

Dr. Amy Patterson
Associate Director for Science Policy
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Amy P. Patterson, M.D., is the Associate Director for Science Policy at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this position, she advises the NIH Director and the 27 NIH Institute and Center Directors.

Dr. Patterson's primary responsibility is to provide national leadership in the analysis and development of science policy on a wide array of issues related to the national biomedical research enterprise. On behalf of the NIH, she has worked on such matters as the harmonization of federal policies pertinent to the conduct and oversight of clinical research, societal and health implications of genetic technologies, the science, safety, and ethics of recombinant DNA research, the federal framework for biosafety oversight, and biosecurity measures to preclude the misuse of legitimate science. To inform these activities, Dr. Patterson manages and staffs key federal advisory committees, including the former Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society, the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, and the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee. Dr. Patterson also manages the NIH Scientific Management Review Board, a panel of leaders from industry and academia established under the NIH Reform Act of 2006. This august group provides advice to the agency on cross-cutting organizational and priority setting issues with a broad impact on how the NIH is run. She also manages a variety of programmatic activities, such as the NIH Office of K-12 Science Education. Dr. Patterson also oversees NIH's policy issues that have a nexus to other federal agencies and, thus, serves as NIH liaison to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the HHS Office of Human Subjects Protections, in addition to organizations such as the National Academy of Sciences.