

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Research and Development
Clinical Science Research and Development Service
Minutes of the Cooperative Studies Scientific Merit Review Board (CSSMRB)**

The meeting was held at the Hotel Palomar, Washington, DC on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 and Wednesday, October 18, 2006. The Chairperson, George Machiedo, MD, presided.

CSSMRB members present

George Machiedo, MD - Chair
Warren Browner, MD, MPH
David Cohen, MD
Barry Davis, MD, PhD

Michael Domanski, MD
John Feussner, MD, MPH, FACP
Theodore Karrison, PhD
Sheryl F. Kelsey, PhD

Other attendees

LTC David Benedek, MD
Joel Gelfand, MD, MSCE
James Lowe, MD

Charles Marmar, MD (via teleconference)
Tom Wiegmann, MD

CSP study proponents (see attached agenda)

VACO ORD Staff present:

Timothy O'Leary, MD, PhD
Grant Huang, MPH, PhD
Theresa Gleason, PhD
Susan Stern, PhD

Bridgett Baer
Karen Hood
Kelli Potter
Blythe Ferguson
Lisa Holmes

Dr. Timothy O'Leary, Acting Director, Clinical Science Research & Development Service and Dr. Grant Huang, Deputy Director, Cooperative Studies Program (CSP), opened the General Session of the Cooperative Studies Scientific Merit Review Board (CSSMRB) at 8:30AM. Participants were welcomed and thanked for contributing their expertise in reviewing the proposals. Comments were made that the strength of CSP research is tied to the strong review process that CSSMRB provides. The CSSMRB was presented with an update of recently started CSP studies, completion of a CSP Coordinating Center review, and overall status of CSP. The Board was reminded of the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of privileged information and indicating conflicts of interest, if any.

The study review portion of the meeting was begun with Dr. Machiedo explaining the review process: the reviewers would meet in a closed session and give brief synopses of their comments on the proposals before the Board; study teams (proponents) are then brought in to make brief presentations to the Board; proponents are apprised of reviewer comments by Dr. Huang; and an interactive discussion with the CSSMRB follows. An Executive Session with only CSSMRB members follows to discuss recommendations for the study and to score it.

The review portion of the meeting progressed as scheduled. There were three new studies and two midterm/extension requests reviewed at the meeting.

New Submission:

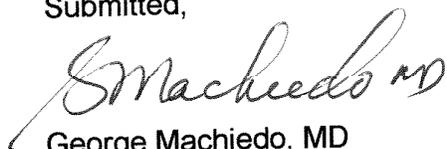
- CSP #562** "The VA Keratinocyte Carcinoma Chemoprevention Study"
- CSP #563** "Prazosin and Combat Trauma PTSD (PACT)"
- CAP #565** "Combination Angiotensin Receptor Blocker and Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitor for Treatment of Diabetic Nephropathy"

Midterm/Extension Review:

- CSP #474** "Radial Artery vs. Saphenous Vein Grafts in Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery"
- CSP #526** "DITPA, a Thyroid Hormone Analog to Treat Heart Failure: Phase II Trial"

The meeting concluded at 11:00 AM on October 18, 2006.

Submitted,



George Machiedo, MD
Chair CSSMRB