

“A Day with NIH”

Presenters

Friday, February 13, 2015 – University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez



Sally J. Rockey, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research, Office of the Director

Dr. Sally Rockey is the Deputy Director for Extramural Research, leading the way for extramural research activities at the National Institutes of Health. The Office of Extramural Research (OER), which she also serves as Director, is the focal point for policies and guidelines for extramural research administration within NIH and in partnership with the biomedical research community.

Dr. Rockey received her Ph.D. in Entomology from Ohio State University, and has spent the majority of her career in the area of extramural research administration and information technology. She leads or is active on a number of Federal committees related to science, research administration, and electronic government and collaborates closely with academic and scientific communities.

In 1986, she joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Extramural Research arm, where she quickly rose to the post of Deputy Administrator for the Competitive Research Grants and Award Management Unit of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, overseeing the extramural grants process and portfolio. In 2002, she became Chief Information Officer, applying her breadth of government knowledge to IT, aligning state-of-the-art information technologies with the department’s goals and objectives. In 2005, Dr. Rockey was appointed to the position of Deputy Director of OER within the Office of the Director at NIH to bring her extensive experience in research administration and federal assistance to the biomedical research community. She assumed the role of Acting NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research on October 31, 2008, and became permanent in that position on August 15, 2010.

Along with her many professional accomplishments, such as receiving the 2004 Presidential Rank Award, Dr. Rockey is an active member of the community and has numerous outside interests. She encouraged the science education of young children by giving presentations on insects to local elementary schools, where she was known as the “Bug Doctor.”



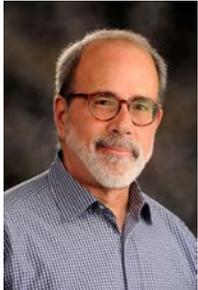
Michael A. Sesma, Chief, Postdoctoral Training Branch, Division of Training, Workforce Development and Diversity, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

Dr. Michael Sesma is Chief of the Postdoctoral Branch Training in the Division of Training, Workforce Development and Diversity at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).

Dr. Sesma received his B.A. in biology and psychology from UCSD in 1976, his Ph.D. in psychology at UC Riverside in 1981, and postdoctoral training from 1981–1985 in Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Psychology at Vanderbilt University. He was a faculty member at the School of Optometry at the University of Missouri, St. Louis (1985-1994) with research focused on functional organization and development in the visual system. In 1990, as a visiting faculty member in Psychiatry at Washington University Medical School focused on the role of glutamate and

glutamate receptors in normal and neurodegenerative processes that may underlie neurological and psychiatric illnesses.

In 1994, Dr. Sesma joined the NIH, first as a scientific review administrator, then program director at NIGMS. In 2002 he moved to the NIMH to direct diversity programs, and training and career development programs. He returned to NIGMS in August 2012, responsible for NIGMS postdoctoral and career development programs and research programs in training and also a portfolio of research grants in neurogenetics and genetics of behavior.



Alfonso R. Latoni, Chief, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Research and Training, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

Dr. Alfonso R. Latoni is Chief of the Scientific Review Branch in the Division of Extramural Research and Training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS-NIH), in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Prior to joining the NIEHS in 2013, Dr. Latoni was Deputy Chief of Review in the Scientific Review Branch of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from 2008 to 2013. From 2005 to 2008, he served in the Center for Scientific Review (CSR), NIH, where he was a Scientific Review Officer in the Health of the Population Integrated Review Group, and later in the Biobehavioral and Behavioral Processes Integrated Review Group where he was responsible for the Adult Psychopathology and Disorders of Aging Study Section. His previous position with the NIA was in the then Scientific Review Office, where he served as the Scientific Review Administrator of the Behavior and Social Science of Aging Study Section (NIA-S).

Prior to joining the NIH, from 2000 to 2002, Dr. Latoni was Program Director of the Minority Affairs Program of the American Sociological Association (ASA), and Program Director of the ASA's Minority Fellowship Program, which was then supported by a T32 Institutional Research Training grant from the NIH's National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Previously, from 1986 to 2000, he was Associate Professor of Sociology, Political Science, and Applied Social Research at the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez (UPRM), Departamento de Ciencias Sociales y Centro de Investigación Social Aplicada (CISA).

Dr. Latoni's primary research interests have been at the intersection of social and economic health inequalities and disparities among underrepresented populations, with particular emphasis on the underclass, the elderly, and the homeless. During the early 1980s, while pursuing his doctoral studies in the Department of Sociology at Boston College, he conducted fieldwork research in several Central American and Caribbean countries, which were at the time undergoing significant social and political change, to examine new and emerging public health systems, as well as innovative and participatory social experiments regarding the delivery of basic health care services. While at the UPRM, he was responsible for the formation and curriculum development of undergraduate courses in the sociology of health and well-being, social economy and social policy; as well as contemporary sociological theory and the history of sociological thought, among others. As a researcher in CISA, his primary projects were dedicated to training undergraduate students in diverse themes of applied social research, conducting fieldwork studies, and mentoring CISA's research assistants in their training and preparation for postgraduate studies.

Dr. Latoni received his B.A. in Sociology and Political Science from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, his M.A. in Latin American Studies (social and economic development) from Georgetown University, and his Ph.D. in Sociology (Social Economy and Social Policy) from Boston College.



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