

**Connecticut Stem Cell Research Peer Review Committee**  
**Connecticut Department of Public Health**  
**April 11, 2014, 2:00 PM, EDT**  
**Minutes**

A meeting of the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Peer Review Committee (Peer Review Committee) was held on April 11, 2014. Peer Review Committee members participating in the review of proposals for the following grant type categories participated in the meeting: SEED Grant Proposals. Additional attendees included, Connecticut Department of Public Health staff and staff from the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) were present. The meeting was attended telephonically by the following:

**Members Present:** Chair, Gary Stein; Co-Chairs Majlinda Lako, Linheng Li, Martin Pera, Jeffrey Spees; and Reviewers: William Lowry, Ludovic Vallier, Sayyed Kaleen Zaidi, Xianmin Zeng

**Members Absent:**

**DPH Staff:** Marianne Horn

**CASE:** Rick Strauss; Terri Clark

**The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM, EDT**

**Introductory Remarks**

Rick Strauss welcomed the Peer Review Committee members to the meeting. Marianne Horn thanked the committee for their efforts on behalf of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, Jewel Mullen the Chair of the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee. Gary Stein, Chair also thanked the committee members for their efforts in reviewing proposals for the Seed grant type proposals.

**Public Comment**

The public was offered an opportunity to make comments. No members of the public were present, and no comments were offered.

**CT Stem Cell Research Peer Review Process**

Rick Strauss outlined the process for finalizing the peer review proposal rankings as previously provided to and reviewed with the committee. Co-chairs were assigned to lead discussion on proposals so assigned with proposal reviewers providing a brief overview of their proposal scoring for all proposals to be discussed during the study section sessions for each proposal type. He indicated that the purpose of the study section review was to finalize and achieve study section consensus on final peer review scores for proposals by grant type. Committee discussions were based on the scientific merit of the proposals. Additionally the committee was advised that the SCRAC will conduct an additional review of the proposals based on the peer review results, as well as several other criteria and will make final funding decisions at a SCRAC meeting on June 9, 2014. CASE will send the results of the SCRAC proposal funding decisions to the Peer Review Committee.

**Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-210(b)(24)**

**SESSION 1: REVIEW OF SEED GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSALS**

J. Spees moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-210(b)(24) for the purpose of reviewing the SEED stem cell research grants-in-aid proposals at 2:10 PM. M. Pera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Peer Review Committee came out of Executive Session at 3:32 PM.

There was a motion by J. Spees, seconded by S. Zaidi, to authorize CASE to submit the SEED Grant Proposal peer reviews as discussed and recommended in Executive Session to the State of Connecticut. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Stein and Rick Strauss again thanked the Peer Review Committee members for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Program

**Adjourn**

J. Spees, seconded by S. Zaidi, moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.