, and Deputy Chief of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases. His research interests include influenza viruses, coronavirus biology and evolution, pathophysiology, clinical and translational research, and research and development of broadly protective vaccines.

Council members introduced themselves and identified the institution or organization they are from along with their research interests.

Dr. Taubenberger presented the 2025 calendar year Council Operating Procedures, which Council members had received through the Electronic Council Book. He called for a motion to approve the Council Operating Procedures. The Council Operating Procedures were approved.

Next Dr. Taubenberger presented NIAID's Triennial Report on Monitoring Adherence to the NIH Policy on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Clinical Research for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 to 2024. A final copy of the Report was posted in the Electronic Council Book. He called for a motion to approve the Report. NIAID's Triennial Report on Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Clinical Research for FY 2022 to FY 2024 was approved.

Other Information Items

Dr. Taubenberger noted that NIAID received comments from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine with recommendations that the Institute prioritize development and use of human-based methods for infectious disease research to better replicate and develop treatments and phase out use of nonhuman primates in infectious disease research. The full comments were provided to Council members in the Electronic Council Book.

III. Report of the Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Subcommittee–John Beigel, M.D., Acting Director, DMID

FY 2026 DMID Concepts Presented for Clearance

DMID program staff presented four concepts for clearance.

Tuberculosis Research Units (TBRUs)—This concept proposes to continue support for a long-standing program that has been instrumental in defining the bacterial and host determinants relevant to TB establishment, dissemination, and disease stage. The program provides fundamental knowledge to understand the pathogenesis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and its interactions with the host through preclinical and clinical studies. In response to feedback received from Council members, DMID defined subclinical TB as a research area that would be encouraged under this renewal concept to better understand the pathophysiology of subclinical (asymptomatic) TB; described how the awarded TBRUs will communicate with one another; and noted that an international site component would not be required. Council members approved the concept with a unanimous vote.

Limited Competition: National Biocontainment Laboratories (NBLs) Operations Support—This concept proposes to provide operations support for the NBLs at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and Boston University to maintain resources, staff, and facilities necessary to address biodefense agents, emerging infectious diseases, and pandemic preparedness research needs. Council members were highly supportive of this concept since operations, capabilities, and availability of these facilities are critical for the United States to be able to conduct biodefense research in a safe and secure environment. Program staff noted that it is critical for the NBLs to foster collaborations with external partners and coordinate and share best practices with other Biosafety Level 4 laboratories across the United States. The awards will provide significant support for facility operations, but institutions are required to bring in additional funds to help cover the cost of operations. Council members approved the concept with a unanimous vote.

Partnerships for Development of Vaccines to Prevent *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Infection and/or Disease—This concept proposes to support research applications for objective-driven projects focused on preclinical development of lead candidate vaccines to prevent *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) infection and/or disease to increase the clinical pipeline of viable vaccine candidates. Program staff described the unique challenges of the current global TB vaccine pipeline, which is inverted compared to typical vaccine development trajectories. This pipeline features fewer candidates in early clinical development stages and a higher number in late-stage trials, posing a risk to long-term TB vaccine development. Program staff emphasized that there is a need for a robust pipeline of early-stage candidates to ensure a consistent flow of promising vaccine candidates through clinical development. Program staff noted that the proposed program would support optimization of lead vaccine candidates, dose and route of delivery in preclinical evaluation, and production methodology including process development; preclinical and product development activities (e.g., safety, toxicity, efficacy); and manufacturing activities if a candidate is further developed. Applicants must demonstrate substantive investment by at least one industry participant and will also need to include a product development strategy outlining a product development plan. Council members acknowledged the critical need for developing safe and effective TB vaccines and approved the concept with a unanimous vote.

Influenza Transmission Research Consortium—This concept proposes to support basic research to understand the fundamental mechanisms driving human-to-human transmission of influenza virus. The scope of the initiative is limited to seasonal influenza and other seasonal human respiratory viruses. Council members noted there is a critical need to support research aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the process of respiratory virus transmission, particularly for seasonal influenza. Program staff clarified that behavioral interventions could be useful tools for studying transmission in different settings, and therefore clinical trials of nonpharmaceutical interventions would be allowed. Clinical trials involving pharmaceutical interventions are not allowed. Finally, Council members acknowledged the importance of assembling a multidisciplinary team to accomplish the goals of the proposed initiative. Council members approved the concept with a unanimous vote.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting of the Council adjourned at 11:25 a.m., on Monday, June 2, 2025.

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

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Jeffery Taubenberger, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, National Advisory Allergy
and Infectious Diseases Council
Acting Director, National Institute of Allergy
and Infectious Diseases

7/1/2025

Date

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Kelly Poe, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
National Advisory Allergy and Infectious
Diseases Council
Director, Division of Extramural Activities
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious
Diseases

6/30/2025

Date

Council will formally consider these minutes at its next meeting; any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.