

# Interagency Committee on Disability Research

## Executive Committee Meeting

February 27, 2014

## Speaker Biographical Summaries

### **Sean D. Carter**

Strategic Opportunities & Partnership Development Office

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Sean D. Carter has spent more than 24 years as an engineer in various technical and managerial capacities. Mr. Carter has provided applied Engineering principles within the Energy Services, Aerospace, and Semiconductor industries. Currently, he serves NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) in its Strategic Opportunities & Partnership Development Office. This office serves the business development needs of the JSC directorates as well as JSC's external aerospace customers both within the Agency and U.S. Government as well as within private industry. Previously, he served NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX as the Constellation Program's Reliability and Maintainability Manager. In this capacity, he was responsible for setting and executing the strategic R&M policies and directives for the program across NASA.

### **John E. Crews, DPA**

Health Scientist

Division of Diabetes Translation

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John E. Crews is a Health Scientist with the Vision Health Initiative in the Division of Diabetes Translation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Crews has almost forty years of experience in vision rehabilitation, disability, and vision research. He has over 100 publications, including papers in the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Annual Review of Public Health*, *American Journal of Ophthalmology*, and *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*. He authored *Vision Loss in an Aging Society (2000)* and *The Multiple Dimensions of Caregiving and Disability (2012)*. He currently serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, and the Board of the College of Health Sciences at Salus University. He is also chair-elect of the Vision Care Section of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Crews has received numerous awards, including the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award from Western Michigan University.

**Michael H. Fox, ScD**

Acting Director

Division of Human Development and Disability

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Michael H. Fox is the Acting Director of the Division of Human Development and Disability at the CDC and a Professor in the University of Kansas, School of Medicine, Department of Health Policy & Management. He first joined the CDC as Associate Director for Science for this division in 2009. In his current role, he is responsible for overseeing the work of approximately 70 scientists and program specialists whose mission is to lead public health in preventing disease and promoting equity in health and development of children and adults with or at risk for disabilities. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

**Carl V. Hill, MPH, PhD**

Director, Office of Special Populations

National Institute on Aging

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Carl V. Hill is Director of the National Institute on Aging's (NIA) Office of Special Populations. After completing the Master of Public Health at Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta), Dr. Hill joined the charter class of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) in 1997. He matriculated to the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 2001 where he completed doctoral studies in public health, with a focus on health disparities and the influence of ethnicity and culture on health. Dr. Hill joined the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2005, working initially with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and later with the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute on Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

**Cherise J. Hunter, PhD**

Social Science Research Analyst

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Cherise J. Hunter is a researcher with more than 15 years of experience in education and policy research related to transition-age youth with disabilities. She currently serves as a Social Science Research Analyst at the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Division of Policy Planning and Research, where she promotes the proper development of disability research designs, methodologies, data analyses, and interpretation. Prior to ODEP, Dr. Hunter worked as a co-lecturer in a college scholars program, a research advisor to education honor undergraduates, and an independent consultant for a small women-owned research firm. Her present work has been greatly influenced by her career beginnings as a special education transition coordinator for school systems in Maryland where she coordinated transition services for high school students with high and low incidence disabilities. Dr. Hunter completed her Doctorate in Special Education Policy from the University of Maryland College Park.

**Mark H. Leddy, PhD**

Program Director

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Mark H. Leddy is a Program Director in the Division of Human Resource Development (HRD), in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), at the National Science Foundation (NSF). He manages NSF proposals and awards for three programs: Research on Education and Learning (REAL), EHR Core Research (ECR), and The Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP). Dr. Leddy also manages the awards made by the Research in Disabilities Education Program (RDE). He is a recipient of the NSF Director's Award for Achievement in Equal Opportunity or Diversity and of the NSF Director's Superior Accomplishment Award. Dr. Leddy represents the Director of the NSF on the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR). Before joining the NSF in 2006, Dr. Leddy was formerly employed as an Associate Scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was the Director of the NSF-funded Alliance for Students with Disabilities in STEM. Before leaving the University of Wisconsin-Madison he was also a Research Fellow at the Waisman Center and the Edward D. Morris Endowed Accommodation Specialist at the McBurney Disability Resource Center.

**Mary Ellen Michel, PhD**

Program Director

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Mary Ellen Michel is the program director of traumatic brain injury and stroke rehabilitation at the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at NIH. Dr. Michel has been at NIH in various program roles since 1986, including Basic Science and Career Development at NCMRR, Spinal Cord and Brain Trauma at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and Clinical Trials Network, National Institute on Drug Abuse. Prior to coming to NIH, she was a director of drug development at Key Pharmaceuticals and did postdoctoral work in the intramural programs of the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at NIH. Her PhD is from the University of Maryland Medical School in Anatomy and Neuroscience

**Ralph Paxton, PhD**

Senior Scientific Officer  
Office of Research and Development  
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Ralph Paxton is a physiological biochemist with more than 30 years of experience in teaching and biomedical research at various universities. He currently serves as Senior Scientific Officer in the Office of Research and Development in the Department of Veteran Affairs with primary responsibilities for oversight of the Oncology, Cardiology and Aging Research portfolios. VA research program has a singular focus-advancing health-care for veterans, which also contributes to improving health-care for all Americans. Dr. Paxton completed his undergraduate degree in Zoology and Chemistry at Miami University (Oxford OH) and his doctorate in Physiology and Biochemistry at the University of Cincinnati. Further post-doctoral research was pursued at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Besides teaching physiology and biochemistry to thousands of university students, he has also published over 90 scientific papers as an Established Investigator of the American Heart Association with grants from Sigma Xi, Am Cancer Soc., Am. Heart Assoc. and NIH.

**Cheri Wiggs, PhD**

Program Director  
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Cheri Wiggs received her undergraduate degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of California-Santa Barbara and her PhD from Georgetown University. Her National Institutes of Health (NIH) affiliation began with a postdoctoral fellowship and subsequently as senior staff fellow in the Laboratory of Brain and Cognition, where she pursued basic behavioral, clinical, and neuroimaging research in cognitive neuroscience and serving as adjunct faculty at area universities. In 1998, Dr. Wiggs moved to NIH's Center for Scientific Review in the Extramural Program, where she was involved in the reorganization of behavioral science review groups, eventually becoming the Scientific Review Officer for the Cognition and Perception Study Section. She came to NEI in 2010 to serve as a Program Director for the Perception & Psychophysics and the Low Vision & Blindness Rehabilitation portfolios. She currently serves on a number of NEI and trans-NIH committees.