

**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 International Square Center, Washington, DC on Wednesday, June 13, 2007. The Chairperson, George Machiedo, MD, presided.

CSSMRB members present

George Machiedo, MD - Chair
Warren Browner, MD, MPH (via
teleconference)
David Cohen, MD
Barry Davis, MD, PhD

Michael Domanski, MD
Theodore Karrison, PhD
Sheryl F. Kelsey, PhD

Other attendees

Joseph A. Boscarino, PhD, MPH
Nash Boutros, MD
John Feussner, MD, MPH, FACP

Karl Kieburtz, MD
Jeffrey Meyerhardt, MD, MPH

CSP study proponents (see attached agenda)

VACO ORD Staff present:

Timothy O'Leary, MD, PhD
Grant Huang, MPH, PhD
Theresa Gleason, PhD
Karen Hood

Bridgett Baer
Kelli Potter
Blythe Ferguson
Phyllis Widemon, MBA

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 given a program update including: status of the CSP Coordinating Centers; recent CSP accomplishments; newly funded studies; and new initiatives related to information technology standardization, study budgeting, and Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. The Board was reminded of the importance of ethical conduct, maintaining the confidentiality of privileged information, and indicating conflicts of interest, if any. Two CSSMRB members, John Feussner, MD, MPH, FACP and David Cohen, MD were presented with certificates of recognition in completing their terms on the Board and were thanked for their committed service.

Full details of CSSMRB actions are contained in the Summary Statements. 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. 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 studies and one midterm/extension request reviewed at the meeting.

Submissions:

- CSP #556** "The Effectiveness of rTMS in Depressed VA Patients"
- CSP #562** "The VA Keratinocyte Carcinoma Chemoprevention Trial: A Randomized Trial of Actinic Keratosis Treatment Modalities for the Prevention of Basal and Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Skin"
- CSP #569** "A Twin Study of the Course and Consequences of PTSD in Vietnam Era Veterans"

Midterm/Extension Review:

- CSP #380** "Prospective Evaluation of Risk Factors for Large Colonic Adenomas in Asymptomatic Subjects"

The next meeting was proposed to be held around October or November, 2007. CSP Central Office staff will contact CSSMRB member to determine their schedules and coordinate the next meeting. The meeting concluded at 4:15 PM on June 13, 2007.

Submitted,



George Machiedo, MD
Chair CSSMRB