

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY/CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

**MINUTES OF THE FALL 2006 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY-A**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on November 13, 2006. It reconvened at 8:00 a.m. on November 14, 2006, and concluded at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Kalorama West Room at the Churchill Hotel, 1914 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Dr. William Lowe, presided over the meeting except for discussions of proposals for which he was in conflict.

PARTICIPANTS

Charles Billington, M.D., VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN
Mark S. Brownfield, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Terry Davies, M.D., FRCP, VA Medical Center, Bronx, NY
*Robert Henry, M.D., San Diego VA Healthcare System, San Diego, CA
Guy Howard, Ph.D., University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, FL
Mahmood Hussain, Ph.D., SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
Anjan Kowluru, Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Detroit, MI
*Frederic Kraemer, M.D., VA Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA
Feng Liu, Ph.D., Univ of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX
William Lowe, Jr., M.D., Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Bettina Mittendorfer, Ph.D., Washington University Medical School, St. Louis, MO
Richard Murphy, Ph.D., Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, NE
Liangyou Rui, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
*Mei-Chiung Shih, SCPCC, VA Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA
William Sivitz, M.D., VA Medical Center, Iowa City, IA
Janet De Hoff Sparks, Ph.D., University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
Peter Thule, M.D., VA Medical Center, Atlanta, GA
Terry Unterman, M.D., J. Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago, IL
James Walsh, M.D., Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN
Elizabeth Wilson, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

*Conference Call

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief Program Review, Research and Development
Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for
Endocrinology-A, Research and Development
Kristin Williams, Program Assistant, Research and Development
Sharnetta Bennett, Program Assistant, Research and Development

The minutes of the last meeting of the Subcommittee were read and approved.

Dr. Iqbal welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their cooperation. He highlighted the written guidelines for each scoring category and asked the members to use descriptors for evaluating the merit, rather than a single number. Dr. Iqbal informed the members that there will be a secondary level of review for significance and relevance of the proposed research to the VA mission. He stressed the need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements addressing significance, approach, and feasibility as they are the only basis of an appeal. He also reminded the Subcommittee of the VA policies of inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, confidentiality, and conflict of interest. Dr. Frey also emphasized the importance of detailed Summary Statements and indicated that about 20% of proposals would be funded based on current budget projections; however, this number might change, depending on the final budget.

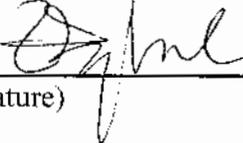
The dates of May 21-22, 2007, were established for the Spring 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 38 Merit Review Programs and 1 Merit Review Entry Program.

Four proposals were deemed not competitive and were not discussed or scored.

Full details of all Subcommittee actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Subcommittee. Subcommittee members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs are considered to be privileged information.

SUBMITTED:

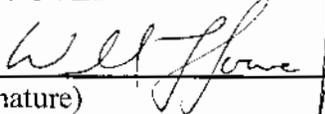


(Signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

Feb 28, 2007
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

WILLIAM LOWE, JR., M.D.
Chairperson

March 8, 2007
(Date)