

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
GENOMIC MEDICINE PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee.
- B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Committee will provide advice to the Secretary on the scientific and ethical issues related to the establishment, development, and operation of the Program in order to further VA's medical research in providing veterans with medical care and treatment. Consistent with VA missions, as well as Federal laws, the Committee will recommend policies to accumulate and utilize both genetic and other medical information in concert in order to promote both optimal medical care and research that contributes to the Department's knowledge of disease and disability. The Committee will be guided by the goal of using genetic information to optimize clinical care of veterans, and enhance the study and development of diagnostic tests and treatments for diseases of particular relevance to veterans.
- C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE: There is a continuing need for the Committee, and no termination date has been set.
- D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Committee shall report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the Under Secretary for Health.
- E. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE: The Office of Research and Development shall provide the Committee with such resources as may be necessary for the performance of its duties and functions.
- F. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: The Committee shall be responsible for recommending processes and goals for the development of a VA genomic medicine program. Specifically, the Committee will assess the potential impact of a VA genomic medicine program on existing patient care services, make recommendations regarding policies and procedures for tissue collection, storage and analysis, make recommendations on the development of a research agenda and recommend approaches by which research results can be incorporated into routine medical care. The Committee will consider the views and concerns from a variety of sources, including experts in the field of scientific research, medical practitioners, medical school affiliates and veterans.

Committee members shall be appointed by the Secretary and shall serve as objective advisors, and not as representatives of any organizations for whom they may otherwise be serving. Members will be selected from among knowledgeable experts and veterans with special competence to evaluate the genomic medicine needs of the Department.

Members will serve staggered three year terms, with initial terms of variable length in order to establish a staggered sequence of appointments. Members may be reappointed for an additional three year term. The Committee will be composed of approximately fifteen (15) members. Several members may be Regular Government Employees (RGE), but the majority of the Panel's membership will be Special Government Employees (SGE).

G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS :

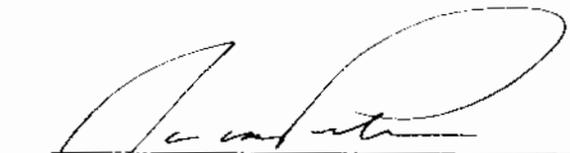
The estimated cost of operating the Committee is \$200,000 and 1/2 staff-year. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee is expected to meet up to three times annually. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

I. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: None.

J. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

APPROVED:


James B. Peake, M.D.
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Date: 2/12/08