



## Rear Admiral Sam S. Shekar Director, Office of Extramural Programs, NIH

### **Background**

Rear Admiral Sam S. Shekar, MD, MPH, is the Director of the Office of Extramural Programs/ Director of Clinical Research Grants Policy for the Office of Extramural Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. There he oversees the development, monitoring and analysis of agency-wide policy on research and staff training programs, peer review policy, the NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts, human subject protections and women/minority inclusion policies, as well as on the Loan Repayment Program and the Small Business Innovation Research Program. He also provides support and representation for the NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research on clinical research and human subjects issues, helping to develop and monitor agency-wide extramural grants policies and activities impacting human subjects protections, as well as leading and participating on multiple executive-level committees and initiatives focused on NIH's \$10 billion extramural clinical research grants portfolio.



### **Education/Training**

Dr. Shekar is a board-certified Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, holds a medical license in the State of Maryland and received his MD, MPH and BS degrees from the University of Michigan.

### **Professional History**

Prior to joining NIH, Dr. Shekar held senior bureau/office director positions over a seven-year period in the Health Resources and Services Administration, where he directed national public health and clinical care efforts affecting millions of underserved Americans across the nation. Major programs under his purview included the agency's national community and migrant health center network, the National Health Service Corps, the Title VI/III health professional training grants and the health care quality and human subject protections portfolio.

He served as the Regional Health Administrator in Region I prior to joining HRSA, representing the Assistant Secretary of Health in the region and helping lead public health efforts with state and community organizations in the six New England states. His early career assignments included serving as a medical officer in the Health Care Financing Administration (now CMS) and an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Shekar has been in the US Public Health Service for twenty years. He was selected in 2006 and 2007 as one of HHS's Senior Health Officials (SHO), who have been asked to lead the federal emergency field response to assist affected states and communities. In 2005, he directed the overall federal health response to Hurricane Wilma in Florida. He has also been involved as Chair of the Commissioned Corps Awards Board and as an ongoing member of the Corps Transformation Coordination Workgroup.

### **Awards**

RADM Shekar has received two group Secretary's Distinguished Service Awards and numerous Commissioned Corps medals for his significant health policy and management efforts in HHS.