

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Pyter, Leah \(OSUMC\)](#)
Cc: [Sutherland, Sue](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Oberszyn, Tatiana \(OSUMC\)](#); [Gardner, Jared](#); [Williams, Valarie](#); [Watson, Sara](#); [Eveland, Jessica](#); [Bradford, Carol \(OSUMC\)](#); [Carnes, Cynthia](#)
Subject: Proposal to change the name of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025 3:56:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Leah:

The proposal to change the name of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on September 17, 2025. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

The proposal will now be sent to the University Senate with a request to be included for action at the Senate meeting on **October 30, 2025**. The Chair of this Council will present the proposal, but we will need you or a designee to attend to respond to detailed questions. Prior to that it will need discussion at the Faculty Council on **October 9, 2025**, and the Senate Steering Committee on **October 23, 2025**. I will provide you with details as I receive them.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Sue Sutherland (.43), or me.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

University Square South, 15 E. 15th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

614-292-5881 Office

smith.70@osu.edu

Assisted by:

Katie Reed

Executive Assistant

(614) 292-5672

From: [Oberyszyn, Tatiana](#)
To: [Smith, Randy](#); [Reed, Katie](#)
Cc: [Pyter, Leah \(OSUMC\)](#)
Subject: Name change request for Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:31:32 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[IBMR_name_change_packet\[94\].pdf](#)

Dear Dr. Smith,

Attached please find a proposal from Dr. Leah Pyter for a name change for the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research (IBMR) to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology (IBBI) for your consideration. The members of the Institute and Dr. Bradford support change which more accurately reflects the research being conducted in the Institute. The name change was also unanimously approved by the members of the College of Medicine College Council this morning.

Please let me know if we can provide any additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tania

Tania (Tatiana) Oberyszyn, PhD
Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs

Professor
Department of Pathology
420 Hamilton Hall
1645 Neil Avenue, Columbus , OH 43210
614-685-3584 Office
tatiana.oberyszyn@osumc.edu



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



Wexner
Medical
Center

Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
460 Medical Center Drive
Columbus, OH 43210-1228

Vice Provost W. Randy Smith
Council on Academic Affairs
Office of Academic Affairs
University Square South
15 E. 15th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201

July 16, 2025

Dear Vice Provost Smith,

As we discussed in my new role as the Director of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research (IBMR), I would like to propose a name change for this university-level institute that is overseen by the College of Medicine.

Having recently finished my initial "listening tour", one consistent bit of feedback I have received from leaders on campus and IBMR members is that our name neither reflects the historic nor current research niche of the institute, and is therefore confusing to a variety of audiences (other scientists, the public, donors, etc.). Our niche is interdisciplinary research in the field of psychoneuroimmunology, or how psychology/behavior intersects with the communication between the nervous and immune systems.

Therefore, over two IBMR faculty meetings, we have had a rich discussion about changing the name. It was clear that there is overall a lot of faculty support for a name change, as well as support from COM leadership (see letter of support) and the Wexner Medical Center strategy team.

The name we have settled on is the **Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology**. This name stems from the already-vetted and reputable flagship scientific journal (*Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*), whose leadership at Elsevier is also supportive of our name change as there are no trademark issues (see email of support). We believe it better reflects who we are and what we uniquely do. Furthermore, "behavioral medicine" is its own field that focuses on how behavioral interventions can modify health, which does not accurately encompass what the majority of our members study and is therefore misleading.

This name change will obviously affect branding and signage, but minimally impact personnel within or outside the institute. It will also not affect programming and therefore it does not overlap with the interests of other units.

The IBMR faculty and Executive Committee, the Wexner Medical Center strategy team, the Dean of the College of Medicine, and the College of Medicine Council have all reviewed and approved this proposal. Included in this proposal is a letter of support from the Dean, voting results from the IBMR faculty, voting results from the College of Medicine Council, and emails of concurrence from Elsevier and the COM department chair of Microbial Infection and Immunity.

Leah M. Pyter, Ph.D., M.S.

Director, Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research

Brumbaugh Chair in Brain Research and Teaching, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

223 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research • Ohio State University • Columbus, OH

Phone: 614-293-3496 • E-mail: Leah.Pyter@osumc.edu • <https://u.osu.edu/pyter.1/>

Thank you for considering. If possible, our goal is to make the name change official by institute's Research Day on Nov 5th, 2025!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Pyter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leah" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Pyter".



August 8, 2025

Vice Provost W. Randy Smith
Office of Academic Affairs
University Square South
15 E. 15th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201

Dear Vice Provost Smith,

I am writing to offer my full and enthusiastic support for Dr. Leah Pyter's proposal to rename the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research (IBMR) to the **Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology** at The Ohio State University.

This proposed name change is both timely and strategically aligned with the institute's evolving mission and scientific direction. Under Dr. Pyter's leadership, the newly branded IBBI will focus on expanding its current research scope to encompass the intricate and bidirectional relationships among the brain, behavior and the immune system. This interdisciplinary focus reflects a broader shift in biomedical science toward integrative approaches that recognize the complex interplay between psychological, neurological and immunological processes in health and disease.

The new name—**Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology**—more accurately captures the institute's current research strengths and future aspirations. It signals to collaborators, funding agencies, and the broader scientific community that Ohio State is at the forefront of cutting-edge research in neuroimmunology, psychoneuroimmunology and behavioral neuroscience. This clarity of identity will enhance the institute's visibility, foster new interdisciplinary partnerships, and strengthen its ability to recruit top-tier faculty, trainees and staff.

Moreover, this renaming aligns with our College of Medicine's strategic priorities to support innovative, team-based science that addresses some of the most pressing health challenges of our time—ranging from mental health and neurodegenerative diseases to cancer, chronic inflammation and the biological impacts of stress. The work being done at the IBMR exemplifies the kind of translational, impactful research that improves lives and advances our understanding of human health.

I commend Dr. Pyter for her visionary leadership and her commitment to building a vibrant and collaborative research environment. Her proposal reflects a thoughtful and forward-looking vision for the institute, and I am confident that this change will further elevate its national and international reputation.

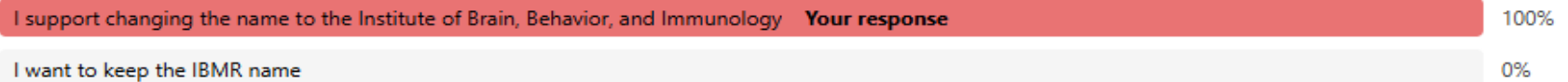
Sincerely,

Carol R. Bradford, MD, MS, FACS
Dean, College of Medicine
Vice President for Health Sciences, Wexner Medical Center
Leslie H. and Abigail S. Wexner Dean's Chair in Medicine
Professor of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

ID	Start time	Completion time	Email	Name	What do you think about changing the name "Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research"
1	7/18/25 10:59:19	7/18/25 10:59:23	PYTE01@osumc.edu	Leah Pyter	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
2	7/18/25 11:03:05	7/18/25 11:04:56		Lenz.56@osu.edu	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
3	7/18/25 11:06:30	7/18/25 11:07:09	Michael.Bailey2@nation	Michael Bailey	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
4	7/18/25 10:59:44	7/18/25 11:10:05	gork02@osumc.edu	Stephanie Gorka	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
5	7/18/25 11:12:17	7/18/25 11:12:26		lisa.christian@osumc.ed	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
6	7/18/25 11:17:56	7/18/25 11:18:25		Marshall.Williams@osur	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
7	7/18/25 11:23:17	7/18/25 11:23:53	gur01@osumc.edu	Tamar Gur	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
8	7/18/25 11:23:58	7/18/25 11:24:20		way.37@osu.edu	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
9	7/18/25 11:30:16	7/18/25 11:30:42		ruth.barrientos@osumc.	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
10	7/18/25 11:34:09	7/18/25 11:34:18		erica.glasper@osumc.ed	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
11	7/18/25 11:39:30	7/18/25 11:40:05		cole.vonderhaar@osumc	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
12	7/18/25 11:42:10	7/18/25 11:42:20	mear12@osumc.edu	Gordon Meares	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
13	7/18/25 12:07:39	7/18/25 12:08:49	SHER29@osumc.edu	John Sheridan	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
14	7/18/25 12:21:21	7/18/25 12:21:45		Olga.kokiko-cochran@os	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
15	7/18/25 12:51:09	7/18/25 12:51:44	GODB02@osumc.edu	Jonathan Godbout	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
16	7/18/25 13:08:45	7/18/25 13:09:25	ariz01@osumc.edu	Maria Ariza	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology
17	7/21/25 8:26:05	7/21/25 8:26:24		phillip.popovich@osumc	I support changing the name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology

 [Poll: What do you think about changing the name "Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research"?](#)

What do you think about changing the name "Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research"?



17 responses



Poll: Names not recorded ; Results shared

Change the name from the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research (IBMR) to the Institut

☐ Approve

☐ Deny

☐ Abstain

Submit Vote

Edited

Approve	100% (40)
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Deny	0% (0)
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Abstain	0% (0)
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40 responses

Re: IBMR name change

From Oltz, Eugene <Eugene.Oltz@osumc.edu>

Date Fri 7/18/2025 8:56 AM

To Pyter, Leah <Leah.Pyter@osumc.edu>

Hi Leah:

I think this will be a very positive change for rebranding the institute. Much more apt and descriptive. No concerns on my part.

Thanks for asking,
Gene

From: Pyter, Leah <Leah.Pyter@osumc.edu>

Date: Friday, July 18, 2025 at 8:39 AM

To: Oltz, Eugene <Eugene.Oltz@osumc.edu>

Subject: IBMR name change

Dear Gene,

Having finished my initial "listening tour" as the new IBMR Director, one consistent bit of feedback I have received is that our name the "Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research" does not reflect the historic or current research focus of the institute, and is therefore confusing to a variety of audiences (other scientists, the public, etc.).

Therefore, over the last 2 months the IBMR faculty have had a rich discussion about changing the name. It is clear that there is overall a lot of faculty support for a name change, as well as support from the COM and OSU leadership.

The name we have settled on is the **Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology (IBBI)**. This name stems from the already-vetted and reputable flagship scientific journal (*Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*), whose leadership at Elsevier is also supportive of our name change as there are no trademark issues. We believe it better reflects who we are and what we uniquely do.

Of course this does not change the IBMR's mission or goals, but I was wondering if you have any thoughts or concerns about this name change?

Thanks much,
Leah

Leah M. Pyter, PhD, MS

Director, Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
The Brumbaugh Chair in Brain Research and Teaching
Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
614-293-3496; 223 IBMR

RE: Editorial Board Meeting and lunch at PNIRS

From Ciuchina-Szabo, Casandra M. (ELS-BCL) <c.ciuchinaszabo@elsevier.com>

Date Wed 7/9/2025 5:00 AM

To Pyter, Leah <Leah.Pyter@osumc.edu>

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Report Suspicious

Hi Leah,

I am so sorry, I received a reply after forwarding the question, but I was under the impression you received one as well. This must have been a misunderstanding on my side and I am sorry for the inconvenience caused.

Keith said that as long as you are not planning on launching any form of publication with the name o specifically referring to the journal it would not be any problem to pursue the name change for the institute.

If you have any more questions on this, please contact him directly at K.deBlanger@elsevier.com

Best wishes,
Casandra

Casandra Ciuchina-Szabo

Publishing Administrative Coordinator

ELSEVIER | STM Journals

Radarweg 29, 1043 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands

c.ciuchinaszabo@elsevier.com | www.elsevier.com

From: Pyter, Leah <Leah.Pyter@osumc.edu>

Sent: 08 July 2025 16:08

To: Ciuchina-Szabo, Casandra M. (ELS-BCL) <c.ciuchinaszabo@elsevier.com>

Subject: Re: Editorial Board Meeting and lunch at PNIRS

*** External email: use caution ***

Hi Cassandra,

I haven't heard from Keith. Is it safe to assume he has no comment on my question?

Thanks,
Leah

From: Pyter, Leah <Leah.Pyter@osumc.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 7:58:42 AM
To: Ciuchina-Szabo, Casandra M. (ELS-BCL) <c.ciuchinaszabo@elsevier.com>
Subject: Re: Editorial Board Meeting and lunch at PNIRS

Hi Casandra,

I have a question for Keith De Blanger, would you be able to forward this to him?

I am the new Director of a research institute at Ohio State University, called the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research. The institute came to be back in 1997 because of the concentrated and successful psychoneuroimmunology researchers at our university (e.g., Ron Glaser, Jan Kiecolt-Glaser, John Sheridan, Ning Quan, etc). This strong concentration of BBI/PNIRS-related scientists continues today (E.g., Ruth Barrientos, Jon Godbout, Lisa Christian, Mike Bailey, myself, etc.). However, our current name (Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research) does not accurately reflect the field of psychoneuroimmunology, therefore I am pursuing a name change.

I would love to get Keith's thought about potentially changing our research institute's name to "Institute of Brain, Immunology, and Behavior" or "Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology". Our faculty feel like the already-vetted name for the BBI journal is an accurate representation of the research being done at the institute. Not sure if there are copyright issues or if you have a preference between these options?

<https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/neurological-institute/neuroscience-research-institute/research-centers/institute-for-behavioral-medicine-research>

I would appreciate your thoughts.
Warmly,
Leah

Leah M. Pyter, PhD, MS

Director, Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
The Brumbaugh Chair in Brain Research and Teaching
Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
614-293-3496; 223 IBMR



From: Ciuchina-Szabo, Casandra M. (ELS-BCL) <c.ciuchinaszabo@elsevier.com>
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 7:48 AM
To: Pyter, Leah <Leah.Pyter@osumc.edu>
Subject: Editorial Board Meeting and lunch at PNIRS