

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

August 19 – 20, 2008

The Scientific Merit Review Board (SMRB) met August 19 & 20, 2008 for the purpose of reviewing research proposals at the **Hyatt Harborside, 101 Harborside Drive, Boston, MA 02128**.

One review subcommittee convened on August 19, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and five subcommittees convened on August 20, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (6), the meeting was scheduled to be open to the public on August 19, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., and on August 20, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. 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 present:

Group	Observer's Name	Facility
HSR-A	Stephanie Shimada	Bedford VAMC
HSR-B	DiJon Fasoli	Bedford VAMC
HSR-B	Eric Smith	Bedford VAMC
HSR-C	Terri Pogoda	Boston HCS
HSR-C	Mariana Gerena-Melia	Boston HCS
HSR-C	Adam Rose	Bedford VAMC
HSR-C	Len D'Avolio	Bedford VAMC
HSR-D	Christine Hartmann	Bedford VAMC
HSR-D	Jenny Sullivan	Boston HCS
HSR-D	Almas Dossa	Bedford VAMC
HSR-E	Keith McInnes	Bedford VAMC
HSR-E	Richard Hermann	COLMR Boston
HSR-E	Julia Prentice	Boston HCS
HSR-E	Errol Baker	Boston HCS
HSR-E	Allen Gifford	Bedford VAMC
NRI	DiJon Fasoli	Bedford VAMC
NRI	Cathy St. Pierre	Bedford VAMC

BUSINESS MEETING (Open to the Public)

1. Projected Dates of Future Meetings

March 2-4, 2009
August 18-20, 2009

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 August 19 & 20, 2008 was open to the public. The chair or Scientific Review Administrator of each review group presented a brief orientation describing the review process, presentation of the critiques at the meeting, group discussion and scoring of proposals, confidentiality, and conflict of interest guidance.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS (Closed to the Public)

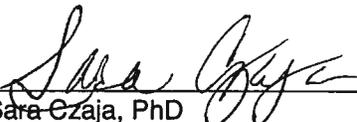
Members of the committee reviewed 103 research applications proposals in six subcommittees. Representatives from all subcommittees discussed the recommendations of the respective groups on a post-meeting conference call on September 4 at 2:00 p.m.

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 6:00 p.m. on August 20, 2008.

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



Sara Czaja, PhD
Senior Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

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



Steven Asch, MD
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.



Meg Johantgen, RN, 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.



Sarah Scholle, MPH, 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.



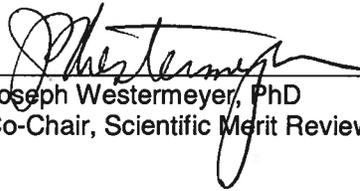
Sandeep Vijan, MD, MS
Co-chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

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



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.



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

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

MARCH 4-6, 2008

The Scientific Merit Review Board (SMRB) met March 4-6, 2008, for the purpose of reviewing research proposals at the **Phoenix Marriott Mesa, 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85201**.

Two review subcommittees convened on March 4, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and five subcommittees convened on March 5 & 6, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 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 to 8:00 a.m. on **March 4, 2008**. 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 present:

March 4, 2008, Joanne Herrington
March 5-6, 2008, Dawn Schwenke

BUSINESS MEETING (Open to the Public)

1. Projected Dates of Future Meetings

August 19-21, 2008
March 3-5, 2009

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 4, 2008, was open to the public. The chair or Scientific Review Administrator of each review group presented a brief orientation describing the review process, presentation of the critiques at the meeting, group discussion and scoring of proposals, confidentiality, and conflict of interest guidance.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS (Closed to the Public)

Members of the committee reviewed 125 research proposals in seven subcommittees. Representatives from all subcommittees will discuss the recommendations of the respective groups on a post-meeting conference call on March 18, 2008, at 2:00 p.m..

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 6, 2008.

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



Norman W. Weissman, PhD
Senior Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

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



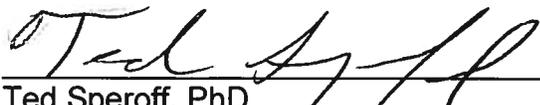
Sara Czaja, PhD
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

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



Sarah Hudson Scholle, MPH, 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.



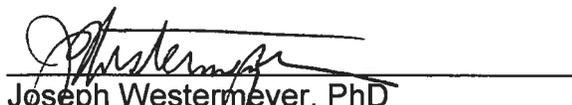
Ted Speroff, PhD
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

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



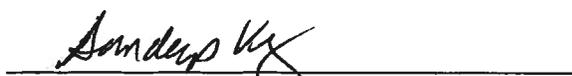
Debra Wallace, PhD, RN
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

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



Joseph Westermeyer, 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.



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