

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 GASTROENTEROLOGY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on November 30, 2006. The meeting was held in Blush Room 207 and 209 at the Hotel Rouge, 1315-16th Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Dr. Raj Goyal, presided throughout the meeting except for discussion of proposals for which he was in conflict. During that time Dr. Sandra Erickson served as the chairperson.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pradeep K. Dudeja, Ph.D.
Sandra K. Erickson, Ph.D.
B. Mark Evers, M.D.
Richard J. Gilbert, M.D.
Raj K. Goyal, M.D.
William R. Gower, Jr., Ph.D.
Thomas Ma, M.D., Ph.D.
Joseph R. Pisegna, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Gianfranco Alpini, Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Temple, TX
David H. Berger, M.D., Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston, TX
Michael B. Fallon, M.D., Birmingham VA, Birmingham, AL

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Gastroenterology,
Research and Development
Brenda Bean, Program Assistant, Research and Development
Kristin Williams, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

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

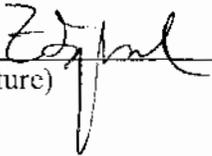
highlighted the written guidelines for each scoring category and asked the members to use descriptors for evaluating the merit, rather than a single number. Dr. Iqbal informed the members that there will be a secondary level of review for significance and relevance of the proposed research to the VA 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.

The dates of June 14-15, 2007, were established for the Spring 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 19 Merit Review Programs.

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:

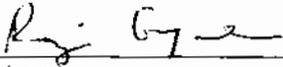


(Signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager
3/2/07

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

RAJ GOYAL, M.D.
Chairperson
3/14/07

(Date)