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Dr. Aftab A. Ansari is a Scientific Review Officer (SRO) in CSR’s Musculoskeletal, Oral and Skin Sciences (MOSS) Integrated Review Group. He oversees the review of grant applications in orthopedics, joints, connective tissues, bone, muscle, skin, tissue engineering, rehabilitation, and oral sciences. After receiving his Ph.D. in biochemistry/immunology, Dr. Ansari had postdoctoral training at the NIAID. His research interests include inflammatory diseases, asthma, allergy, autoimmunity, clinical immunology, clinical trials, immunogenetics, antigen presentation, T cells, and cytokines. During his research career, Dr. Ansari wrote 12 grant and contract applications, of which 10 were funded by the NIH, EPA, and other organizations: 6 as the principal investigator and 4 as a co-investigator. To his credit Dr. Ansari also has 2 edited books and 150 research publications and abstracts, including original research papers in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Journal of Biological Chemistry, and Biochemistry. Immediately before returning to the NIH as a science administrator, Dr. Ansari was associate professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

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Dr. Aruna Behera received her Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from Delhi University, India, and did her postdoctoral training at the Division of Allergy and Immunology, University of South Florida, where she examined the molecular pathogenesis of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection. Her research led to multiple U.S. patents. She then moved to Tufts Medical School as a faculty member and continued to study RSV pathogenesis and expanded her research to examine molecular pathogenesis of Lyme disease and host-pathogen interaction. Her research was supported by funding from private foundations including the American Lung Association. Before joining CSR, she was a senior scientist at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Connecticut, where her research centered on discovery and design of small molecule inhibitors and biologics for treatment of immunological diseases including rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and psoriasis.
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Dr. Nakia C. Brown is a Scientific Review Officer (SRO) in the Scientific Review Branch at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. The Scientific Review Branch (SRB) conducts the initial peer review of specific research applications assigned to the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS). These include applications for Centers, program projects, single and multi-site clinical trials, scientific conferences, training and career development awards, as well as applications responding to initiatives published by the NIAMS and contract proposals. Members of the scientific community are selected to serve as peer reviewers.

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Dr. Jonelle Drugan is a science policy analyst in the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) Scientific Planning, Policy, and Analysis Branch, where she coordinates the Institute’s strategic planning, program evaluation, Congressional reporting, and presentations by NIAMS leadership on all topics related to musculoskeletal biology and diseases research. Before joining NIAMS in 2006, Dr. Drugan served as the legislative liaison for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at NIH. She received her Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her M.P.H. from the University of Pittsburgh.

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Dr. Rajiv Kumar is the Chief of Musculoskeletal, Oral and Skin Sciences (MOSS) Integrated Review Group at the Center for Scientific Review. The MOSS IRG comprises of seven regular study sections, a small business review panel and a fellowship panel to review research applications that address structural systems that are prerequisite for physical form, mechanical function, movement, and integrity of the body. He supervises a staff of ten Scientific Review Officers to manage review of more than 3000 grant applications each year.
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Dr. Gayle Lester is currently the Acting Director of Extramural Research at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. As such, she oversees the Divisions of Extramural Research and Extramural Operations.

Dr. Lester received a doctorate in Endocrine Pharmacology from the Medical College of Virginia. Following a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she joined the UNC faculty and achieved the rank of Professor in the Department of Orthopaedics. Her areas of research included ligament healing, hormonal control of bone metabolism, measurement and regulation of bone mineral density, biochemical markers of bone turnover, and articular cartilage biochemistry. She received a Kappa Delta Award for Excellence in Orthopaedic Research in March, 2000 for her work with Dr. Laurence Dahners on ligament growth and development. She has over 60 peer reviewed publications from this segment of her career.

She joined the NIH/NIAMS full time in January 2001. In addition to her programmatic management of grants, she has served as the Project Officer for the Osteoarthritis Initiative, a group of NIAMS contracts that support a longitudinal cohort study focused on knee osteoarthritis and the discovery of biomarkers funded through a public-private partnership. She received NIH Director’s awards in 2001, 2007, 2012, 2014, and 2018 for her work related to the Osteoarthritis Initiative, Diagnostic Imaging and Biomarker Development. She led NIAMS efforts focused on bone quality and biomarkers for osteoporosis and osteoarthritis and continues to serve as Project Director for the Foundation for NIH Biomarker Consortium Bone Quality project, an industry supported initiative focused on discovery of better surrogates for bone fracture.
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For the 30+ year period from May 1986 through July 2006, Dr. Daniel McDonald held the position of Health Scientist Administrator - Scientific Review Officer (SRO) in the Division of Research Grants/Center for Scientific Review (CSR) in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). During that time, he established and/or managed five different standing Study Sections, as well as scores of Special Emphasis Review Panels, all assessing proposed research projects relevant to the broad areas of musculoskeletal science. Between 1998-2008, he additionally served as the Chief of the Musculoskeletal, Oral and Skin Sciences (MOSS) Integrated Review Group (IRG) in CSR. Following his recent retirement, he was elected in December 2017 to join the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) Board of Directors in 2018 as an At-Large member.

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In 2011 Dr. Kimberlee Potter joined the Office of Research and Development at the Department of Veterans Affairs, where she currently serves as the Scientific Review Officer for Surgery, Cellular and Molecular Medicine, and Endocrinology-Bone Merit Review panels and the Portfolio Manager of Restorative Medicine. She currently serves as the VA representative on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Forum for Regenerative Medicine, the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine IIPT, the Advisory Board of Clinical and Rehabilitation Medicine (DoD/JPC8), CDMRP’s Programmatic panel for the Reconstructive Transplantation Research Program and she is a member of VA’s NASEM Strategic Workgroup. She received her PhD from Cambridge University and her post-doctoral training at the University of California at Santa Barbara in the Department of Chemical & Nuclear Engineering. She joined the National Institutes of Health as a visiting scientist where she developed novel techniques for the non-invasive assessment of engineered tissue constructs. She spent 10 years at Armed Forces Institute of Pathology as the Technical Director of the Magnetic Resonance Microscopy Facility where she applied non-invasive imaging techniques to the study of forensic, pathologic, and engineered tissues.

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Dr. Fei Wang currently manages the Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Program. This Program supports basic and translational research in the repair, regeneration, and restoration of function of injured and/or diseased musculoskeletal tissues using stem cell biology- and engineering-based approaches. These tissues include bone, cartilage, tendon, ligament, menisci, muscle, and intervertebral discs. Multi- and inter-disciplinary research teams with expertise in biological and physical sciences and cross-training for emerging scientists are encouraged.
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**Dr. Xiben Wang** is the NIAMS Small Business Program Director managing the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program. The small business program covers all areas in the NIAMS mission. Here is the web link: [https://sbir.nih.gov/niams/index](https://sbir.nih.gov/niams/index).

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