

NIH Press Release

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New NIH Council of Councils Members Named

The National Institutes of Health today announced the appointment of eight individuals to the NIH [Council of Councils](#). The council was established to advise the NIH Director on policies and activities of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI), including making recommendations on research that represents important areas of emerging scientific opportunities, rising public health challenges, or knowledge gaps that deserve special emphasis or would otherwise benefit from strategic planning and coordination.

The council is composed of 25 members nominated by NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) and offices within the Office of the Director (OD). Council members bring knowledge of IC and OD office missions and operations, not as official representatives, but to provide advice beyond the research agenda of any individual IC.

"I am pleased to welcome these distinguished individuals to the NIH Council of Councils," said DPCPSI Director, James M. Anderson, M.D., Ph.D. "We look forward to garnering their knowledge and expertise on the diverse activities of the division."

The following members will serve terms on the council through Oct. 31, 2018:

- Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D., The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Melissa Brown, M.D., M.N., M.B.A., Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia
- Jorge L. Contreras, J.D., University of Utah, Salt Lake City
- Jonathan Epstein, M.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- John Postlethwait, Ph.D., University of Oregon, Eugene
- J. Leslie Winston, D.D.S., Ph.D., The Procter & Gamble Company, Mason, Ohio
- Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, M.P.H., Children's Environmental Health Network, Washington, D.C.
- Gail Yokote, M.S., University of California, Davis

An online [roster](#) provides further information about all the NIH Council of Councils members.

About the [Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives \(DPCPSI\)](#): DPCPSI, in the NIH Office of the Director, identifies emerging scientific opportunities, rising public health challenges, and scientific knowledge gaps that merit further research. The Division plans and implements trans-NIH initiatives supported by the Common Fund and coordinates research related to AIDS, behavioral and social sciences, women's health, disease prevention, dietary supplements, tobacco regulatory science, and supports research infrastructure and science education activities.

About the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#): NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases.

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