

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE  
SCIENTIFIC MERIT REVIEW BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**March 6-8, 2007**

The Scientific Merit Review Board (SMRB) met from March 6– 8, 2007, for the purpose of reviewing research proposals at the Sir Francis Drake, 450 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

On March 6, 2007, the Director's opening session was held from 6:00 p.m. – 7 p.m. to present an overview of HSR&D, communicate changes to the review process, conflict of interest, and confidentiality and introduce HSR&D staff and the chairperson of each review group.

Six review subcommittees convened on March 7, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and five subcommittees convened on March 8, 2007, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (6), the meeting was scheduled to be open to the public from 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. on March 7, 2007. In accordance with Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. app.2), portions of the meeting concerned with matters exempt from mandatory disclosure were closed to the public.

The following observers were in attendance from the following VA HSR&D Centers:

**Palo Alto VA Medical Center**

Mandi Burnette, PhD  
Patricia Sinnott, PT, PhD, MPH  
Alexander Sox-Harris, PhD  
Christopher M. Weaver, PhD

**Sepulveda, CA**

Lynn Soban, PhD, RN

**San Francisco VA Medical Center**

Deborah Barnes, PhD  
Paul D. Varosy, MD

BUSINESS MEETING (Open to the Public)

1. Projected Dates of Future Meetings

August 21-23, 2007  
March 4-7, 2008

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were examined and approved by all chairpersons present at the meeting.

3. Presentations and Discussion

The first one half hour of the meeting on March 7, 2007 was open to the public. The chair or Scientific Review Administrator of each review group presented a brief orientation describing the review process.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS (Closed to the Public)

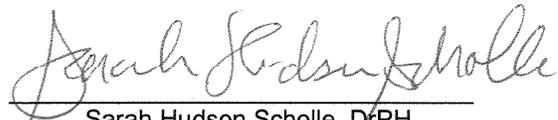
Members of the committee reviewed 128 research application proposals in six subcommittees. Representatives from all subcommittees discussed the recommendations of the respective groups on a post-meeting conference call on March 12, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Members of the committee left the room when applications from their own institutions were discussed or if other conflicts of interest pertained.

ADJOURNMENT

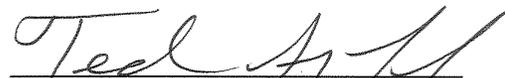
The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on March 7, 2007.

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.



Sarah Hudson Scholle, DrPH  
Co-chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.



Ted Speroff, PhD  
Co-chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.



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Sandeep Vijan, MD, MS  
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

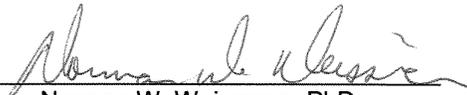
I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.



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Debra Wallace, PhD, RN  
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

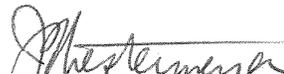
I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.



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Norman W. Weissman, PhD  
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.



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Joseph Westermeyer, PhD  
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board