



CHARTER
of the
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON NEUROSCIENCE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Interagency Working Group on Neuroscience (IWGN) is hereby established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Committee on Science (CoS).

B. Purpose and Scope

Consistent with Title III of the Conference Report accompanying the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012,[†] the IWGN will coordinate activities in neuroscience research across the Federal government with a focus on identifying significant transformative opportunities to improve health, learning, and other outcomes of national importance. The working group will enhance Federal efforts related to: improving our fundamental understanding of the nervous system, including brain structure, function, development, and plasticity; improving our understanding of learning and cognition and applying that to improvements in education and other areas; improving our understanding of a variety of neurological conditions and injuries; developing appropriate resources, tools, techniques, interventions, and therapies to assist in research, treatment, and recovery; and addressing issues related to national security, ethics, training, and other related areas.

C. Functions

The functions of the IWGN are to:

1. Facilitate efforts across Federal agencies to improve coordination and collaboration of R&D agendas on neuroscience.
2. Identify cross-cutting national R&D priorities that would benefit from neuroscience research outcomes, with a particular focus on brain health and recovery and fundamental research on learning, cognition, and education.
3. Communicate research needs and priorities in neuroscience to the Administration and Federal agencies.
4. Liaise with, respond to, and provide expert information to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the NSTC Life Science subcommittee (LSSC), the NSTC Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences subcommittee (SBE), and other NSTC groups on relevant issues of national concern involving neuroscience and related technologies.

5. Identify and advise on priorities for strengthening research on neuroscience as a resource for meeting national priorities and achieving national goals, including fostering advances in basic scientific research in neuroscience and, where applicable, translating these to address national needs.
6. Encourage public access to, and sharing and preservation of, neuroscience and related behavioral data, along with the development of relevant data infrastructure and analysis, visualization, and modeling tools, techniques, and methodologies.
7. Foster the development of a core cadre of experts from across the Federal government to address issues pertaining to neuroscience.
8. Support informed Federal policy development by providing technical perspectives and expert perspectives related to neuroscience.
9. Produce an interim report by February 1, 2013, identifying 5-10 research areas where communication and/or coordination across Federal agencies can foster advances that address national needs. By June 1, 2013, produce a white paper defining, for some of the identified research areas, concrete actions the Federal government can take to enable acceleration of progress in neuroscience research and development.

D. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the IWGN:

Department of Agriculture;
Department of Commerce;
Department of Defense;
Department of Education;
Department of Energy;
Department of Health and Human Services (Co-chair);
Department of Homeland Security;
Department of Justice;
Department of Veterans Affairs;
Central Intelligence Agency;
Environmental Protection Agency;
National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
National Science Foundation (Co-chair); and
Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the IWGN:

Office of Management and Budget;
Office of National Drug Control Policy; and
Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include other such Executive organizations, departments, and agencies as the Co-chairs may, from time to time, designate.

E. Private-Sector Interface

The IWGN may seek advice from members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and will recommend to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy the nature of additional private-sector¹ advice needed to accomplish its mission. The IWGN may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

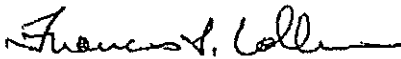
F. Termination Date

This charter shall terminate no later than December 31, 2014, unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the Committee on Science.

G. Determination

I hereby determine that the establishment of the Interagency Working Group on Neuroscience is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



Francis S. Collins
Co-chair of the CoS, and
Director, National Institutes of Health

8/23/12

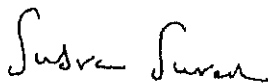
Date



Philip Rubini
Co-chair of the CoS, and
Principal Assistant Director for Science, Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President

9/10/12

Date



Subra Suresh
Co-chair of the CoS, and
Director, National Science Foundation

9/10/12

Date

¹ The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define "private sector," but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, international bodies, etc.

† Excerpt of Title III of Conference Report 112-284, to accompany P.L. 112-55:

Neuroscience.—The conferees believe there is a potential in the near future for significant, transformative advances in our fundamental understanding of learning, brain development, and brain health and recovery. Such advances will require enhanced tools to better understand the working of the brain, enhanced data and data infrastructure, and expanded interdisciplinary and large-scale research efforts. Neuroscience research is supported by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies. The conferees encourage OSTP to establish, through the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), an interagency working group to coordinate Federal investments in neuroscience research. The interagency working group should help focus and enhance Federal efforts toward: developing future clinical treatments for traumatic and acquired brain injuries; better understanding cognition and learning, and applying that understanding to improving education and learning; and improving our understanding of and developing better therapies for Alzheimer's disease, childhood developmental disorders and other neurological conditions.