

**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 St. Gregory Hotel, Washington, DC on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. The Chairperson, George Machiedo, MD, presided.

**CSSMRB members present**

George Machiedo, MD - Chair	Theodore Karrison, PhD
Warren Browner, MD, MPH	Kieburtz, MD, MPH
Barry Davis, MD, PhD	Sheryl F. Kelsey, PhD
Michael Domanski, MD Karl	

**Other attendees**

William Dahut, MD	Jacqueline Pugh, MD
Bruce Dohrenwend, PhD	Robert Smith, PhD, FCCM
Jonathan Gurland	Timothy Wilt, MD, MPH (via teleconference)
Julie Kreyenbuhl, PharmD, PhD	
Barry Make, MD	

CSP study proponents (see attached agenda)

**VACO ORD Staff present:**

Timothy O'Leary, MD, PhD	Cheryl Oros, PhD
Grant Huang, MPH, PhD	Bridgett Baer
Theresa Gleason, PhD	Kelli Potter
Sumitra Muralidhar, PhD	Blythe Ferguson

Dr. Timothy O'Leary, 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 8:00AM. 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. Dr. O'Leary provided a program update to the CSSMRB including: status of the CSP budget; recent CSP accomplishments; newly funded studies; and a new initiative to create a centralized Internal Review Board (IRB).

Board members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the review of research proposals are considered to be privileged and confidential information.

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. A CSSMRB Executive Session follows to discuss recommendations for the study and to score it.

Jonathan Gurland conducted the annual CSSMRB ethics training and the Board was reminded of the importance of ethical conduct, maintaining the confidentiality of privileged information, and indicating conflicts of interest, if any.

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

**Submissions:**

**CSP #465** "Glycemic Control and Complications In Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 (VADT)"

**CSP #566** "Neuropsychological and Mental Health Outcomes of OIF: A Longitudinal Cohort Study"

**CSP #560** "Bronchitis and Emphysema Advice and Training to Reduce Hospitalization (BREATH)"

**Midterm/Extension Review:**

**CSP #553** "Chemotherapy After Prostatectomy for High Risk Prostate Carcinoma (CAP)"

**CSP #555** "Long-Acting Injectable Risperidone in the Treatment of Schizophrenia"

The next meeting was proposed to be held around May or June 2008. CSP Central Office staff will contact CSSMRB member to determine their schedules and coordinate the next meeting. The meeting concluded at 5:00 PM on December 12, 2007.

Submitted,



George Machiedo, MD  
Chair CSSMRB