

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS PRESUMPTION DECISION PROCESS**

March 7, 2023; Meeting 1

| OPEN SESSION | |
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| 12:50–1:00 pm | Welcome and introductions; conduct of the open session <i>Ned Calonge, Ph.D., Committee Chair</i> |
| 1:00–1:45 | Charge to the Committee <i>Patricia Hastings, DO, MPH, Chief Consultant Health Outcomes Military Exposures, Department of Veterans Affairs</i> <i>Accompanied by Peter D. Rumm, MD, MPH, FACPM, Director of Policy – Health Outcomes of Military Exposures</i> |
| 1:45–2:00 | Congressional Staff Panel <i>Simon Coon, Professional Staff Member, Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs - Majority Staff</i> <i>Lindsay Dearing, Professional Staff Member, Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs - Minority Staff</i> <i>Katherine Smith, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs - Majority Staff</i> |
| 2:00–2:30 | Overview and Summary of the 2008 NASEM report Improving the Presumptive Decision-Making Process for Veterans <i>Jon Samet, M.D., M.S., 2008 Committee Chair</i> |
| 2:30–3:00 | Open Comment Period from Pre-Registered Attendees |
| 3:00 | Closing Comments, OPEN SESSION ENDS <i>Ned Calonge, Ph.D., Committee Chair</i> |

Roster

Committee to Review the Department of Veterans Affairs Presumptive Decision Process

Bruce (Ned) Calonge, M.D., M.P.H. (he/him)

Chair
Associate Dean of Public Health Practice;
Associate Professor of Family Medicine
University of Colorado School of Medicine

Lawrence Deyton, M.S.P.H., M.D.

Murdock Head Professor of Medicine and
Health Policy and Senior Associate Dean for
Clinical Public Health
The George Washington University School of
Medicine and Health Sciences

Javier Escobar, M.D., M.Sc. (he/him)

Professor Emeritus
Rutgers University
Professor
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at
Florida International University

James Giordano, Ph.D.

Professor
Georgetown University

Francine Laden, Sc.D. (she/her)

Professor of Environmental Epidemiology
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Juleen Lam, Ph.D. (she/her)

Assistant Professor
Department of Health Sciences
California State University East Bay

Roger Lewis, M.D., Ph.D. (he/him)

Senior Physician;
Professor;
Senior Medical Scientist
Los Angeles County Department of Health
Services;
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA;
Barry Consultants LLC

**Jennifer S. Lin, M.D., M.C.R., F.A.C.P.
(she/her)**

Director (EPC);
Senior Investigator (CHR)
Kaiser Permanente Evidence Based Practice
Center (EPC);
Kaiser Permanente Northwest, Center for Health
Research (CHR)

Lorenz Rhomberg, Ph.D. (he/him)

Principal
Gradient

Daniele Wikoff, Ph.D. (she/her)

Principal;
Practice Director
Health Sciences Practice
ToxStrategies, Inc.

STATEMENT OF TASK

An ad hoc committee under the auspices of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will conduct an assessment of the revised administrative process to be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate medical conditions and possible relationships to military environmental exposures. The review of the revised Presumption Decision Process will examine

1. whether the process is in accordance with current scientific standards for assessing the link between exposure to environmental hazards and the development of health outcomes, and
2. assess whether the elements of the process are fair and consistent.

The committee shall produce a final report detailing its process and offer any findings, conclusions, and recommendations it deems appropriate to improve the process.

**PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND BULLYING:
POLICY FOR PARTICIPANTS IN NASEM ACTIVITIES**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) are committed to the principles of diversity, inclusion, integrity, civility, and respect in all of our activities. We look to you to be a partner in this commitment by helping us to maintain a professional and cordial environment. **All forms of discrimination, harassment, and bullying are prohibited in any NASEM activity.** This policy applies to all participants in all settings and locations in which NASEM work and activities are conducted, including committee meetings, workshops, conferences, and other work and social functions where employees, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, or guests are present.

Discrimination is prejudicial treatment of individuals or groups of people based on their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Other types of harassment include any verbal or physical conduct directed at individuals or groups of people because of their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Bullying is unwelcome, aggressive behavior involving the use of influence, threat, intimidation, or coercion to dominate others in the professional environment.

REPORTING AND RESOLUTION

Any violation of this policy should be reported. If you experience or witness discrimination, harassment, or bullying, you are encouraged to make your unease or disapproval known to the individual at the time the incident occurs, if you are comfortable doing so. You are also urged to report any incident by:

- Filing a complaint with the Office of Human Resources at 202-334-3400 or hrrservicecenter@nas.edu, or
- Reporting the incident to an employee involved in the activity in which the member or volunteer is participating, who will then file a complaint with the Office of Human Resources.

Complaints should be filed as soon as possible after an incident. To ensure the prompt and thorough investigation of the complaint, the complainant should provide as much information as is possible, such as names, dates, locations, and steps taken. The Office of Human Resources will investigate the alleged violation in consultation with the Office of the General Counsel.

If an investigation results in a finding that an individual has committed a violation, NASEM will take the actions necessary to protect those involved in its activities from any future discrimination, harassment, or bullying, including in appropriate circumstances **the removal of an individual from current NASEM activities and a ban on participation in future activities.**

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Updated December 2, 2021