

Connecticut Stem Cell Research Peer Review Committee
CT Department of Public Health
April 25, 2013, 2:00 PM, EDT
Minutes

A meeting of the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Peer Review Committee (Peer Review Committee) was held on April 25, 2013. In addition to the Peer Review Committee members, Department of Public Health staff and staff from CT Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) were present. The meeting was attended telephonically by the following:

Members Present: Chair, Gary Stein; Linheng Li; Martin Pera; Daniel Weiss; Jose Cibelli; Dieter Gruenert; Anjana Jain; Christopher Lengner; Bill Lowry; Ludovic Vallier; Su-Chun Zeng; Xianmen Zhang.

Members Absent: *Unable to attend due to technical communications issues:* Ales Hampl and Jeffrey Spees

DPH Staff: Marianne Horn

CASE: Rick Strauss; Terri Clark

Introductory Remarks

Rick Strauss welcomed the Peer Review Committee members to the meeting. Gary Stein, Chair thanked the committee members for their efforts in this year's peer review process. Marianne Horn also thanked the committee for their efforts on behalf of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, Jewel Mullen, Chair of the CT Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee.

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 briefing overview of their scoring of the proposal 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 proposal scientific merit. Additionally the committee was advised that the CT Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee will do a second round of review based on the peer review results, as well as several other criteria and will make final funding decisions at an all-day meeting in June.

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

SESSION 1: REVIEW OF ESTABLISH GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSALS

Gary Stein moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-210(b)(24) for the purpose of reviewing the ESTABLISHED stem cell research grants-in-aid proposals at 2:10 PM. Dr. Weiss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Peer Review Committee came out of executive session at 3:15 PM.

There was a motion by Gary Stein, seconded by Dan Weiss, to authorize CASE to submit the ESTABLISHED peer reviews as discussed and finalized in Executive Session to the State of CT. The motion passed unanimously.

SESSION 2: REVIEW OF DISEASE-DIRECTED GROUP GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSALS

Gary Stein moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-210(b)(24) for the purpose of reviewing the DISEASE-DIRECTED GROUP stem cell research grants-in-aid proposals

at 3:20 PM. Dr. Weiss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Peer Review Committee came out of executive session at 3:50 PM.

There was a motion by Dan Weiss, seconded by Gary Stein, to authorize CASE to submit the DISEASE-DIRECTED GROUP peer reviews as discussed and finalized in Executive Session to the State of CT. The motion passed unanimously.

SESSION 3: REVIEW OF GROUP GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSALS

Dan Weiss moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-210(b)(24) for the purpose of reviewing the GROUP stem cell research grants-in-aid proposals at 3:52 PM. Gary Stein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Peer Review Committee came out of executive session at 4:05 PM.

There was a motion by Dan Weiss, seconded by Gary Stein, to authorize CASE to submit the GROUP peer reviews as discussed and finalized in Executive Session to the State of CT. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE RECESS

There was a motion by Majlinda Lako, seconded by Martin Pera, to recess the Peer Review committee at 4:07 PM until 5:30 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE RECONVENES

The Peer Review Committee Meeting reconvened at 5:33 PM to consider the balance of the grant-in-aid proposals. The public was offered an opportunity to make comments – none were offered.

SESSION 4: REVIEW OF SEED GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSALS

Dan Weiss 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 5:40 PM. Gary Stein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Peer Review Committee came out of executive session at 7:40 PM.

There was a motion by Gary Stein, seconded by Chris Langer, to authorize CASE to submit the SEED peer reviews as discussed and finalized in Executive Session to the State of CT. The motion passed unanimously.

SESSION 5: REVIEW OF CORE GRANT-IN-AID PROPOSALS

Gary Stein moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-210(b)(24) for the purpose of reviewing the CORE stem cell research grants-in-aid proposals at 7:42 PM. Dan Weiss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Peer Review Committee came out of executive session at 7:53 PM.

There was a motion by Martin Pera, seconded by Gary Stein, to authorize CASE to submit the CORE peer reviews as discussed and finalized in Executive Session to the State of CT. The motion passed unanimously.

Rick Strauss indicated that he will submit the reviews anonymized (no reviewers names listed) to the State. He will be sending the peer reviewers a surveymonkey survey re the process and asking for their feedback. He will also send out the results of the awards after the Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee meeting in June.

Dr. Stein, Rick Strauss again thanked the Peer Review Committee members for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the CT stem cell program

Adjourn

Martin Pera, seconded by Gary Stein, moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.