

**CONNECTICUT STEM CELL RESEARCH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Tuesday – July 15, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee “Advisory Committee” was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at the offices of Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Call to Order: Not having a quorum, Claire Leonardi, acting chair for Jewell Mullen, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Ms. Leonardi indicated that the approval of minutes would occur after quorum was reached.

Members present: Richard H. Dees, Ph.D. (by phone); Sandra Engle, Ph.D. (by phone); Gerald Fishbone, M.D.; David Goldhamer, Ph.D. (by phone); Ronald Hart, Ph.D. (by phone); Christopher Heinen, Ph.D.; Ann Kiessling, Ph.D. (by phone, arrived at 1:15); Diane Krause, M.D., Ph.D.; Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A. (by phone); Paul Pescatello, J.D., Ph.D. (by phone, arrived at 2:00); and Milton B. Wallack, D.D.S.

Members absent: Treena Livingston Arinzeh, Ph.D; Robert Grosso; James Hughes, Ph.D.

Other Attendees: Claire Leonardi (CI); Margaret Cartiera, Ph.D. (CI); Ariel Drew (CI); Leslie Larson (CI); Susanne Wilke, Ph.D. (CI); Lori Granato (CI); Tracey Tribuzio (CI); Isolde Bates (UCONN by phone); Paula Wilson (YALE by phone); Dennis Titley (Yale by phone); Rose Pandolfo (Wesleyan by phone)

Introduction of CI Biosciences Team

Ms. Leonardi introduced the CI Bioscience team: Jeremy Crisp; Margaret Cartiera; Ariel Drew; and Susanne Wilke, a newly hired Consultant to the Bioscience team.

Dr. Cartiera also introduced Tracey Tribuzio, Accounting Manager at CI, who will be taking over finance responsibilities for Joe Landry; and Lori Granato, CI's Government and External Affairs Director.

Transition to the Regenerative Medicine Fund

Ms. Leonardi discussed the Regenerative Medicine Research Fund highlights. She noted that this is a time of transition and emphasized that this Fund will build upon the strengths of the Stem Cell Research Fund. During this time, the CI team will be conducting research and interviews with thought leaders in the field and Committee members as we move forward.

Ms. Leonardi stated that the peer review will be conducted out of state by the American Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Kiessling asked how AAAS selects the peer reviewers for their organization. Dr. Cartiera stated she would gather details and distribute the information to the Committee. A discussion ensued regarding the peer review process.

Mr. Hart commented that an improvement in the peer review process was necessary and noted that during the 2014 grant review there was discussion that scores without justification confused the rank order. A discussion

ensued regarding the number of peer reviewers assigned to each proposal and the review process.

Ms. Leonardi discussed the formal recusal process that will be implemented in future Advisory Committee meetings. She explained how the recusal process will be practiced and discussed how it will lead to greater transparency within the Committee. A discussion ensued.

Proposed Structure and Governance

Ms. Leonardi reviewed the proposed structure and governance that will be put in place under the Regenerative Medicine Research Fund. She explained that there will be a focus on strategy and overall Fund direction. Changes will emphasize higher level, value-added activities for Advisory Committee meetings including strategic direction, planning, fund governance matters, final approval of grants and material modifications, and outcomes. She stated that the proposed governance is meant to streamline the responsibilities of the Committee and the overall Fund. Ms. Leonardi proposed an Operational Sub-Committee to be put into place. The proposed Sub-Committee's responsibilities would include review and approval of routine modifications, and formulation of funding recommendations to the Advisory Committee. She proposed for the Operational Sub-Committee to review the Annual RFP and the process and make recommendations to the Committee. Ms. Leonardi discussed that the CI Biosciences Team will be taking a more active role in the daily operations of the Fund. Concerns were discussed regarding the Sub-Committee and its role in the RFP drafting process; there was a

general consensus that the Advisory Committee as a whole should participate in the final RFP review.

There was overall support in favor of an Operational Sub-Committee. Ms. Leonardi suggested the CI Bioscience Team edit the proposed governance responsibility details based on the Committee's discussion, and a motion will be made at the next Committee meeting.

Proposed Meetings

Dr. Cartiera discussed the proposed meeting schedule for 2014 – 2015, explaining that the intent is to improve processes and efficiency. She detailed the proposed quarterly meetings for the Advisory Committee and that they will be held face-to-face at CI's office. The Operational Sub-Committee will meet eight times a year, both in person and through conference call. A concern was raised regarding University date submissions, and whether the proposed schedule would address the needs of University/PI reporting dates. A discussion ensued. Ms. Leonardi suggested for the University contacts to review the proposed meeting schedule and ensure that the dates meet the needs of University. She stated that if necessary, the Committee/Sub-Committee could hold a special meeting to accommodate reporting submissions.

Approval of Minutes – Advisory Committee Meetings

Noting the presence of a quorum, Ms. Leonardi asked the Advisory Committee members to consider the minutes from the April 22, 2014 meeting.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the April 22, 2014 regular meeting as presented. VOTE: 10-0-0 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Hart, Heinen, Keissling, Krause, Pescatello and Wallack). **MOTION PASSED**

The Advisory Committee members were asked to consider the minutes from the June 9, 2014 Grant Review meeting.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes from the June 9, 2014 Grant Review meeting. VOTE: 8-2-0 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Hart, Keissling, Krause, Pescatello; Opposed: Heinen, Wallack) **MOTION PASSED**

Dr. Wallack and Dr. Heinen discussed errors found within the minutes. A discussion ensued. Ms. Leonardi directed the CI Bioscience Team to check and correct the June 9th minutes, and have the Committee approve them at the next meeting.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of withdrawing the previous motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2014 Grant Review meeting and in favor of tabling approval until the next Advisory Committee

meeting. VOTE: 10-0-0 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Hart, Heinen, Keissling, Krause, Pescatello and Wallack) **MOTION PASSED**

Operational Approvals & Action Items

Ms. Leonardi asked for a vote on the final reports for the following UCHC grants:

- **12-SCD-UCHC-01 Xu/Grabel, Principal Investigator**
- **11SCB24, Li, Principal Investigator**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 12-SCD-UCHC-01, Xu/Grabel, Principal Investigator. VOTE: 8-0-2 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Hart, Kiessling, Krause, Pescatello and Wallack; Recused: Goldhamer, Heinen) **MOTION PASSED.**

Dr. Wallack asked a question regarding this grant's budget being reduced from four (4) years to two (2) years. Isolde Bates (UCHC) explained that the PI had submitted a revised budget in 2011, and the Committee had approved.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 11SCB24, (UCHC), Li, Principal Investigator. VOTE: 7-0-3 (In favor, Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Hart, Kiessling, Krause, and Pescatello; Recused: Goldhamer, Heinen, Wallack) **MOTION PASSED**

Personnel Change

Ms. Leonardi asked for a vote on the personnel change for the following Yale grant: 12-SCA-YALE-02, Slack

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the personnel change for grant 12-SCA-YALE-02, Dr. Slack, principal investigator. VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Hart, Heinen, Kiessling, Pescatello and Wallack; Recused: Krause) **MOTION PASSED**

Carryover Request

Ms. Leonardi asked for a vote on the carryover request for the following Wesleyan grant: 13-SCC-WES-01, Naegele.

Discussion arose regarding their request to reallocate funds from a budget year they have not yet received payment for. Dr. Krause discussed that the format this request was submitted in needs to be edited. There was a general consensus that the report needs to be

resubmitted, stating the reallocation of Year 1 funds, and the carryover request coming from Year 2 funds.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of not accepting the carryover request for grant 13-SCC-WES-01, Dr. Naegele, Principal Investigator. VOTE: 10-0-0 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Hart, Heinen, Kiessling, Krause, Pescatello and Wallack)
MOTION PASSED

Ms. Leonardi proposed that due to time constraints, a consent agenda vote will be made for the following revised budget requests that did not require discussion. (Dr. Engle departed from the meeting at 3:00pm.)

- 13-SCD-YALE-01 Lin
- 14-SCB-YALE-18 Rizzolo
- 14-SCB-YALE-16 Ivanova
- 14-SCB-YALE-10 Zhong
- 12-SCB-YALE-05 Kocsis

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Heinen, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the revised budget requests listed above, by consent vote. VOTE: 8-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Hart, Heinen, Kiessling, Pescatello and Wallack; Recused: Krause) **MOTION PASSED**

- **14-SCDIS-UCHC-01 Chamberlain**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of not accepting the revised budget request for grant 14-SCDIS-UCHC-01, Dr. Chamberlain, principal investigator. VOTE: 7-0-2(In favor: Dees, Fishbone, Hart, Kiessling, Krause, Pescatello and Wallack; Recused: Goldhamer, Heinen) **MOTION PASSED**

There were outstanding questions regarding the revised budget versus the originally submitted budget. The Committee requested that the applicant resubmit the revised budget, and include a description of how the new budget has been changed from the original.

- **14-SCC-YALE-01, Craft**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Fishbone, seconded by Dr. Heinen, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the revised budget request for grant 14-SCC-Yale-01, Dr. Craft, principal investigator. VOTE: 8-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Hart, Heinen, Kiessling, Pescatello and Wallack; Recused: Krause) **MOTION PASSED**

- **14-SCB-YALE-11 Garcia-Castro**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Heinen, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of not accepting the revised budget request for grant 14-SCB-YALE-11, Garcia-Castro, Principal Investigator. VOTE: 8-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Hart, Heinen, Kiessling, Pescatello and Wallack; Recused: Krause) **MOTION PASSED**

Dr. Wallack discussed concerns regarding this grant including how the project goals and scope have been modified, whether the project can be completed with the budget allotted and who is the personnel assigned to the grant. A discussion ensued. A general consensus was made that the revised budget with associated details needs to be resubmitted.

- **14-SCDIS-JAX-01 Mckeon**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of not accepting the revised budget request for grant 14-SCDIS-JAX-01, Dr. Mckeon, Principal Investigator. VOTE: 7-0-2 (In favor: Dees, Fishbone, Hart, Kiessling, Krause, Pescatello and Wallack; Recused: Goldhamer, Heinen) **MOTION PASSED**

A general consensus was made that the format in which this request was submitted was not correct. The revised budget needs to be resubmitted, showing a yearly budget for the four year grant.

Annual Audit Reports

This item was removed from the agenda; it will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on August 19th, 2014.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Wallack, the Advisory Committee members voted unanimously in favor of adjourning the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Claire Leonardi, acting Chair
on behalf of Jewel Mullen

DRAFT