



Lana R. Skirboll, Ph.D.
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Dr. Skirboll is Vice President of Academic and Scientific Affairs at Sanofi, where she works on building academic relationships and policy issues of importance to innovation, including biosimilars, data sharing, public-private partnerships and external innovation.

She formerly served as Director of Science Policy at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she was responsible for identifying policy issues relevant to the support and conduct of research, analyzing and recommending and creating new policies that advance the interest of the Agency. These included human subject protections, the privacy and confidentiality of research records, conflicts of interest, human embryo research, cloning and fetal tissue research, genetics, health, and society, dual use research, gene therapy and nanotechnology, comparative effectiveness research, personalized medicine, among others.

Dr. Skirboll played a leadership role in NIH's organizational strategic planning and evaluation, where, for example, she developed NIH's efforts to measure and report on Agency performance. She also worked with the NIH Director, Elias Zerhouni, to design and implement the "Roadmap for Medical Research." She initiated the development of a new program on Return on Investment to explore NIH's impact on local economies and national competitiveness. She was responsible for developing and coordinating the NIH Public-Private partnership program, which leveraged NIH investments by working with industry. In addition, her team ran a small, but highly creative, science education program that worked nation-wide to develop materials for students and teachers on behalf of national science literacy and the pipeline of new young scientists, as well as creating opportunities with local students to learn about careers in science.

As Acting Director of the NIH Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives, she led national efforts to identify and address emerging scientific opportunities and rising public health challenges that cut across institutes, including the management of nearly a billion dollars in research funds. In addition, Dr. Skirboll was also responsible for NIH offices that coordinate research and activities related to research on AIDS, behavioral and social sciences, women's health, disease prevention, rare diseases, and dietary supplements. She also led NIH's burgeoning efforts to design and implement a program in Portfolio Analysis to inform Agency investments.

Dr. Skirboll was trained in Pharmacology and Neuroscience. She completed her Ph.D. at Georgetown University Medical School, followed by post-doctoral work and research positions at Yale University, the Karolinska Institute (Sweden), and the National Institute of Mental Health. She is the author of more than 70 peer reviewed scientific publications.

Lana lives in Baltimore with her husband, Leonard, who is the COO of the University of Maryland Medical Center. She has two children, Patrick (a very hip applications developer) and Ellie who has a Masters in Social Work (MSW).