

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE**

The teleconference began at 12:00 noon and concluded at 3:30 p.m. on May 24, 2007. The meeting was held in Room 915 at VA Central Office, 1722 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Kathryn E. Meier, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

PARTICIPANTS

Donald K. Blumenthal, Ph.D., University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
Dedra S. Buchwald, M.D., University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Jeffrey A. Engler, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
Timothy Logan, Ph.D., Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
Victor F. Kalasinsky, Ph.D., U.S. Army, Washington, DC
Kathryn E. Meier, Ph.D., Washington State University, Pullman, WA
Mark J. Rieder, Ph.D., University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Michael J. Welch, Ph.D., Washington University, St. Louis, MO

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy G. Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Marilyn Mason, Ph.D., Acting Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for
Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Research and Development
Dante' S. Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development

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

Dr. Mason welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their help and cooperation. She thanked the Subcommittee for their work and indicated that the number of proposals funded would probably be between 10% and 20% depending on the availability of funds. Dr. Mason emphasized the importance of detailed Summary Statements with emphasis on significance, approach, and feasibility. She reminded the Subcommittee of the scoring guidelines and stressed that these categories should be used.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 8 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 privileged information.

SUBMITTED:

Marilyn Mason
(signature)

MARILYN MASON, PH.D.
Acting Portfolio Manager

(Date)

APPROVED:

Kathryn E. Meier
(signature)

KATHRYN E. MEIER, PH.D.
Chairperson

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR CARDIOVASCULAR STUDIES**

The meeting was held on May 21, 2007, at the Woodfin Suites Hotel, 1380 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD. The Chairperson, Edward J. Lesnefsky, Jr., M.D., presided throughout. The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS

Kathleen H. Berecek, Ph.D., University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
Paul J. Boor, M.D., University of Texas, Galveston, TX
Brian P. Delisle, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Neal S. Kleiman, M.D., FACC, The Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX
Anne A. Knowlton, M.D., Sacramento VA Medical Center, Davis, CA
Lih Kuo, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, Temple, TX
Kathryn G. Lamping, Ph.D. (Teleconference), VA Medical Center, Iowa City, IA
Douglass F. Larson, Ph.D., C.C.P., Arizona Health Sciences Center, Tucson, AZ
Edward J. Lesnefsky, Jr., M.D., FACC, Louis Stokes VA Medical Center, Cleveland, OH
Carlin S. Long, M.D., University of Colorado, Denver, CO
Jawahar L. Mehta, M.D., Ph.D., Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, Little
Rock, AR
Russell B. Melchert, Ph.D., University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR
Terrence X. O'Brien, M.D., M.S., FACC, VA Medical Center, Charleston, SC
Nalini Santanam, Ph.D., Marshall University, Huntington, WV
Krishna Singh, Ph.D., James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, Johnson City, TN
Francis G. Spinale, M.D., Ph.D., Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, Charleston, SC
W. Robert Taylor, M.D., Ph.D., Atlanta VA Medical Center, Atlanta, VA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Zaheer Parvez, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee
for Cardiovascular Studies, Research and Development
Denise Jones, Program Assistant, Research and Development
Verna Cozier-Louis, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

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

Dr. Parvez welcomed the Subcommittee and had members introduce themselves. He thanked the Subcommittee members for their work and then presented written text of subcommittee instructions to the members.

The date of November 30, 2007, was established for the Fall 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 32 Merit Review proposals.

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. The Subcommittee members were asked to read and sign the VA Post-Review Certification form describing confidentiality and non-disclosure as well as conflict of interest.

SUBMITTED:



(Signature)

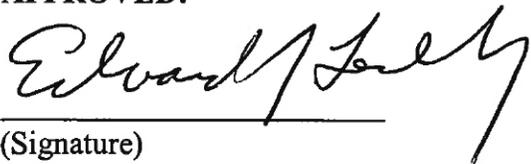
ZAHEER PARVEZ, PH.D.

Portfolio Manager

5/23/07

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

EDWARD J. LESNEFSKY, M.D., FACC

Chairperson

6/4/07

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The teleconference began at 11:00 a.m. and concluded at 2:30 p.m. on June 6, 2007. The meeting was held at VA Central Office in Room 915 at 1722 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Steven Goldman, M.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven Goldman, M.D.
Joseph F. Collins, Sc.D.
John Concato, M.D.
Brack G. Hattler, Jr., M.D.
Gary Johnson, M.S.

Kelvin K. Lee, Ph.D.
Domenic J. Reda, Ph.D.
Richard Ross, MD, Ph.D.
Eric C. Westman, M.D., M.H.S.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Andrew Winokur, M.D., Ph.D.
Domenic A. Sica, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANTS

Nancy A. Dawson, M.D., University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD
Laura M. Dember, MD, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
Mark A. Lumley, Ph.D., Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Pasquale J. Palumbo, MD, MACP, MACE, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine,
Scottsdale, AZ
Linda Snetselaar, RD, Ph.D., LD, University Of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Sumitra Muralidhar, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for the
Clinical Research Program, Research and Development
Harry Crosland, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

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

Dr. Muralidhar welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their help and cooperation. She emphasized the importance of detailed Summary Statements with emphasis on significance, approach, and feasibility. Dr. Muralidhar reminded the Subcommittee of the scoring guidelines and the procedural aspects of review, including confidentiality of the proceedings and monitoring conflicts.

The date of December 5, 2007, was established for the Fall 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 9 Merit Review Programs.

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)

SUMITRA MURALIDHAR, PH.D
Portfolio Manager

7/17/07

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

STEVEN GOLDMAN, M.D.
Chairperson

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY-A**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on May 21, 2007. It reconvened at 8:00 a.m. on May 22, 2007, and concluded at noon. The meeting was held in the Cardinal Rooms 1 and 2 at The Radisson Hotel Crystal City, 2020 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Dr. William Lowe, presided over the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Charles Billington, M.D.
Guy Howard, Ph.D.
Mahmood Hussain, Ph.D.
William Lowe, Jr., M.D.

William Sivitz, M.D.
Janet De Hoff Sparks, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Wilson, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

*Terry Davies, M.D.
*Robert Henry, M.D.

Anil Sood, M.D.
Terry Unterman, M.D.

* Teleconference

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Mark S. Brownfield, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Frederick Hamel, Ph.D., Professor, University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE
Chris Jenkinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Texas, San Antonio, TX
John Kane, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, University of California, San Francisco, CA
Anjan Kowluru, Ph.D., Sr. Research Scientist, VA Medical Center, Detroit, MI
Robert Lew, Ph.D. VA Medical Center, Boston, MA
Jeffrey Thomas Mason, Ph.D., Chairman, Armed Forces Institute, Rockville, MD
Bettina Mittendorfer, Ph.D., Washington University Medical School, St. Louis, MO
Liangyou Rui, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
James Sowers, M.D., Professor, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
James Walsh, M.D., Ph.D., Chief, Endocrinology Section, VA Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for
Endocrinology-A, Research and Development
Kristin Williams, Program Assistant, Research and Development
Brenda Bean, 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. Iqbal 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 December 10-11, 2007, were established for the Fall 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 36 Merit Review Programs.

Ten 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)

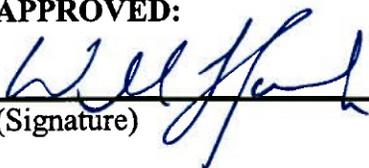
ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.

Portfolio Manager

7/23/07

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

WILLIAM LOWE, JR., M.D.

Chairperson

7/31/07

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY-B**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 2007. The meeting was held in the Beacon Overlook Room at the Beacon Hotel, 1615 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Dr. John M. Chirgwin, presided over the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John M. Chirgwin, Ph.D.
Stephen Harris, Ph.D.

Robert L. Jilka, Ph.D.
Dean T. Yamaguchi, M.D., Ph.D.

MEMBER ABSENT

Yousef Abu-Amer, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Robert W. Downs, Jr., M.D., Prof of Med, Virginia Commonwealth U, Richmond, VA
Robert Faccio, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Endocrinology, Washington
University, St. Louis, MO

Xu Feng, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pathology, University of Alabama,
Birmingham, AL

Merry Jo Oursler, Ph.D., Prof of Med, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN

Paul C. Schiller, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Med, VA Medical Center, Miami, FL

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Endocrinology-B,
Research and Development

Brenda Bean, 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 stressed the need for

explicit and detailed Summary Statements addressing significance, approach, and feasibility as they are the only basis of an appeal.

The date of November 5, 2007, was established for the Fall 2007 meeting.

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

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 14 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.

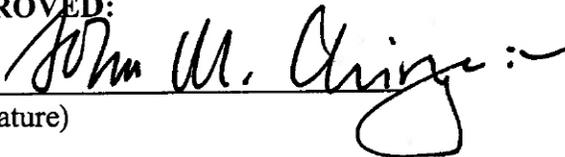
Portfolio Manager

7-19-2007

(Date)

APPROVED:

(Signature)



JOHN M. CHIRGWIN., PH.D.

Chairperson

7/27/2007

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY**

The teleconference began on May 29, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. and adjourned at 1 p.m. The meeting was held at VA Central Office, 1722 I Street, NW (Room 915), Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Michael Gaziano, MD, MPH, presided throughout the meeting.

PARTICIPANTS

Hanna Abboud, MD, Director, South Texas VA Medical Center, San Antonio, TX
Mary Brophy, MD, MPH, Professor, Boston VA Medical Center, Jamaica Plain, MA
Linda Fried, MD, MPH, VA Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA
David Gagnon, MD, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor, VA Medical Center, Boston, MA
Michael Gaziano, MD, MPH, Director, VA Medical Center, Jamaica Plain, MA
Stephen Holliday, PhD, ABPP, Chief of Psychology Service, VA Medical Center,
San Antonio, TX
Laurence Magder, PhD, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD
Tom Rector, PhD, VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN
Walter Rocca, MD, MPH, Professor, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Brenda Sirovich, MD, MS, VA Medical Center, White River Junction, VT

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Grant Huang, MPH, PhD, Deputy Director, Cooperative Studies Program, Research
and Development
Sumitra Muralidhar PhD, Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for the
Clinical Research Program, Research and Development
Kristin Williams, Program Assistant, Research and Development

Dr. Muralidhar welcomed the Subcommittee members and emphasized the importance of reviewing and scoring the proposals based on their scientific merit. The need for explicit and detailed Summary Statements was also emphasized, particularly for those proposals which would probably not receive funding. Dr. Muralidhar discussed procedural matters relating to the review, including the need for confidentiality and disclosure of conflicts.

The date of November 20, 2007, was established for the Fall 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 7 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)

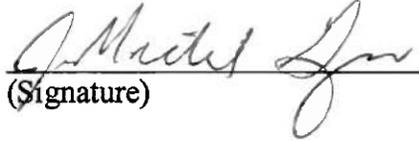
SUMITRA MURALIDHAR, PH.D.

Portfolio Manager

7/20/07

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

MICHAEL GAZIANO, MD, MPH

Chairperson

9/2/07

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE FOR GASTROENTEROLOGY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2007. The meeting was held in Degas Room at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, 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. Richard Gilbert served as the chairperson.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Gianfranco Alpini, Ph.D., Research Career Scientist, VA Medical Center, Temple, TX
*David H. Berger, M.D., Chief of Surgical Service, VA Medical Center, Houston, TX
Michael B. Fallon, M.D., Chief, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Birmingham VAMC,
Birmingham, AL
Tien C. Ko, M.D., Professor of Surgery, University of Texas, Houston, TX
Ali Keshavarzian, M.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Rush University, Chicago, IL
Gene David Lesage, M.D., Dir., Div. of Gastroenterology, Univ. of Texas, Houston, TX
Adhip N. Majumdar, Ph.D., D.Sc, Research Career Scientist, VA Medical Center,
Detroit, MI
Didier, Merlin, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
*Teleconference

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

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.

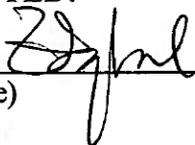
The date of December 6, 2007, was established for the Fall 2007 meeting.

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

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 25 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

7-19-07
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

RAJ GOYAL, M.D.
Chairperson

7-26-07
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HEMATOLOGY**

A Teleconference was held on May 18, 2007, at the VA Central Office, 1722 I Street, NW (Room 915), Washington, DC. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The Chairperson, Dr. Alan Gewirtz, presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alan M. Gewirtz, M.D.
Stephen Peiper, M.D.
Perumal Thiagarajan, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

H. Scott Boswell, Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Indianapolis, IL
Michael Bromberg, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Prof of Med, Temple Univ, Philadelphia, PA
Philip C. Comp, M.D., Ph.D., ACOS, VA Healthcare System, Oklahoma City, OK
Elizabeth A. Eklund, M.D., Staff Physician, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Robert Franco, Ph.D., Professor, Division of Hematology, Univ of Cincinnati Medical College, Cincinnati, OH
Ronald B. Gartenhaus, M.D., Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Baltimore, MD
Ulhas Naik, Ph.D, Associate Professor Cardiovascular & Cancer Biology Laboratory, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Hematology, Research and Development
Brenda Bean, 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 reminded the Subcommittee of the VA policies of inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, confidentiality, and conflict of interest.

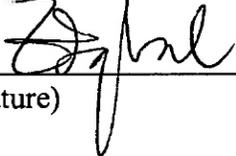
The date of November 9, 2007, was established for the Fall 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 12 Merit Review Programs.

Three 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)

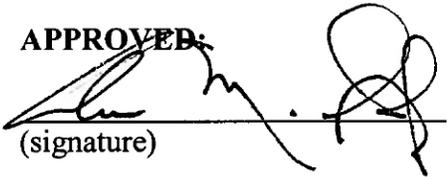
ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.

Portfolio Manager

7-19-07

(date)

APPROVED:



(signature)

ALAN M. GEWIRTZ, M.D.

Chairperson

8/4/2007

(date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR IMMUNOLOGY-A**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. on May 17, 2007, and concluded at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Lafayette meeting room at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Terry W. Duclos, M.D., Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry W. Duclos, M.D., Ph.D.
Harvinder S. Luthra, M.D.

Bruce C. Richardson, M.D., Ph.D.
Ann Rosenthal, M.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

John D. Mountz, M.D., Ph.D.
Linda Spatz, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Robert H. Carter, M.D., VA Medical Center, Birmingham, AL (Teleconference)
David I. Daikh, M.D., Ph.D., VA Medical Center, San Francisco, CA
Eric L. Greidinger, M.D., VA Medical Center, Miami, FL
David Hinrichs, Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Portland, OR

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Susan Stern, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Immunology-A,
Research and Development
Verna Cozier-Louis, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

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

Dr. Stern welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. She apprised the Subcommittee members of the conflict of interest policy and the confidentiality of the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Stern asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the

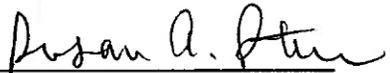
proposals and use the full range of priority scores. She emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The date of November 14, 2007, was set for the Fall 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 14 Merit Review Programs.

Full details of all Subcommittee actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Subcommittee.

SUBMITTED:


(Signature)

SUSAN STERN, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

7-17-07
(Date)

APPROVED:


(Signature)

TERRY W. DUCLOS, M.D., PH.D.
Chairperson

7-24-07
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR IMMUNOLOGY-B**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and recessed at 3:30 p.m. on June 5, 2007. The meeting was held in the Cardinal 1 and 2 Meeting Room at the Radisson Crystal City Hotel, 2020 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Dale L. Greiner, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stefano Fiore, M.D.
Kohtaro Fujihashi, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Dale L. Greiner, Ph.D.
Mark L. Jordan, M.D.

David H. Margulies, M.D., Ph.D.
Bimal K. Ray, Ph.D.
Tong Zhou, M.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

P. Sriramarao, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Geri Brown, M.D., VA Medical Center, Dallas, TX
Stefania Gallucci, M.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Ruby Ghadially, M.D., Ch.B., FRCP, VA Medical Center, San Francisco, CA
Jin Mo Park, Ph.D., MA General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, MA
Daniel Salmon, Ph.D., University of South Florida, Gainesville, FL (Teleconference)
David Ucker, Ph.D., University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Susan Stern, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Immunology-B,
Research and Development
Verna Cozier-Louis, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

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

Dr. Stern welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication.

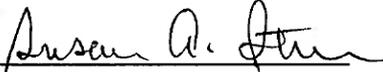
She apprised the Subcommittee members of the conflict of interest policy and the confidentiality of the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Stern asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and use the full range of priority scores. She then emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The date of November 30, 2007, was set for the Fall 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 16 Merit Review Programs.

Full details of all Subcommittee actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Subcommittee.

SUBMITTED:


(Signature)

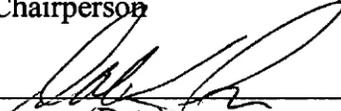
SUSAN STERN, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

7-17-07
(Date)

APPROVED:

(Signature)

DALE L. GREINER, PH.D.
Chairperson

 7/23/07
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES-A**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 2:30 p.m. on May 10, 2007. The meeting was held at The Radisson Crystal City, 2020 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Suresh K. Arya, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Suresh K. Arya, Ph.D.

Jean Boyer, Ph.D.

Alexandra L. Howell, Ph.D.

Tomasz Laskus, M.D., Ph.D.

Luis J. Montaner, DVM, M.Sc., D.Phil

Robert L. Murphy, Ph.D.

Jay Rappaport, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Laura Beretta, Ph.D., Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA

Gary S. Hayward, Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine,
Baltimore, MD

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Susan Stern, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Infectious
Diseases-A, Research and Development

Dante' S. Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development

Kristin Williams, Program Assistant, Research and Development

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

Dr. Stern welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. She apprised the Subcommittee members of the conflict of interest policy and the confidentiality of the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Stern asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and to use the full range of priority scores. She emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The date of December 5, 2007, was established for the Fall 2007 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 8 Merit Review Programs.

Full details of all Subcommittee actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Subcommittee.

SUBMITTED:

Susan A. Stern
(signature)

SUSAN STERN, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

7-23-07
(Date)

APPROVED:

Suresh K. Arya
(signature)

SURESH K. ARYA, PH.D.
Chairperson

8.3.07
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2007 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES-B**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 3:30 p.m. on May 31, 2007. The meeting was held in the Director and Cabinet Rooms at The Double Tree-Washington, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Michael A. Apicella, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting except for the proposal with which he was in conflict.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael A. Apicella, M.D.
Peter F. Barnes, M.D.
Ronald E. Blanton, M.D.

Melanie T. Cushion, Ph.D.
James R. Johnson, M.D.
Thomas Russo, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Suzanne F. Bradley, M.D., VA Medical Center, Ann Arbor, MI
Caroline E. Cameron, Ph.D., University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
James E. Graham, Ph.D., University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
John E. Gustafson, Ph.D., New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM
(Conference Call)
Paul F. Lehmann, Ph.D., University of Toledo, Toledo, OH
Robert Munson, Ph.D., Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Timothy F. Murphy, M.D., VA Medical Center, Buffalo, NY
Pyong Woo Park, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Philip Rather, Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Decatur, GA
Louis B. Rice, M.D., VA Medical Center, Cleveland, OH
Akhil B. Vaidya, Ph.D., Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA (Conference Call)
Jonathan L. Vennerstrom, Ph.D., University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Susan Stern, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Infectious-B,
Research and Development
Dante' S. Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development
Kristin Williams, Program Assistant, Research and Development

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

Dr. Stern welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. She apprised the Subcommittee members of the conflict of interest policy and the confidentiality of the proceedings and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Stern asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and to use the full range of priority scores. She emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range. Dr. Stern also discussed the importance of substantive Summary Statements.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 26 Merit Review Programs and 1 Merit Review Entry Program.

Full details of all Subcommittee actions are contained in the Summary Statements prepared by the Subcommittee.

SUBMITTED:

Susan A. Stern
(signature)

SUSAN STERN, PH.D.

Portfolio Manager

7-23-07
(Date)

APPROVED:

Michael A. Apicella
(signature)

MICHAEL A. APICELLA, M.D.

Chairperson

7/31/07
(Date)