

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

224<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
NATIONAL DIABETES and DIGESTIVE and KIDNEY DISEASES ADVISORY COUNCIL

DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES and NUTRITION SUBCOMMITTEE  
Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
Hybrid Meeting

Open Session

- 1) Dr. David Saslowsky opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.
- 2) The minutes of the September 13, 2023, subcommittee meeting were approved.
- 3) There were no DDDN Initiative Concept Clearances to discuss.
- 4) Dr. Stephen James provided an overview of the DDDN FY2023 awards. The following question was asked:
  - a) **Question:** With many supplements not being funded, does this include the diversity supplements as well?
  - b) **Answer:** No; diversity supplements are still being funded despite the low budget.
- 5) Dr. David Saslowsky presented the DDDN Early Career Portfolio Analysis. The following question was asked:
  - a) **Question:** Are there predictors besides the priority scores of K-awards that would predict success in an R01 award?
  - b) **Answer:** This has not been examined but mentorship, quality of engagement, and institutional commitment may play a role in the result of successful R01s.
- 6) Dr. Saslowsky reviewed five DDDN Funding Opportunity Announcements and reminded everyone that current NIDDK funding opportunities can be found at <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/research-funding/current-opportunities>.
  - a) RFA-DK-25-001: Addressing the Impact of Syndemics on the Health of People with HIV and Diseases and Conditions within the Missions of NIDDK and NHLBI (R01 Clinical Trial Optional).
  - b) RFA-DK-25-003: Silvio O. Conte Digestive Diseases Research Core Centers (P30 Clinical Trial Optional).
    - (1) **Question:** Under the new P30 pilot program for at-risk investigators (or investigators who did not compete successfully), is this opportunity only for R01 recipients?
    - (2) **Answer:** No, this applies to all grant recipients.
  - c) PAR-23-275: NIAID and NIDDK Research Opportunities for New and "At-Risk" Investigators to Promote Workforce Diversity (R01 Clinical Trial Optional).
  - d) NOT-OD-24-031: Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplement for Research and Capacity Building Efforts Related to Bioethical Issues (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional).

- e) NOT-DK-23-025: Update to NIDDK Policy on Combined Support Between and Institutional Career Development Award and an Individual Career Development Award.
- 7) Planned Workshops:
- a) **Gut Feelings: Interoceptive Contributions to Obesity and Disorders of Gut-Brain Interaction** <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/news/meetings-workshops/2024/niddk-gut-feelings-2024> will be held as a hybrid meeting online and at The Neuroscience Center Building in North Bethesda, MD April 30 – May 1, 2024. The purpose of this workshop is 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.
  - b) **Heterogeneity in Pancreatitis: Recognizing Heterogeneity and Its role in the Management of Pancreatitis** will be held as a hybrid meeting online and 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?)
- 8) Completed Workshops:
- a) **Pharmacotherapy for Obesity in Children and Adolescents: State of the Science, Research Gaps and Opportunities** <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/news/meetings-workshops/2023/pharmacotherapy-for-obesity-in-children-and-adolescents> was held as a hybrid meeting online and at The Bethesdan Hotel in Bethesda, MD November 28-29, 2023. The overarching goal of the workshop was to identify gaps and opportunities to guide research and speed progress in the safe, effective, and equitable use of pharmacotherapy for obesity in children and adolescents. An executive summary has been posted to the meeting site and a manuscript is in progress.

### Closed Session

Confidentiality and conflict of interest was discussed. Council members reviewed competing applications and the report from an External Evaluation Panel. There was one applicant with >\$2M in NIH funding (total costs) requiring special council review and two appeals. There were no foreign applications, restorations, or skipped applications to review and vote on.

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.