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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR AGING AND CLINICAL GERIATRICS**

The teleconference meeting began at 11:00 a.m. on December 12, 2011, and concluded at 12:00 p.m. The Chairperson, Charles F. Burant, M.D., Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Charles F. Burant, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Internal Medicine,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Conrad P. Earnest, Ph.D., Director, Pennington Biomedical Research Center,
Exercise Biology Laboratory, Baton Rouge, LA
Bret H. Goodpaster, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Medicine,
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Ralph Paxton, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Aging and Clinical Geriatrics, Research and Development
Danté Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Paxton welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. He apprised the Panel members of the conflict of interest policy, the confidentiality of the proceedings, and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Paxton asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and to use the full range of priority scores. He emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 1 Merit Review Program.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statement prepared by the Panel.

SUBMITTED:

Ralph Paxton Ph.D.
(signature)

RALPH PAXTON, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/13/12
(Date)

APPROVED:

CFB
(signature)

CHARLES F. BURANT, M.D., PH.D.
Chairperson

1/13/12
(Date)

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR CARDIOVASCULAR STUDIES**

The meeting was held on December 5, 2011, at The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The meeting began at 7:30 a.m. and adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The Chairperson, Francis G. Spinale, M.D., Ph.D., presided throughout.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Masanori Aikawa, M.D., Ph.D.
Biykem Bozkurt, M.D., Ph.D.
Y.S. Chandrashekar, M.D.
Samuel Dudley, M.D.
Nikolaos Frangogiannis, M.D.
Mary Gray, M.D.
William Holman, M.D.
Yan Huang, M.D., Ph.D.

Aman Mahajan, M.D., Ph.D.
Edward McFalls, M.D., Ph.D.
Shunlin Ren, M.D., Ph.D.
Flora Sam, M.D.
Douglas Sawyer, M.D., Ph.D.
Francis Spinale, M.D., Ph.D.
Suresh Tyagi, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

David Cesario, M.D., Ph.D. (teleconference)

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Troy Baudino, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Texas A & M Health Science Center,
Temple, TX

David Dostal, Ph.D., Professor, VA Medical Center, Temple TX

Shobha Ghosh, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University,
Richmond, VA

Xian-Cheng Jiang, Ph.D., Professor, State University of New York, Brooklyn, NY

Jacob Joseph, M.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Jamaica Plain, MA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development

Zaheer Parvez, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Cardiovascular Studies, Research and Development

Kimberley Sedoris, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved by the Panel.

Dr. Parvez welcomed the Panel and had members introduce themselves. He thanked the Panel members for their work and then presented written text of Panel instructions to the participants.

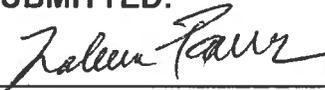
The date of June 4, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Fifteen (15) Merit Review proposals, 1 Career Development Award and 1 Program Project Award were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 20 Merit Review Programs and 4 Career Development Programs.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel participants were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. They were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

SUBMITTED:

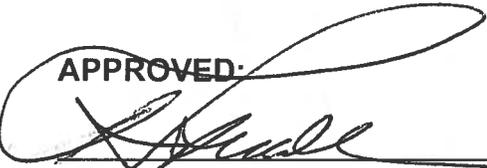


(Signature)

ZAHEER PARVEZ, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

01/06/2012
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

FRANCIS G. SPINALE, M.D., PH.D.
Chairperson

1/21/12
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW PANEL FOR
CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on November 21, 2011. The meeting was held at The Sheraton Crystal City, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Kathryn Meier, Ph.D., presided over the meeting and Cara-Lynne Schengrund, Ph.D. was the alternate Chairperson.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Paula R. Clemens, M.D.
Xianlin Han, Ph.D.
William D. Hill, Ph.D.
Jayaram N. Hiremagalur, Ph.D.

James C. Lai, Ph.D.
Chris Lau, Ph.D.
Cara-Lynne Schengrund, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

None

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

David Mark Diamond, Ph.D., Research Scientist, James A Haley Veterans Hospital, Tampa, FL (Teleconference)
Stanley Thomas Fricke, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC
Kathryn Elaine Meier, Ph.D., Director, Program in Nutrition and Exercise Physiology, Washington State University, Spokane, WA
Eva M. Mezey, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Officer, NIH, NIDCR-PNMB, Bethesda, MD
Bhaumik B. Patel, MBBS, Staff Physician, Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, VA
Hollis G. Potter, M.D., Chief, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY (Teleconference)
Lebris S. Quinn, Ph.D., Research Biologist, VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, Seattle, WA (Teleconference)
Malisa Samtinoranont, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

VACQ STAFF PRESENT

Leroy G. Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Office of Research and Development
Kimberlee Potter, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for Cellular and Molecular Medicine

Alex Chiu, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panels for Neurobiology A and C
Karen Sherwood, Program Assistant, Research and Development
Harry Crosland, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

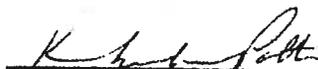
Dr. Potter welcomed the Panel members and ad hoc consultants. She thanked them for their help and cooperation, and gave a general overview of the applications received for review and the information included in the wallets. Dr. Potter emphasized the importance of succinct, but specific Summary Statements. Dr. Frey also thanked the reviewers for their participation.

Dr. Potter proposed a streamlined list of three (3) Merit Review proposals, which was immediately agreed upon, adopted, and not discussed or scored. Dr. Potter then turned the meeting over to Dr. Meier, Chairperson, who then led the meeting and the general discussion of the applications, which included 12 Merit Review proposals, 1 Pilot Project, and 1 Career Development Application. Dr. Schengrund chaired the meeting when Dr. Meier presented as a Primary Reviewer. Full details of all the panel discussions are contained in the Summary of Discussion for each proposal.

Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the Merit Review of component research programs are considered privileged information. The Panel members were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Ethics form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure, as well as a Post-Review Conflict-of-Interest form.

The date of June 4, 2012, was agreed upon for the Spring meeting.

SUBMITTED:

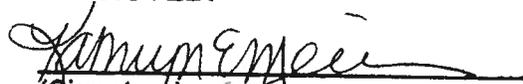


(Signature)

Kimberlee Potter, Ph.D.
Portfolio Manager

12/6/2011
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

Kathryn Meier, Ph.D.
Chairperson

12/6/2011
(Date)

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR THE CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The teleconference meeting began at 11:00 a.m. on December 8, 2011, and concluded at 5:00 p.m. on December 9, 2011. The Chairperson, Stephen E. Borst, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Robert Elashoff, Ph.D.
Mark Schluchter, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Naji N. Abumrad, M.D., Professor, Department of Surgery, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN
Patrick G. Arndt, Associate Professor of Medicine, Associate Fellowship Director, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Sleep, and Critical Care Medicine, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
M. Safwan Badr, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, Detroit Medical Center, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Marcas M. Bamman, Ph.D., Director, UAB Center for Exercise Medicine, Birmingham VAMC, Birmingham, AL
Stephen E. Borst, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Malcolm Randall VAMC, Gainesville, FL
Maria M. Brooks, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Joseph F. Collins, DSC, SCD, Biostatistician, VA Maryland HCS, Perry Point Division, Perry Point, MD
Rajvir Dahiya, Ph.D., Director, Urology Research Center, San Francisco VAMC, San Francisco, CA
Stephen F. Derosé, M.D., Research Scientist, Department of Research and Evaluation, Kaiser Permanente Southern California, Pasadena, CA
Jason A. Dominitz, M.D., National Program Director for Gastroenterology, VA Puget Sound HCS, Seattle, WA
Paul E. Drawz, M.D., Research Scientist, Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC, Cleveland, OH
Morris Faiman, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Steven Goldman, M.D., Chief of Cardiology, Southern AZ VA HCS, Tucson, AZ

Robert N. Harden, M.D., Director, Center for Pain Studies, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Susan Harris, DSC, Scientist II, Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center, Tufts University, Boston, MA
Erica Herzog, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Pulmonary and Critical Care Division, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Thomas H. Hostetter, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
Gary R. Johnson, Assistant Director, VA Connecticut HCS, West Haven, CT
Charles J. Kahi, Ph.D., Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Roudebush VAMC, Indianapolis, IN
Andrew Klein, M.D., Research Scientist, John Cochran VAMC, St. Louis, MO
Paul Y. Kwo, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN
Kelvin K. Lee, Ph.D., Biostatistician, VAPA HCS, Mountain View, CA
Benjamin Leiby, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Biostatistics, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
Alexander Monto, M.D., Director, Liver Clinic, San Francisco VAMC, San Francisco, CA
Terrence X. O'Brien, M.D., Director, Charleston VAMC, Charleston, SC
Sean J. O'Connor, M.D., Professor, Indianapolis VAMC, Indianapolis, IN
Pratik Pandharipande, M.D., Anesthesia Service, Nashville VAMC, Nashville, TN
Hemant K. Roy, M.D., Duckworth Professor of Cancer Research, North Shore University Health System, Evanston Hospital, Evanston, IL
James L. Rudolph, M.D., Staff Physician, Boston VAMC, Boston, MA
Susan F. Slovin, M.D., Ph.D., Physician, Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY
Kevin Sumption, M.D., Attending Physician, Cardiology, Richmond VAMC, Richmond, VA
Alparslan Turan, Ph.D., Professor, Cleveland Clinic Main Campus, Cleveland, OH
Mark L. Unruh, M.D., Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Sumitra Muralidhar, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for The Clinical Research Program, Research and Development
Kimberly Sedoris, Program Assistant, Research and Development

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Muralidhar welcomed the Panel members and the ad hoc consultants. She thanked them for their cooperation and contribution to the VA Merit Review Program and then read the Panel instructions to the members.

The dates of June 7, 2012 through June 8, 2012 were established for the spring 2012 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 24 Merit Review Programs and 4 Career Development Programs.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

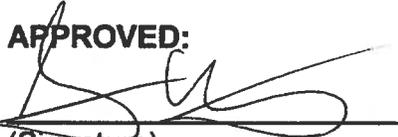
SUBMITTED:


(Signature)

SUMITRA MURALIDHAR, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/5/12
(Date)

APPROVED:


(Signature)

STEPHEN E. BORST, PH.D.
Chairperson

1/6/12
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ELIGIBILITY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded by 1:00 p.m. on July 25, 2011. The meeting was held at The Crowne-Plaza Hotel, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. The Chairperson, Guy Howard, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Guy Howard, Ph.D.

Alan Fine, M.D.

Dale Greiner, Ph.D.

Kathleen Haaland, Ph.D.

Leszek Ignatowicz, Ph.D.

Francis J. McClernon, Ph.D.

Donald Menick, Ph.D.

Sara Jo Nixon, Ph.D.

Pamela Potter, Ph.D.

Jeffrey Yao, Ph.D., F.A.C.B.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Snigdha Banerjee, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Cancer Research Unit, VA
Medical Center, Kansas City, MO

Rajvir Dahiya, Ph.D., Professor and Director, Urology Research Center, VA
Medical Center, San Francisco, CA

Kathlyn Sue Haddock, Ph.D., Associate Chief of Staff for Research and
Development, William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, Columbia, SC

Xianlin Han, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Diabetes and Obesity Research Center,
Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, Orlando, FL

Jawaharlal Patel, Ph.D., Acting Associate Chief of Staff for Research and
Development, Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center, Gainesville, FL

Dennis Kucik, M.D., Ph.D., Chief of Pathology, Birmingham VA Medical Center,
Birmingham, AL

Edward Lesnefsky, M.D., Chief of Cardiology, Hunter Holmes McGuire VA
Medical Center, Richmond, VA

Hiroshi Mashimo, M.D., Ph.D., Chief of Gastroenterology, VA Boston Healthcare
System, Boston, MA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Alex Chiu, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for
Eligibility, Research and Development

Faith Booker, Program Assistant, Research and Development

Dr. Chiu welcomed the Subcommittee members and ad hoc consultants. He thanked them for their help and cooperation and gave a general overview of the applications received for review and of the information included in the wallets.

Dr. Howard then proposed a streamlined list of applications to review, which was immediately agreed upon and adopted for the remainder of the meeting. He then led the remainder of the meeting and the general discussion of the applications.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 52 Eligibility applications.

The date of January 23, 2012 was decided upon for the next meeting.

Subcommittee members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the Merit Review of component research programs are considered privileged information. The Subcommittee members were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as a conflict of interest form.

SUBMITTED:

Alex Chiu
(signature)

ALEX CHIU, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

8/10/11
(Date)

APPROVED:

Guy Howard
(signature)

GUY HOWARD, PH.D.
Chairperson

8-15-11
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW PANEL FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY-A**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 6:30 p.m. on November 29, 2011. It reconvened at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 11:30 a.m. on November 30, 2011. The meeting was held in the Crystal V Meeting Room at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Robert Harris, Ph.D., presided over the meeting except during discussion of an application where he was in conflict. During that time Dr. William Sivitz served as the chairperson.

MEMBERS PRESENT

*Gregory A. Brent, M.D.
Robert Harris, Ph.D.
Donald St. Germain, M.D.
Cary Mariash, M.D.

*Bettina Mittendorfer, Ph.D.
Vanessa Routh, Ph.D.
*Gary Schwartz, Ph.D.

*Teleconference

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Mark Brownfield, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
George Cook, Ph.D., Professor, University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN
Mahmood Hussain, Ph.D., Professor, SUNY Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
Donald McClain, M.D., Ph.D., Physician, VA Medical Center, Salt Lake City, UT
Lawrence Olson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, MI
Lawrence Reagan, Ph.D., Professor, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
William Sivitz, M.D., Physician, Iowa City VA Medical Center, Iowa City, IA
Peter Thule, M.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Atlanta, GA
Bryan C. Bergman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Colorado, Denver, CO
Maureen Gannon, Ph.D., Research Health Scientist, VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN
Richard Klein, Ph.D., Research Health Scientist, VA Medical Center, Charleston, SC
Anjaneyulu Kowluru, Ph.D., Research Health Scientist, VA Medical Center, Detroit, MI
Niketa Patel, Ph.D., Research Health Scientist, VA Medical Center, Tampa, FL
Liangyou Rui, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Varman Samuel, M.D., Ph.D., Physician, VA Medical Center, West Haven, CT
Labros Sidossis, Ph.D., Professor, University of Texas, Galveston, TX
John Stagner, Ph.D., Research Health Scientist, VA Medical Center, Louisville, KY
Malcolm Watford, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Min You, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Endocrinology-A, Research and Development
Jasmine Turner, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Iqbal welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their cooperation. He highlighted the written guidelines for each scoring category and asked the members to use descriptors for evaluating the merit, rather than a single number. Dr. Iqbal informed the members that there will be a secondary level of review for significance and relevance of the proposed research to the VA mission. He stressed the need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements addressing significance, approach, and feasibility as they are the only bases of an appeal. Dr. Iqbal also reminded the Panel of the VA policies of inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, confidentiality, and conflict of interest. Dr. Frey emphasized the importance of detailed Summary Statements and indicated that about 20% of proposals would be funded based on current budget projections; however, this number might change, depending on the final budget.

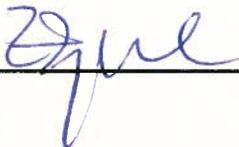
The dates of June 14-15, 2012, were established for the Spring 2012 meeting of Endocrinology-A Panel.

Ten Merit Review programs, one Career Development program, and one Program Project application were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored. T

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 21 Merit Review Programs, four Career Development Programs, and two Program Project applications.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:



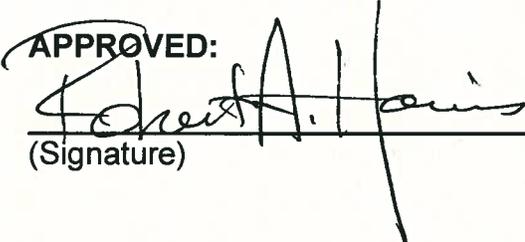
(Signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.

Portfolio Manager

1/10/12
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

ROBERT HARRIS, PH.D.

Chairperson

1/18/2012
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY-B**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 4:00 p.m. on November 18, 2011. The meeting was held in the Crystal VI Meeting Room at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Dr. Andre Van Wijnen, presided over the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hee-Jeong Sampen, Ph.D.
Andre Van Wijnen, Ph.D.
Mervyn N. Weitzmann, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Mone Zaidi, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY
Gabriella Cs-Szabo, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Rush University, Chicago, IL
Xu Feng, M.D., Associate Professor, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
Robert Jilka, Ph.D., Research Career Scientist, VA Medical Center, Little Rock, AR
Ivo Kalajzic, M.D., Ph.D., University of Connecticut Medical Center, Farmington, CT
Yi-Ping Li, Ph.D., Professor, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
Li Sun, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Mt. Sinai Medical School, New York, NY
Lianping Xing, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Dean Yamaguchi, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, VA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Endocrinology-B, Research and Development
Jasmine Turner, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Iqbal welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their cooperation. He highlighted the written guidelines for each scoring category and asked the members to use descriptors for evaluating the merit, rather than a single number. Dr. Iqbal informed the members that there will be a secondary level of review for significance and relevance of the proposed research to the VA mission. He stressed the need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements addressing significance, approach, and feasibility as they are the only bases of an appeal. He also reminded the Panel of the VA policies of inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, confidentiality, and conflict of interest. Dr. Iqbal emphasized the importance of detailed Summary Statements and indicated that about 20% of proposals would be funded based on current budget projections; however, this number might change, depending on the final budget. Dr. Frey also thanked the Merit Review Panel members for their support and hard work.

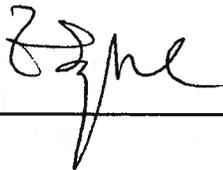
The date of June 1, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Four proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 7 Merit Review Programs, and 1 Career Development Program.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:



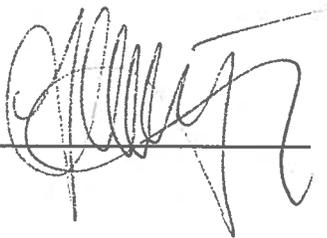
(Signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1-9-2012

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

ANDRE VAN WIJNEN, PH.D.
Chairperson

1-13-2012

(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY**

The teleconference began on December 7, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Veterans Health Administration, Office of Research and Development, 131 M Street, NE (Room 16), Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Michael Gaziano, M.D., MPH, presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda F. Fried, M.D.
Laurence S. Magder, Ph.D.
Rulan Parekh, M.D.
Peter Wilson, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Allison Aiello, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Mihaela Aslan, Ph.D., Associate Director, VA Connecticut Health Care System,
West Haven, CT
Michael Gaziano, M.D., Director of MAVERIC at the Boston VA Health Care
System, Boston, MA
Helen Kales, M.D., Associate Professor, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System,
Ann Arbor, MI
Amy Kilbourne, Ph.D., Associate Professor, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System,
Ann Arbor, MI
Arthur Kim, M.D., Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
David Lieberman, M.D., Professor and Chief, Portland VA Medical Center,
Portland, OR
Rebecca McNeil, Statistician, Durham VA Medical Center, Durham, NC
Dawn Provenzale, M.D., Staff Physician and Associate Professor, Durham VA
Medical Center, Durham, NC
Nicholas Smith, Ph.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Seattle, WA
Chloe Thio, M.D., Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Sumitra Muralidhar, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Epidemiology, Research and Development
Kimberley Sedoris, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

Dr. Muralidhar welcomed the Panel members and emphasized the importance of reviewing and scoring the proposals based on their scientific merit. The need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements was also emphasized, particularly for those proposals which would probably not receive funding. Dr. Muralidhar discussed procedural matters relating to the review, including the need for confidentiality and disclosure of conflicts.

The date of June 13, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Three (3) proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 7 Merit Review Programs and 1 Career Development Program.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:

Sumitra Muralidhar
(Signature)

SUMITRA MURALIDHAR, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/13/12
(Date)

APPROVED:

J. Michael Gaziano
(Signature)

MICHAEL GAZIANO, M.D., MPH
Chairperson

1/23/12
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR GASTROENTEROLOGY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on December 9, 2011. The meeting was held in the Crystal V Room at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, David Wang, M.D., Ph.D., presided over the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

*Michael K. Jones, Ph.D.
Patricia S. Latham, M.D.
Ravinder Mittal, M.D.
Charalabos Pothoulakis, M.D.

Sushil Sarna, Ph.D.
Yvette Tache, Ph.D.
David Q.-H. Wang, M.D., Ph.D.

*Teleconference

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Gianfranco Alpini, M.D., Research Scientist, VA Medical Center, Temple, TX

Waddah Alrefai, M.D., Staff Physician, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center,
Chicago, IL

Shrikant Anant, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Kansas, Kansas City,
KS

M. Sawkat Anwer, Ph.D., Professor, Tufts University, North Grafton, MA

Sushanta Banerjee, Ph.D., Research Scientist, VA Medical Center, Kansas City,
MO

John Chiang, Ph.D., Professor, Northeastern University, Rootstown, OH

Chandrashekar Gandhi, Ph.D., Deputy ACOS, VA Medical Center, Pittsburgh,
PA

James Goldenring, M.D., Ph.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Nashville,
TN

Anna Gukovskaya, Ph.D., Research Scientist, VA Greater Los Angeles Medical
Center, Los Angeles, CA

Thomas Ma, M.D., Ph.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Albuquerque, NM

Toan D. Nguyen, M.D., Staff Physician, Puget Sound VA Health Care System,
Seattle, WA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research Development
Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for Gastroenterology,
Research and Development
Jasmine Turner, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Iqbal welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their cooperation. He highlighted the written guidelines for each scoring category and asked the members to spread the score. Dr. Iqbal informed the members that there will be a secondary level of review for significance and relevance of the proposed research to the VA mission. He stressed the need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements addressing significance, approach, and feasibility as they are the only bases of an appeal. Dr. Iqbal also reminded the Panel of the VA policies of inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, confidentiality, and conflict of interest.

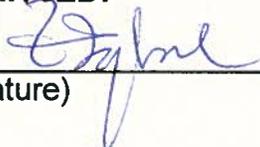
The dates of June 11-12, 2012, were established for the Spring 2012 meeting of the Gastroenterology Panel.

Fourteen Merit Review programs and one Program Project application were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 15 Merit Review programs, one Career Development program, and one Program Project application.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:



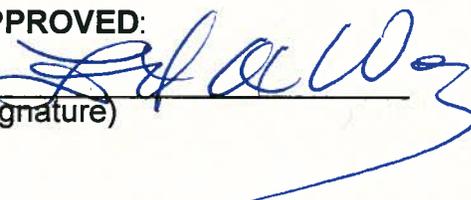
(Signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/10/12

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

DAVID WANG, M.D., PH.D.
Chairperson

01/17/2012

(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW PANEL FOR HEMATOLOGY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:00 p.m. on November 16, 2011. The meeting was held in the Crystal V meeting room at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Dr. Peter Emanuel, presided over the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Philip C. Comp, M.D., Ph.D.
Robert Redner, M.D.
Peter D. Emanuel, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Joao Ascensao, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, VA Medical Center, Washington, DC
Anjali Advani, M.D. Associate Professor, Lerner College of Medicine, Cleveland, OH
Karen Block, Ph.D., Research Scientist, VA Medical Center, San Antonio, TX
Patrick Frost, Ph.D., Research Biochemist, VA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA
Ronald Gartenhaus, M.D., Research Scientist, VA Medical Center, Baltimore, MD
Yogen Sauntharajah, M.D., Professor, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Gary Gilbert, M.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Boston, MA
Hasan Mukhtar, Ph.D., Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Mitchell Smith, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Fox Chase Center, Philadelphia, PA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for Hematology, Research and Development
Jasmine Turner, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Iqbal welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their cooperation. He highlighted the written guidelines for each scoring category and asked the members to use descriptors for evaluating the merit, rather than a single number. Dr. Iqbal informed the members that there will be a secondary level of review for significance and relevance of the proposed research to the VA mission. He stressed the need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements addressing significance, approach, and feasibility as they are the only bases of an appeal.

The date of May 23, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Two proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of ten Merit Review Programs, two Career Development programs, and one Program Project application.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:

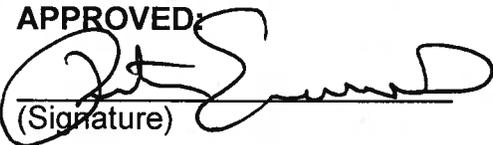


(Signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/9/2012
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

Peter Emanuel, M.D.
Chairperson

1/23/2012
(Date)

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR IMMUNOLOGY AND DERMATOLOGY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. on December 7, 2011, and concluded at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Crystal VI Meeting Room at The Sheraton Crystal City, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Patrick Michael Flood, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patrick M. Flood, Ph.D.	Edward F. Rosloniec, Ph.D
John J. Fung, M.D., Ph.D.	Virginia L. Shepherd, Ph.D. (teleconference)
Mark R. Nicolls, M.D.	Raymond L. Yung, MB., ChB.
Arnold E. Postlethwaite, M.D.	

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

James C. Oates, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Janis K. Burkhardt, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.
Anne Davidson, MBBS, Professor, Feinstein Institute, Manhasset, NY.
David E. Elliott, M.D., Ph.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Iowa City, IA
Elizabeth Hiram Field, M.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Iowa City, IA
Eric L. Greidinger, M.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Miami, FL
(teleconference)
Alisa E. Koch, M.D., Staff Physician, Ann Arbor Healthcare System,
Ann Arbor, MI
Emanuel M. Maverakis, M.D., Assistant Professor, VA Medical Center,
Sacramento, CA (teleconference)
Chander Raman, Ph.D., Professor, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
William M. Ridgway, M.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH
Russell D. Salter, Ph.D., Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Carol F. Webb, Ph.D., Member, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation,
Oklahoma City, OK

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Susan Stern, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Immunology and Dermatology, Research and Development
Karen Sherwood, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were reviewed and approved.

Dr. Stern welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. She apprised the Panel members of the conflict of interest policy, the confidentiality of the proceedings, and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Stern asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and use the full range of priority scores. She emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The date of May 30, 2012, was set for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Twelve proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 18 Merit Review Programs and 1 Career Development Program.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel participants were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. They were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

SUBMITTED:


(Signature)

SUSAN A. STERN, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

December 15, 2011
(Date)

APPROVED:


(Signature)

PATRICK MICHAEL FLOOD, PH.D.
Chairperson

December 15, 2011
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES-A**

The teleconference meeting began at 11:00 a.m. on December 5, 2011, and concluded at 5:00 p.m. The Chairperson, Edward N. Janoff, M.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

David Gretch, M.D., Ph.D.
Edward Janoff, M.D.
Jack Stapleton, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Alexandra Howell, Ph.D., Research Scientist, White River Junction VAMC, White River Junction, VT
Ravi R. Jhaveri, M.D., Professor, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC
Neerja Kaushik-Basu, Ph.D., Professor, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ
Tony N. Marion, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Biochemistry, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN
Srinivas Mummidi, DVM, Ph.D., Research Scientist, San Antonio VAMC, San Antonio, TX

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Sumitra Muralidhar, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for Infectious Diseases-A, Research and Development
Danté Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Muralidhar welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. She apprised the Panel members of the conflict of interest policy, the confidentiality of the proceedings, and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Muralidhar asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and to use the full range of priority scores. She emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The date of June 4, 2012 was established for the spring 2012 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 10 Merit Review Programs, and 1 Career Development Program.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel.

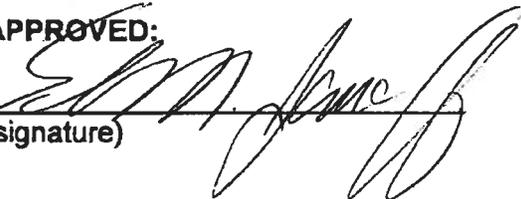
SUBMITTED:


(signature)

SUMITRA MURALIDHAR, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/5/12
(Date)

APPROVED:


(signature)

Edward Janoff, M.D.
Chairperson

1/10/12
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES-B**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 3:30 p.m. on December 2, 2011. The meeting was held at The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Timothy F. Murphy, M.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Hattie D. Gresham, Ph.D.
Glenn W. Kaatz, M.D.
Peter R. Williamson, M.D., Ph.D.
Patricia Winokur, M.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Caroline Cameron, Ph.D.
Stuart B Johnson, M.D.
Philip N. Rather, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

David H. Canaday, M.D., Associate Director, Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC,
Cleveland, OH
Edward D. Chan, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Denver VAMC, Denver,
CO
Melanie T. Cushion, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Cincinnati VAMC, Cincinnati, OH
John T. Harty, Ph.D., Mark Stinski Chair in Microbial Immunology, University of
Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Daniel J. Hassett, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Cincinnati VAMC, Cincinnati, OH
Robin R. Ingalls, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Microbiology,
Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
Timothy F. Murphy, M.D., Professor, Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and
Health Sciences, University at Buffalo State University of New York, Buffalo,
NY
Melody N. Neely, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Immunology and
Microbiology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI
Pyong W. Park, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital,
Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
Mary-Claire Roghmann, M.D., VA Investigator, VA Maryland HCS, Baltimore, MD
Mark E. Rupp, M.D., Staff Physician, Omaha VAMC, Omaha, NE

William M. Shafer, Ph.D., Professor, Decatur VAMC, Medical Research Service,
Decatur, GA

William E. Swords, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and
Immunology, Wake Forest University Health Sciences, Winston-Salem, NC

Andres Vazquez-Torres, DVM, Ph.D., Associate Professor, UCDHSC
Microbiology Department, Aurora, CO

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Susan A. Stern, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Infectious Diseases-B, Research and Development

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development

Dante S. Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Stern welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. She apprised the Panel members of the conflict of interest policy and the confidentiality of the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Stern asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and to use the full range of priority scores. She emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 18 Merit Review Programs and 3 Career Development Programs.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel.

SUBMITTED:

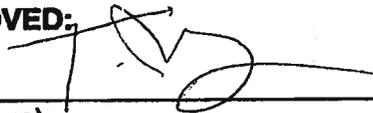


(Signature)

SUSAN A. STERN, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

Jan. 9 2012
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

TIMOTHY F. MURPHY, M.D.
Chairperson

Jan 10, 2012
(Date)

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW PANEL FOR
MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES-A**

The meeting began on December 12, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Una McCann, M.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gregory Brown, Ph.D.
Michael Kuskowski, Ph.D.
Una McCann, M.D.
Mohammed Milad, Ph.D.
Janet Niemeier, Ph.D.
Lori Zoellner, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

David Benedek, M.D. (Mail-in)

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Ananda B. Amstadter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Robert Bittman, Ph.D., Professor, Queens College of CUNY, Flushing, NY (Mail-in)
Valerie Cardenas-Nicolson, Ph.D., Research Scientist, VAMC, San Francisco, CA
Israel Liberzon, M.D., Professor, VAMC, Ann Arbor, MI (Mail-in)
Julia Lin, Mathematical Statistician, VAMC, Menlo Park, CA (Teleconference)
Aleksandar Milenkovic, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Alabama, Huntsville, AL (Mail-in)
Ivan Miller, Ph.D., Professor, Brown University, Providence, RI
Mark Miller, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist, VAMC, Boston, MA
Effie Mitsis, Ph.D., Director of Advanced Psychology Fellowship, VAMC, Bronx, NY
Victoria Risbrough, Ph.D., Research Health Scientist, VAMC, San Diego, CA
Mark Rosenthal, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC
Lisa Shin, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Tufts University, Medford, MA (Teleconference)
Gleb Shumyatsky, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Theresa Gleason, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences-A, Research and Development
Evangela Covert, Senior Program Analyst, Research and Development
Brenda Bean, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Gleason welcomed the Panel members and emphasized the importance of reviewing the proposals based on their scientific merit. The need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements was also emphasized, particularly for those proposals which would probably not receive funding. Dr. Gleason discussed procedural matters including the need for confidentiality and the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research. Dr. Frey also addressed the Panel. He thanked them for their service to the VA and emphasized the importance of using the descriptors in voting their conscience.

Thirteen proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 12 Merit Review Programs and 6 Career Development Programs.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:

LeRoy D. Frey, PhD
(Signature)

h THERESA GLEASON, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

February 7, 2012
(Date)

APPROVED:

Una D. McCann
(Signature)

UNA MCCANN, M.D.
Chairperson

February 8, 2012
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW PANEL FOR
MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES-B**

The meeting began on December 14, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, John O. Brooks III, M.D., Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John O. Brooks III, M.D., Ph.D.
Katherine Burdick, Ph.D.
Randall Scheibel, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Andrew Budson, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Gene E. Alexander, Ph.D., Professor, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
Brandon Ally, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Kousick Biswas, Ph.D., Deputy Director of Cooperative Studies Program
Coordinating Center and Biostatistician, Perry Point VAMC, Perry Point, MD
Lisa B. Dixon, M.D., MPH, Deputy Director and Associate Director of Research,
VA Capitol Health Care Network MIRECC, Baltimore, MD
Judith M. Ford, Ph.D., Professor, San Francisco VA Hospital, San Francisco, CA
James Lohr, M.D., Associate Professor in Residence, VA San Diego Healthcare
System, San Diego, CA
Adam McQuiston, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University,
Richmond, VA
Anton Porsteinsson, M.D., Professor, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Scott R. Sponheim, Ph.D., Staff Clinical Psychologist, VA Medical Center,
Minneapolis, MN (Teleconference)
Deborah A. Yurgelun-Todd, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Utah,
Salt Lake City, UT

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Theresa Gleason, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences-B, Research and Development
Evangela Covert, Senior Program Analyst, Research and Development
Brenda Bean, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Gleason welcomed the Panel members and emphasized the importance of reviewing the proposals based upon their scientific merit. The need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements was also emphasized, particularly for those proposals which would probably not receive funding. Dr. Gleason discussed procedural matters including the need for confidentiality and the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research. Dr. Frey also addressed the Panel. He thanked them for their service to the VA and emphasized the importance of using the descriptors in voting their conscience.

Three proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 9 Merit Review Programs, 2 Career Development Programs, and 1 Program Project.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:

Theresa Gleason, Ph.D.
(Signature)

Theresa Gleason, Ph.D.
Portfolio Manager
12/21/11
(Date)

APPROVED:

[Signature]
(Signature)

John O. Brooks III, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairperson
1/4/12
(Date)

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR NEPHROLOGY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 4:00 p.m. on December 8, 2011. The meeting was held in the Crystal VI Meeting Room at The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Matthew Weir, M.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rajiv Agarwal, M.D.
Alexei G. Basnakian, M.D., Ph.D.
Michael W. Brands, Ph.D.
Heddwen L. Brooks, Ph.D.
David H. Ellison, M.D.

Michael H. Humphreys, M.D.
Orson W. Moe, M.D.
Raymond R. Townsend, M.D.
Matthew R. Weir, M.D., Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Michel B. Chonchol, M.D. (teleconference)
Farhad R. Danesh, M.D. (teleconference)

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Hassane Amlal, Ph.D., Professor, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
Zheng Dong, Ph.D., Research Career Scientist, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, Augusta, GA
Bellamkonda Kishore, M.D., Ph.D., Principal Investigator, VA Medical Center, Salt Lake City, UT
Eleanor D. Lederer, M.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Louisville, KY
Ellen T. McCarthy, M.D., Associate Professor, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS
Babu J. Padanilam, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
Alan R. Parrish, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO
Alexander Staruschenko, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
Lisa Tannock, M.D., Attending Physician, VA Medical Center, Lexington, KY
Raymond R. Townsend, M.D., Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy G. Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Zaheer Parvez, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Nephrology, Research and Development
Verna Cozier-Louis, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Parvez welcomed the Panel members and ad hoc consultants and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. He then presented a written text of Panel instructions to the participants. Dr. Frey thanked the members for their participation in the VA Merit Review program.

The date of June 15, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Thirteen (13) proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 13 Merit Review Programs, 4 Career Development Programs, and 1 Program Project Award Program.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel participants were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. They were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

SUBMITTED:

Zaheer Parvez
(Signature)

ZAHEER PARVEZ, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

01/10/12
(Date)

APPROVED:

[Signature]
(Signature)

MATTHEW R. WEIR, M.D.
Chairperson

01/12/12
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR NEUROBIOLOGY-A**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:00 p.m. on November 17, 2011. The meeting was held at The Crystal City Sheraton Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Jean C. Beckham, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Jean C. Beckham, Ph.D.
Michael A. Collins, Ph.D.
Kristine M. Wiren, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

David M. Thomas, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Shawn Acheson, Ph.D., Neurobiology Research Laboratory, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Durham VAMC, Durham, NC
Bryon H. Adinoff, M.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry, VA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas, TX
Charles J. Billington, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Arthur Brody, M.D., Department of Psychiatry and Bio-Behavioral Sciences, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Kimberly Carlson, M.S., Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
Suzhen Chen, M.D., Ph.D., VA Boston Healthcare System, West Roxbury, MA
Raymond K. Chong, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director, Human Movement Science Laboratory, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA
Steven D. Forman, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Director, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh, PA
Jose M. Garcia, M.D., Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Houston, TX
Kenneth W. Grasing, M.D., Substance Abuse Research Laboratory, Kansas City VA Medical Center, Kansas City, MO
Peter Hauser, M.D., Mental Health Program Coordinator, Portland VA Medical Center, Portland, OR

Kush Kapur, Ph.D., Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center,
Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
Derrick Kaufman, M.S., Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center,
Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
William R. Lovallo, Ph.D, Research Career Scientist, VA Medical Center and
Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of
Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK
Lisa A. Opanashuk, Ph.D., University of Rochester, Department of Environmental
Medicine, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, NY
Subhash C. Pandey, Ph.D., Professor and Director, Neuroscience Alcoholism
Research, Department of Psychiatry, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center,
University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
Carol A. Paronis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical
School, Belmont, MA
Helen Shi, M.S., Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center,
Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL
Rebecca M. C. Spencer, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of
Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
Jennifer W. Tidey, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior,
Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI
Feng C. Zhou, Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Department of
Anatomy and Cell Biology, School of Medicine, Indiana University,
Indianapolis, IN

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
F. Alex Chiu, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for Neurobiology-A,
Research and Development
Harry Crosland, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Chiu welcomed the Panel members and the ad hoc consultants. He thanked them for their cooperation and contribution to the VA Merit Review Program and then read the Panel instructions to the members.

The date of June 1, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Five Merit Review proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 10 Merit Review Programs and 7 Career Development Applications.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. The Panel members were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

SUBMITTED:

F. Alex Chiu
(Signature)

F. ALEX CHIU, PH.D.

Portfolio Manager

Dec 16, 2011
(Date)

APPROVED:

Jean C Beckham
(Signature)

JEAN C. BECKHAM, PH.D.

Chairperson

Jan 4, 2012
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR NEUROBIOLOGY-C**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. on December 1, 2011, and adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on December 2, 2011. The meeting was held at The Crystal City Sheraton Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Timothy S. Kern, Ph.D. moderated as chair on day one and Chairperson, Ramesh Raghupathi, Ph.D., presided over day two of the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld, Ph.D.
Edward L. Hogan, M.D.
Ronald J. Ignelzi, M.D.

John Kasckow, M.D., Ph.D.
Timothy S. Kern, Ph.D.
Ramesh Raghupathi, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Jeffrey L. Dupree, Ph.D.
Pingfu Feng, M.D., Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Erhard Bieberich, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics, Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta, GA

Helen M. Bramlett, Ph.D., Research Health Scientist, Miami VAMC, Associate Professor, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL

Nicholas C. Brecha, Ph.D., Research Biologist, Greater Los Angeles VAMC, Departments of Neurobiology and Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA

David Burt, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Ruth B. Caldwell, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy Vascular Biology Center, Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta, GA

Jun Chen, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Neurology and Pharmacology, Departments of Neurology and Pharmacology, University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA

Raymond K. Chong, Ph.D., Department of Physical Therapy, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA

Luis De Lecea, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA

Krishnan M. Dhandapani, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosurgery,

Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA
Sulayman Dib-Hajj, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Center for Neuroscience and
Regeneration Research, VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, CT
Candace L. Floyd, Ph.D., Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,
University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
Glen N. Gaulton, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory
Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
Elise P. Gomez-Sanchez, D.V.M., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Medicine,
Division of Endocrinology, Jackson VAMC, University of Mississippi Medical
Center, Jackson, MS
Dennis R. Grayson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
Raymond J. Grill, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology and
Pharmacology, University of Texas-Houston Science Center, Houston, TX
Alessandro Guidotti, M.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of
Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
Chang-Gyu Hahn, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Mingxiong Huang, Ph.D., Research Physicist, Radiology Imaging Laboratory,
Department of Radiology, University of California at San Diego, San Diego, CA
David J. Kozlowski, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Transgenic Zebrafish Core Facility,
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA
Sunhee C. Lee, M.D., Professor, Department of Pathology, Albert Einstein
College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY
Steven W Levison, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Neurology and
Neurosciences, University of Medicine Dentistry, New Jersey Medical School,
Newark, NJ
S. Kevin Li, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of
Cincinnati Health Professions, Cincinnati, OH
Eng H. Lo, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Radiology and Neurology
Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, MA
Edward Lobarinas, Ph.D., Professor, State University of New York at Buffalo,
Center for Hearing and Deafness, Buffalo, NY
Bruce G. Lyeth, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery, School of
Medicine, University of California at Davis, Davis, CA
Yasuhiro Maeda, M.D., Staff Physician, VHA NJHCS, Neurology Service,
East Orange, NJ
Stephen M. Massa, Ph.D., Staff Physician, Department of Neurology,
San Francisco VAMC and Professor, University of California, San Francisco, CA
Allan Ian Pack, Sr., M.B., Ph.D., Professor of Medicine, Center for Sleep and
Respiratory Neurobiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine,
Translational Research Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA
Paul A. Rutecki, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Neurology,
Madison VA Hospital, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, WI
James C. Sackellares, M.D., Chief Scientific Officer, Department of Neurology,
Optima Neurosciences, Inc., Gainesville, FL
William H. Seiple, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, New York

University, New York, NY
Priyattam J. Shiromani, Ph.D., Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,
Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
Veronica Shubayev, M.D., Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, VA San Diego
Healthcare System, UCSD, School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA
Inderjit Singh, Ph.D., Scientific Director, Children's Research Institute, Department
of Pediatrics, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
William Zhiming Suo, Ph.D., Research Investigator, Kansas VA Medical Center,
Kansas City, MO
Richard L. Sutton, Ph.D., Department of Neurosurgery, David Geffen School of
Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
Cha-Min Tang, M.D., Ph.D., Staff Physician, Department of Neurology, Baltimore
VAMC and Professor University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
Chandramohan Wakade, M.B.B.S., Assistant Research Scientist, Medical
College of Georgia, Augusta, GA
Mitchell T. Wallin, M.D., N.D., Staff Physician, Veterans Affairs Medical Center,
Department of Neurology Service, Washington, DC
John W. Wiley, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine,
University of Michigan, School of Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI
William A. Wolf, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Hines VA Hospital, Hines, IL

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
F. Alex Chiu, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for Neurobiology-C,
Research and Development
Harry Crosland, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Chiu welcomed the Panel members and the ad hoc consultants. He thanked them for their cooperation and contribution to the VA Merit Review Program and then read the Panel instructions to the members.

The dates of June 7-8, 2012, were established for the Spring 2011 meeting.

Seventeen Merit Review proposals and one Career Development proposal were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 34 Merit Review Programs and 3 Career Development proposals.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the

Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. The Panel members were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

SUBMITTED:

F. Alex Chiu
(Signature)

F. ALEX CHIU, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

2-3-2012
(Date)

APPROVED:

(Signature)

TIMOTHY S. KERN, PH.D.
Acting Chairperson

TSKern 2/7/2012
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR NEUROBIOLOGY-D**

The meeting began on November 29, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held at The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Rudy Castellani, M.D., presided throughout.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ottavio Arancio, M.D., Ph.D.
Rudolph Castellani, M.D.
Othman Ghribi, Ph.D.
Amanda Myers, Ph.D.
Xiongwei Zhu, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

David G. Cook, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, VA Medical Center and
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Fiona C. Crawford, Ph.D., Associate Director, Roskamp Institute and James A.
Haley Veterans Hospital, Sarasota, FL
David Cribbs, Ph.D., Professor, University of California at Irvine, Irvine CA
Ken-Ichiro Fukuchi, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, University of Illinois College of
Medicine, Peoria, IL
Samuel E. Gandy, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, VA Medical Center, New York, NY
Louis Hersh, Ph.D., Professor, University of Kentucky College of Medicine,
Lexington, KY
Tsuneya Ikezu, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Boston University School of Medicine,
Boston, MA
Peng Jin, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Mary Jo LaDu, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago,
Chicago, IL
Debomoy Lahiri, Ph.D., Professor, Indiana University School of Medicine,
Indianapolis, IN
Michael P. McDonald, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Tennessee,
Memphis, TN
Lucas Pozzo-Miller, Ph.D., Professor, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
William Van Nostrand, Ph.D., Professor, State University of New York, Stony
Brook, NY
Douglas Walker, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Banner Sun Health Research Institute,
Sun City, AZ
Huaxi Xu, Ph.D., Acting Director, Burnham Institute for Medical Research,
La Jolla, CA
Keqiang Ye, Ph.D., Professor, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
William Goldberg, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Neurobiology-D, Research and Development
Kimberley Sedoris, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Goldberg welcomed the Panel members and emphasized the importance of reviewing the proposals based on their scientific merit and for preparing an explicit and detailed summary of the Panel's discussion for incorporation into the final Summary Statement for each application.

Dr. Goldberg discussed procedural matters including the need for confidentiality and the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research.

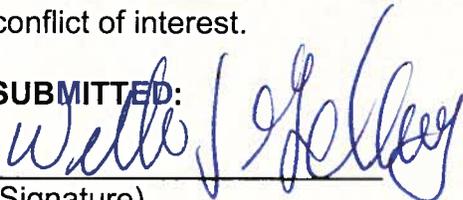
The dates of May 24-25, 2012, were established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Eleven (11) proposals were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 12 Merit Review Programs, 1 Pilot Program and 1 Career Development Program.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel participants were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. They were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

SUBMITTED:



(Signature)

WILLIAM J. GOLDBERG, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/5/12

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

RUDOLPH CASTELLANI, M.D.
Chairperson

1/12/12

(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR NEUROBIOLOGY-E**

The meeting began on November 17, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was held at The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Chairperson, Paul Fishman, M.D., Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cesario Borlongan, Ph.D. (teleconference)
Alvaro Estevez, Ph.D.
Paul Fishman, M.D., Ph.D.
Carol Milligan, Ph.D.
Danyelle Townsend, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

David Borchelt, Ph.D., Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Angela Cantrell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee,
Memphis, TN
Clivel Charlton, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Meharry Medical College,
Nashville, TN
Han-Xiang Deng, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Northwestern University,
Chicago, IL
John Duda, M.D., Director, PADRECC, VA Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA
Matthew Farrer, Ph.D., Professor, University of British Columbia, Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada
Peter Fox, M.D., Professor, South Texas Veterans Health Care System,
San Antonio, TX
Michal Hetman, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Louisville,
Louisville, KY
Doris Kretzschmar, Ph.D., Scientist, Oregon Health and Sciences University,
Portland, OR
Richard Mailman, Ph.D., Professor, Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, PA
Kevin McGill, Ph.D., Biomedical Engineer, VA Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA
Alvaro Puga, Ph.D., Professor, University of Cincinnati Medical Center,
Cincinnati, OH
Richard Smeyne, Ph.D., Associate Member, St. Jude's Children's Research
Hospital, Memphis, TN
Yoland Smith, Ph.D., Professor, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
William Goldberg, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Neurobiology-E, Research and Development
Kimberley Sedoris, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved by the Panel.

Dr. Goldberg welcomed the Panel members and emphasized the importance of reviewing the proposals based on their scientific merit and for preparing an explicit and detailed summary of the Panel's discussion for incorporation into the final Summary Statement for each application.

Dr. Goldberg discussed procedural matters including the need for confidentiality and the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research.

The date of June 8, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Seven (7) proposals were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 8 Merit Review Programs and 5 Pilot Programs.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel participants were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. They were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

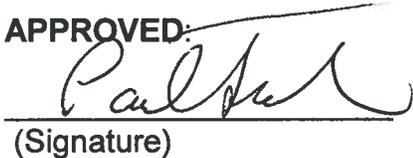
SUBMITTED:


(Signature)

WILLIAM GOLDBERG, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/5/12
(Date)

APPROVED:


(Signature)

PAUL FISHMAN, M.D., PH.D.
Chairperson

1/11/12
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW PANEL FOR ONCOLOGY-A**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and recessed at 7:00 p.m. on December 8, 2011. It reconvened at 8:00 a.m. on December 9, 2011, and ended at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was held at The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Steven M. Dubinett, M.D., presided over the meeting except for discussion of proposals with which he was in conflict.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lilly Bourguignon, Ph.D.
John Copland, Ph.D.
Steven Dubinett, M.D.
Amy Fulton, Ph.D.
James B. McCarthy Ph.D.
Jesse Roman, M.D.
Rakesh Srivastava, Ph.D.
Vincent Yang, Ph.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles E. Chalfant, Ph.D.
Anil Wali, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANTS

Sujit Basu, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pathology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Surinder K. Batra, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
Michael A. Carducci, M.D., Professor of Oncology and Urology, Co-Director, Prostate Cancer and Chemical Therapeutics Programs, Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, Baltimore, MD
Kermit L. Carraway, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, University of Miami, Miami, FL
Suzie Chen, Ph.D., Professor, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers, Piscataway, NJ
Khew-Voon Chin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH
Michael K. Cooper, M.D., Research Scientist, Nashville VAMC, Nashville, TN

Goberdhan Dimri, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, DC
Allen C. Gao, M.D., Ph.D., Research Scientist, VA Northern California HCS, Sacramento, CA
Warren C. Ladiges, DVM, Professor, Department of Comparative Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Megan S. Lim, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Ravi Madan, M.D., Assistant Clinical Investigator, Laboratory of Tumor Immunology and Biology and Medical Oncology, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD
Daniela E. Matei, M.D., Research Scientist, Indianapolis VAMC, Indianapolis, IN
Nithya Ramnath, M.D., Research Scientist, Ann Arbor VAMC, Ann Arbor, MI
Ajay Rana, NMN, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, IL
Drazen Raucher, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS
Edward Sauter, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
Shijie Sheng, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI
George R. Simon, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Oncology, Department of Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
Alan Wells, M.D., Professor and Vice-Chair, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
John Yannelli, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Kentucky School of Medicine, Lexington, KY
Xiaolin Zi, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Researcher, University of California, Irvine, CA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Ralph Paxton, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for Oncology, Research and Development
Dante S. Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Paxton welcomed the Panel members and thanked them for their cooperation. He read a prepared text describing the procedures for the conduct of the meeting. Dr. Paxton asked the Panel to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and to use the full range of priority scores. He also stressed the need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements addressing significance, approach, and feasibility, as they are the only bases for an appeal. Dr. Paxton reminded the Panel of VA policies regarding confidentiality and conflict of interest.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 50 Merit Review Programs and 5 Career Development Programs.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:

Ralph Paxton
(Signature)

RALPH PAXTON, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/9/12
(Date)

APPROVED:

Steven Dubinett
(Signature)

STEVEN DUBINETT, M.D.
Chairperson

1/13/12
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR PULMONARY MEDICINE**

The meeting was held on December 2, 2011, in the Crystal V Meeting Room at The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Farrah Kheradmand, M.D., presided throughout the meeting, which began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Safwan M. Badr, M.D.
Edward C. Dempsey, M.D.
Rajiv Dhand, M.D.
David M. Guidot, M.D.
Angela Haczku, M.D., Ph.D.
Farah Kheradmand, M.D.

Allison Morris, M.D.
Sekhar M. Pothireddy, Ph.D.
Stuart F. Quan, M.D.
Scott H. Randell, Ph.D.
Jerry J. Yu, M.D., Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Victor J. Thannickal, M.D.
Eric S. White, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Shyam Biswal, Ph.D., Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
(teleconference)
Sergio D. Catz, Ph.D., Associate Professor, The Scripps Research Institute,
La Jolla, CA
Douglas J. Conrad, M.D., Physician, San Diego Healthcare System,
San Diego, CA
Jeanne N. D'Armiento, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Columbia University,
New York, NY (teleconference)
Anne E. Dixon, M.D., Associate Professor, University of Vermont College of
Medicine, Burlington, VT
Sanjay Sethi, MBBS, Staff Physician, Western New York Healthcare System,
Buffalo, NY
Todd A. Wyatt, Ph.D., Investigator, Nebraska Western Iowa Healthcare System,
Omaha, NE

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy G. Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Zaheer Parvez, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Pulmonary Medicine, Research and Development
Verna Cozier-Louis, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Parvez welcomed the Panel participants and thanked them for their help and cooperation. He emphasized the importance of detailed Summary Statements with emphasis on significance, approach, and feasibility. Dr. Parvez also reminded the Panel of the scoring guidelines and stressed that these criteria should be used. Additionally, Dr. Frey thanked the participants for their participation in the VA Merit Review Program.

The date of June 8, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Eleven (11) proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 16 Merit Review Proposals, 3 Career Development Proposals, and 2 Program Project Award Programs.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel participants were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. They were asked to read and sign a Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest form.

SUBMITTED:

Zaheer Parvez
(Signature)

ZAHEER PARVEZ, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager
01/10/12
(Date)

APPROVED:
Farrah Kheradmand
(Signature)

FARRAH KHERADMAND, M.D.
Chairperson
01/17/2012
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR SPLC**

The teleconference began on December 6, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development, 131 M Street, NE (Room 16), Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Laurence Meyer, M.D., Ph.D., presided over the meeting.

MEMBERS

Laurence Meyer, M.D., Ph.D.
Marylyn Ritchie, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Lindsay Farrer, Ph.D., Chief, Boston University Medical Campus, Boston, MA
Abby Fyer, M.D., Professor, Columbia University, New York, NY
Ajna Hamidovic, M.S., Assistant Professor, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Daniel Kaufmann, M.D., Assistant Professor, Massachusetts General Hospital,
Charlestown, MA
Helen Kim, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, San Francisco General Hospital, San
Francisco, CA
Christine Larson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin,
Milwaukee, WI
William Marchand, Ph.D., Staff Physician, VA Salt Lake City Health Care
System, Salt Lake City, UT
Brett McKinney, Ph.D., Warren Chair in Bioinformatics, University of Tulsa,
Tulsa, OK
James Meschia, M.D., Professor, Mayo Clinic of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL
David Metzgar, Ph.D., Principal Scientist, IBIS Sciences, Carlsbad, CA
Jason Okulicz, M.D., Physician, San Antonio Military Medical Center, Fort Sam
Houston, TX
Paul Phillips, M.D., Director, Scripps Mercy Hospital, San Diego, CA
Lara Ray, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of California Los Angeles,
Los Angeles, CA
Monsheel Sodhi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago,
Chicago, IL
Chang-En Yu, Ph.D., Associate Professor, VA Puget Sound Health Care System,
Seattle, WA
Sebastian Zoellner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, Ann
Arbor, MI

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Sumitra Muralidhar, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
SPLC, Research and Development
Jennifer Moser, Ph.D., Health Science Specialist, Research and Development
Kimberley Sedoris, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

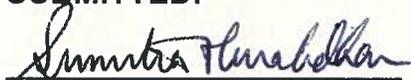
Dr. Muralidhar welcomed the Panel members and emphasized the importance of reviewing and scoring the proposals based on their scientific merit. The need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements was also emphasized, particularly for those proposals which would probably not receive funding. Dr. Muralidhar discussed procedural matters relating to the review, including the need for confidentiality and disclosure of conflicts.

The date was not established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 10 proposals.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:


(Signature)

SUMITRA MURALIDHAR, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/5/12
(Date)

APPROVED:


(Signature)

LAURENCE MEYER, M.D., PH.D.
Chairperson

1/23/2012
(Date)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2011 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
PANEL FOR SURGERY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and recessed at 3:00 p.m. on November 22, 2011. The meeting was held in the Crystal V Meeting Room at The Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Alan Dardik, M.D., Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric M. Brey, Ph.D.

Alan Dardik, M.D., Ph.D.

Lisa J. Gould, M.D., Ph.D.

Roslyn R. Isseroff, M.D.

Melina R. Kibbe, M.D.

Jennifer S. Lawton, M.D.

Kevin F. Staveley-O'Carroll, M.D., Ph.D.

George P. Yang, M.D., Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Ping Wang, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Margot S. Damaser, Ph.D., Career Scientist, Louis Stokes VA Medical Center,
Cleveland, OH (teleconference)

Bruce A. Harms, M.D., Attending Physician, William S. Middleton Memorial
Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI

Joshua D. Miller, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, VA Medical Center,
Ann Arbor, MI

Timothy M. Pawlik, M.D., Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore, MD

Edith Tzeng, M.D., Chief of Vascular Surgery, Pittsburgh Healthcare System,
Pittsburgh, PA

Ping Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy G. Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development

Zaheer Parvez, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Panel for
Surgery, Research and Development

Verna Cozier-Louis, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel were read and approved.

Dr. Parvez welcomed the Panel participants. He thanked them for their cooperation and contribution to the VA Merit Review Program and then read the Panel instructions. Dr. Frey thanked the Panel members for their participation in the VA Merit Review program.

The date of May 31, 2012, was established for the Spring 2012 meeting.

Eight proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 13 Merit Review Programs and 1 Career Development Program.

Full details of all Panel actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Panel. Panel participants were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information. They were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

SUBMITTED:

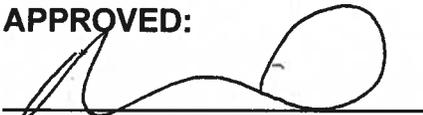


(Signature)

ZAHEER PARVEZ, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

1/10/12
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

ALAN DARDIK, M.D.
Chairperson

1/19/2012
(Date)