

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Agency announces its Annual Grant Competition, which offers support for research, education and training, and the dissemination of information on international peace and conflict resolution. The Annual Grant Competition is open to any project that falls within the Institute's broad mandate of international conflict resolution.

*Deadline:* October 1, 2013; Online application available: <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/annual-grant-competition>.

**DATES:** Submission of Application: October 1, 2013; Notification Date: Early April 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** United States Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20037, (202) 429-3842 (phone), (202) 833-1018 (fax), (202) 457-1719 (TTY), Email: [grants@usip.org](mailto:grants@usip.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Grant Program • Annual Grant Competition, Phone (202) 429-3842, Email: [grants@usip.org](mailto:grants@usip.org).

Dated: May 8, 2013.

**Michael Graham,**

*Senior Vice President for Management.*

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## INSTITUTE OF PEACE

### Announcement of the Priority Grant Competition For Immediate Release

**AGENCY:** United States Institute of Peace.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Agency announces its ongoing Priority Grant Competition. The Priority Grant Competition focuses on countries and themes as they relate to USIP's mandate. The Priority Grant Competition is restricted to projects that fit the topics identified for each priority area.

This year the Priority Grant Competition's themes and topics are:

- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Pakistan
- Horn of Africa
- Arab World Political Transformation

The specific focus for each priority area may be found at our Web site at: <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/priority-grant-competition>

*Deadline:* The Priority Grant Competition applications are accepted throughout the year and awards are announced throughout the year. Please

visit our Web site at: <http://www.usip.org/grants-fellowships/priority-grant-competition> for specific information on the competition as well as instructions about how to apply.

**ADDRESSES:** If you are unable to access our Web site, you may submit an inquiry to: United States Institute of Peace, Grant Program • Priority Grant Competition, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037, (202) 429-3842 (phone), (202) 833-1018 (fax), (202) 457-1719 (TTY), Email: [grants@usip.org](mailto:grants@usip.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Grant Program, Phone (202) 429-3842, Email: [grants@usip.org](mailto:grants@usip.org).

Dated: May 8, 2013.

**Michael Graham,**

*Senior Vice President for Management.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**ACTION:** Notice with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established the Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force (GWVI-TF) in August 2009 to conduct a comprehensive review of VA's approach to and programs addressing 1990-1991 Gulf War Veterans' illnesses. The third Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force Draft Written Report is now complete. VA is inviting public comments on this draft report.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before June 13, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Although VA prefers electronic submission of public comments through <http://www.regulations.gov>; written comments may be submitted through mail or hand delivery to the Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420 or by fax to (202) 273-9026. Please view and/or download the Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force Draft Report for Public Comment at [http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/Draft\\_2012\\_GWVI-TF\\_Report.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/Draft_2012_GWVI-TF_Report.pdf). Please write: "Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force Draft Written Report or GWVI-TF Report" in the subject line of your letter or email.

Copies of all comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 for an appointment.

Comments may also be viewed online during the comment period, through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at <http://www.regulations.gov>. You can also submit ideas on improving VA services to Gulf War Veterans at <http://vagulfwartaskforce.uservoice.com/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Kent, GWVI-TF Secretary, OSVA, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, at (202) 461-4814.

Approved: May 8, 2013.

**Jose D. Riojas,**

*Interim Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board; Notice of Meetings; Amendment

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., that the date and/or location changes have been made for the following panel meetings of the of the Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board as previously announced in the **Federal Register** on April 16, 2013. The panels will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gastroenterology will meet on May 30, 2013, at the U.S. Access Board and not on May 30-31, 2013;

Pulmonary Medicine will meet on May 30, 2013, at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel and not on May 30-31, 2013;

Neurobiology-E will meet on June 4, 2013, at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, and not via a teleconference meeting at the VA Central Office;

Endocrinology-B will meet on June 5, 2013, at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel and not on June 4, 2013; and

Neurobiology-F will conduct a teleconference meeting on June 12, 2013, at VA Central Office which was not previously reported.

The addresses of the meeting sites are:

Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800  
Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington,  
VA

U.S. Access Board, 1331 F Street NW.,  
Suite 1000, Washington, DC

VA Central Office, 131 M Street NE.,  
Washington, DC

The purpose of the Board is to provide advice on the scientific quality, budget, safety and mission relevance of investigator-initiated research proposals submitted for VA merit review consideration. Proposals submitted for review by the Board involve a wide range of medical specialties within the general areas of biomedical, behavioral and clinical science research.

The panel meetings will be open to the public for approximately one-half hour at the start of each meeting to discuss the general status of the

program. The remaining portion of each panel meeting will be closed to the public for the review, discussion, and evaluation of initial and renewal research proposals.

The closed portion of each meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to staff and consultant critiques of research proposals. During this portion of each meeting, discussions will deal with scientific merit of each proposal and qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, as well as research information, the premature disclosure of which could significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research proposals. As provided by subsection

10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended, closing portions of these panel meetings is in accordance with title 5 U.S.C., 552b(c) (6) and (9)(B).

Those who plan to attend the general session or would like to obtain a copy of the minutes from the panel meetings and rosters of the members of the panels should contact Alex Chiu, Ph.D., Manager, Merit Review Program (10P9B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, at (202) 443-5672 or email at [alex.chiu@va.gov](mailto:alex.chiu@va.gov).

By Direction of the Secretary.

Dated: May 8, 2013.

**Vivian Drake,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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