

**Minutes**  
**Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee Subcommittee Special Meeting on**  
**Future Funding for Stem Cell Research – 2015-2025**

Monday, September 9, 2013 – 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.  
Department of Public Health  
410 Capitol Avenue, 3C  
Hartford, CT

**Attendees:** Sandra Engle, Ph.D.; David Goldhamer, Ph.D; Diane Krause, M.D., Ph.D., Marc Lalande, Ph.D., Haifan Lin, Ph.D., Milton Wallack, D.D.S.

**1. Introduction and Purpose**

The meeting commenced with an overview from Dr. Wallack on the purpose of convening this Subcommittee to discuss future funding for stem cell research in Connecticut. He feels this most important effort is critical at this time because it is directly related to securing future stem cell research funding in Connecticut after the current program ends in 2015. Governor Malloy has been very supportive and he has already approved a bonding package to secure funds for 2013-2015 because of his continued interest in stem cell research. However, we do not know what the political climate will be over the next few years, and we need to ensure that these funds will continue because they have been critical to the scientific and economic growth of Connecticut.

**2. Development of Document**

**a. Timeline**

The opportune time to present a request to the bonding agency was discussed. Dr. Wallack's research indicates that a request of this type would likely be considered by the bonding commission and agency over the next few months. In order to coincide with this time frame, we will need to have an advocacy document ready for review in mid to late October. The subcommittee discussed the possibility of finding a grant writer at UHC who could help with drafting the document. It was also suggested that we use the \$200M Bioscience Innovation Fund document that was approved for funding as a model for our document. Dr. Lalande stated that he will try to identify the bond writer who was involved in this effort.

**Postscript:** Dr. Lalande identified Tom Callahan as the individual involved with grant writing at UHC. Dr Lalande also forwarded to the subcommittee the actual legislation pertaining to the Bioscience Fund.

**b. Format and Contents**

Dr. Krause suggested that we contact an appropriate person at the bond agency who is involved with bonding requests and find out what information should be included in the document. It was also suggested that Mr. Ben Barnes be contacted for guidance. Mr. Barnes is on the bond commission which is chaired by the governor. These actions will hopefully put us on the right track with the various parties involved so that they could feel ownership of the request.

**Postscript:** Dr. Wallack has subsequently contacted Representative Lonnie Reed who has agreed to speak with Ben Barnes and to arrange a meeting.

Topics recommended for inclusion in advocacy document:

- i. Background and Objectives
- ii. Information and validation of the strengths and successes of the current stem cell program. Much of this can be obtained from the two documents that Dr. Wallack had distributed to the participants of this meeting as well as from the CASE Report. It should include scientific and economic achievements including job creation.
- iii. Evidence of how current stem cell funding has leveraged additional funding i.e., NIH, philanthropic, foundation, etc. and how we will work to further expand non-state funding.
- iv. Description of how the stem cell research field is moving from basic research to translational research and this type of research is more costly. If the funding is not available, the progress made to date would be lost and this would be detrimental both scientifically and economically. It was further suggested that we seek funding of 150M for 2015-2025.
- v. Data showing the return on investment that the State would receive.
- vi. Management of the Stem Cell Initiative for 2015-2025 was also discussed.

### 3. Next Steps

- a. Dr. Lalande will try to identify a grant/bond writer. **Done**
- b. Dr. Wallack will circulate the \$200M fund document. **Done by Dr. Lalande**
- c. Dr. Wallack will reach out to Laura Grabel at Wesleyan to invite her to be on the Subcommittee.
- d. Dr. Engle will work with her colleagues to maintain the presence that we already have with industry. She will also draft a section to argue that securing this funding will retain innovative bioscience in the State and how Connecticut is the bridge between Boston and New York and can become an increasing powerhouse for stem cell research on the East Coast.
- e. Dr. Lin will reach out to his contact at Boehringer Ingelheim; Dr. Krause will reach out to her contacts, and Dr. Wallack will reach out to Michael Kinch to find someone who can provide information on the link between health care and economics.
- f. Additional **Postscript**: Dr. Engle circulated Battelle\Bio State Bioscience Industry Development document.
- g. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.**