

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE**

The meeting was held by teleconference, which began at 12:00 noon and concluded at 3:30 p.m. on May 21, 2008. The Chairperson, Kathryn E. Meier, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Kathryn E. Meier, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Donald K. Blumenthal, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Jeffrey A. Engler, Ph.D., Associate Dean, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Werner Kaminsky, Ph.D., Professor, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Dennis H. Oh, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of California, San Francisco, CA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Joseph Webster, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for
Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Research and Development
Dante S. Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVERS

None

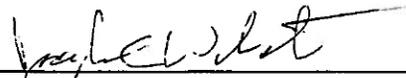
The minutes of the last meeting of the Subcommittee were read and approved.

Dr. Webster welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their help and cooperation. Dr. Webster emphasized the importance of detailed Summary Statements with emphasis on significance, approach, and feasibility. He 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 2 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:



(signature)

JOSEPH WEBSTER, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

21 June, 2008
(Date)

APPROVED:



(signature)

KATHRYN E. MEIER, PH.D.
Chairperson

8/5/08
(Date)

WEBSTER
RECEIVED

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR CARDIOVASCULAR STUDIES**

The meeting was held on May 19, 2008, at the Westin Hotel (Ashlawn North Meeting Room), 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Terrence X. O'Brien, M.D., presided throughout. The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Clive M. Baumgarten, Ph.D., FAHA	Kathryn G. Lamping, Ph.D.
Kathleen H. Berecek, Ph.D.	Carlin S. Long, M.D.
Paul J. Boor, M.D.	Jawahar L. Mehta, M.D., Ph.D.
David Feldman, M.D., Ph.D., FACC, FAH	Francis J. Miller, Jr., M.D.
Joseph A. Hill, M.D., Ph.D.	Judy Muller-Delp, Ph.D.
Anne A. Knowlton, M.D.	Terrence X. O'Brien, M.D., M.S., FACC
David D. Ku, M.D.	Francis G. Spinale, M.D., Ph.D., FACC

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

None

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Gregory Brower, Associate Professor, DVM, Ph.D., University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Brian P. Delisle, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Travis Hein, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Texas A & M Health Science Center, Temple, TX

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief Program Review, Research and Development
Zaheer Parvez, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for Cardiovascular Studies, Research and Development
Kristin Williams-Curtis, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVER(S)

None

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

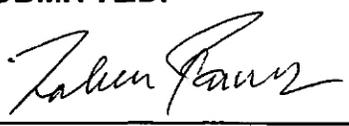
Dr. Parvez welcomed the Subcommittee and had members introduce themselves. He thanked the Subcommittee members for their work and then presented written text of Subcommittee instructions to the members. Dr. Frey thanked the members for their hard work and presented Certificates of Appreciation to Dr. Boor and Dr. Baumgarten.

The date of November 17, 2008, was established for the Fall 2008 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 39 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:



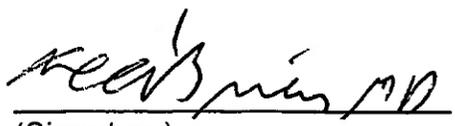
(Signature)

ZAHEER PARVEZ, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

7/10/08

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

TERRENCE X. O'BRIEN, M.D., M.S., FACC
Chairperson

7/14/08

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM**

The teleconference began at 8:00 a.m. and concluded at 2:00 p.m. on May 22, 2008. The meeting was held at Marriott Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, 22202. The Chairperson, Steven Goldman, M.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven Goldman, M.D.
Brack G. Hattler, Jr., M.D.
Pasquale J. Palumbo, M.D.
Domenic J. Reda, Ph.D.
Domenic Sica, M.D.
Eric C. Westman, M.D., M.H.S.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

None

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Stephen E. Borst, Ph.D., Malcolm Randall Medical Center, Gainesville, FL
Carole Berger, Ph.D., Yale University, New Haven, CT
William G. Cheadle, M.D., Louisville VAMC, Louisville, KY
Joseph F. Collins, Sc.D., VA Maryland Health Care System, Perry Point, MD
Douglas P. Gibson, Psy.D., Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center,
Richmond, VA
James R. Jett, M.D., Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Gary Johnson, M.S., VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, CT
Kelvin K. Lee, Ph.D., Palo Alto VA HCS, Menlo Park, CA
Sherven Sharma, Ph.D., VAGLAHS, Los Angeles, CA
Richard K. Sterling, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G., Virginia Commonwealth University,
Richmond, VA
Richard C.K. Wong, M.D., University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH

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 9, 2008, was established for the Fall 2008 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)

SUMITRA MURALIDHAR, PH.D
Portfolio Manager

6/27/08

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

STEVEN GOLDMAN, M.D.
Chairperson

7/2/08

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE JOINT MEETING OF MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEES FOR ENDOCRINOLOGY-A AND ENDOCRINOLOGY-B**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on May 11, 2008. It reconvened at 8:00 a.m. on May 12, 2008, and concluded at noon. The meeting was held in the Quorum Meeting Room at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Dr. William Sivitz, presided over the meeting, except during the proceeding when he was in conflict. During that time Dr. Robert Jilka served as the Chairperson.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Davies, M.D.
*Roberta Faccio, Ph.D.
Frederick Hamel, Ph.D.
Stephen Harris, Ph.D.
*Robert Henry, M.D.
Mahmood Hussain, Ph.D.
Chris Jenkinson, Ph.D.
Robert L. Jilka, Ph.D.
Maria Lopes-Virella, M.D., Ph.D.

Jeffrey Thomas Mason, Ph.D.
Betinna Mittendofer, Ph.D.
Merry Jo Oursler, Ph.D.
Venessa Routh, Ph.D.
*Paul C. Schiller, Ph.D.
William Sivitz, M.D.
Janet De Hoff Sparks, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Wilson, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Thomas Clemens, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Mark S. Brownfield, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
John Chirgwin, Ph.D., Professor, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Robert Downs, Jr., Ph.D., Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University,
Richmond, VA
Anjan Kowluru, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, VA Medical Center, Detroit, MI
David Scheingart, M.D., Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Feng Xu, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
*James Walsh, M.D., Ph.D., Chief, Endocrinology Section, VAMC, Indianapolis, IN
Neil Weitzman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
*Teleconference

VACO STAFF PRESENT

Ronald Przygodzki, M.D., Acting Director, Biomedical Laboratory R&D Service
LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for
Endocrinology-A and 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 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. Drs. Przygodzki and Frey also thanked the Merit Review Subcommittee members for their support and hard work.

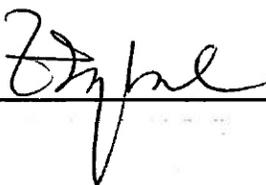
The dates of December 8, 2008 and December 1, 2008, were established for the Fall 2008 meetings of Endocrinology-A and Endocrinology-B Subcommittees, respectively.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 33 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:



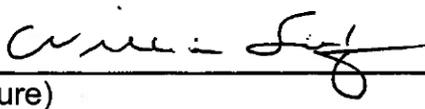
(Signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

7/18/08

(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

WILLIAM SIVITZ, M.D.
Chairperson

7/13/08

(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY**

The teleconference began on June 3, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 2 p.m. The meeting was held at VA Central Office, 1722 I Street, NW (Room 300), Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Michael Gaziano, MD, MPH, presided throughout the meeting, except for those proposals for which he was in conflict.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laurence Magder, PhD
Brenda Sirovich, MD, MS

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Linda Fried, MD, MPH

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Mary Brophy, MD, MPH, Staff Physician, Boston VA Healthcare System, Jamaica Plain, MA
Gheorghe Doros, PhD, Co-Director of Biostatistics, Boston University, Boston, MA
Jeffrey Fink, MD, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD
Michael Gaziano, MD, MPH, Director of MAVERIC, Boston VA Healthcare System, Jamaica Plain, MA
Stephen Holliday, PhD, ABPP, Chief of Psychology Service, VA Medical Center, San Antonio, TX
Hermant Kulkarni, MD, Assistant Professor, University of Texas, San Antonio, TX
Joseph Pisegna, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine, VA Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA
James Poling, PhD, Assistant Professor, Yale University, New Haven, CT
Dawn Provenzale, MD, MS, Staff Physician, VA Medical Center, Durham, NC

VACO STAFF PRESENT

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

OBSERVERS

None

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 December 5, 2008, was established for the Fall 2008 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 6 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, PHD
Portfolio Manager

7/10/08
(Date)

APPROVED:


(Signature)

MICHAEL GAZIANO, MD, MPH
Chairperson

7/10/08
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE FOR GASTROENTEROLOGY**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on June 12, 2008. The meeting was held at The Westin City Center Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Dr. Thomas Ma, presided throughout the meeting, except during the proceedings when he was in conflict. During that time Dr. Ali Keshavarzian served as the Chairperson.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gianfranco Alpini, Ph.D.	William R. Gower, Jr., Ph.D.
Sandra K. Erickson, Ph.D.	Ali Keshavarzian, M.D.
B. Mark Evers, Ph.D.	Thomas Ma, M.D., Ph.D.
*Michael B. Fallon, M.D.	Joseph R. Pisegna, M.D.
Richard J. Gilbert, M.D.	

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Michael K. Jones, Ph.D., Research Health Science Specialist, VA Medical Center, Long Beach, CA
Patricia Latham, M.D., Associate Professor of Pathology, George Washington University, Washington, DC
Gene David Lesage, M.D., Dir., Div. of Gastroenterology, University of Texas, Houston, TX
Hala Makhlof, M.D., Ph.D., Staff Pathologist, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, DC
Toan D. Nguyen, M.D., Staff Physician, Puget Sound VA Health Care System, Seattle, WA
Shanthi V. Sitaraman, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Richard Sterling, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Jian-Ying Wang, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Surgery, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD
*Teleconference

VACO STAFF PRESENT

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.

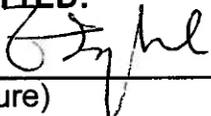
The date of November 20, 2008, was established for the Fall 2008 meeting.

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

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.

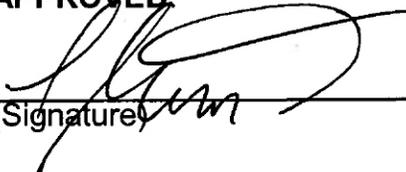
SUBMITTED:



(Signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager
7/18/08
(Date)

APPROVED:



(Signature)

THOMAS MA, M.D., PH.D.
Chairperson
8/5/08
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE
MERIT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE FOR HEMATOLOGY**

The meeting began 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on May 16, 2008. The meeting was held in the Degas Meeting Room at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Dr. Stephen Peiper, presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Bromberg, M.D., Ph.D.
Philip C. Comp, M.D., Ph.D.
Elizabeth A. Eklund, M.D.
Peter D. Emanuel, M.D.
Alan M. Gewirtz, M.D.
Pankaj Gupta, M.D.
Stephen Peiper, M.D.
Perumal Thiagarajan, M.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Ronald B. Gartenhaus, M.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Stephen Brandt, M.D., VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN
*Gary Gilbert, M.D., Boston Healthcare System, Boston, MA
Maureen Hoffman, M.D., Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Durham, NC
*Michael J. Welch, Ph.D., Washington University School of Medicine,
St. Louis, MO
*Teleconference

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
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. Dr. Frey also reminded the Subcommittee of the VA policies of inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, confidentiality, conflict of interest, and travel documents.

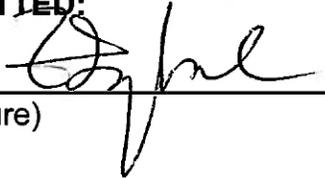
The date of November 14, 2008, was established for the Fall 2008 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 15 Merit Review Programs.

Seven 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.

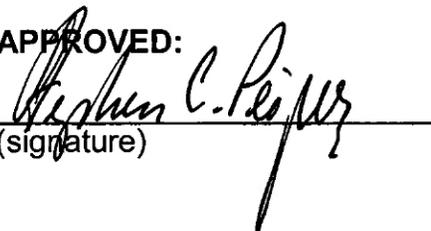
SUBMITTED:



(signature)

ZAFAR IQBAL, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager
7/18/08
(date)

APPROVED:



(signature)

STEPHEN PEIPER, M.D.
Chairperson
08/01/08
(date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR IMMUNOLOGY-A**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. on May 20, 2008, and concluded at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Virginia Meeting Room at The Marriott Crystal City Hotel, 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The Chairperson, Bruce C. Richardson, MD, PhD, presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Hinrichs, PhD
Bruce C. Richardson, MD, PhD

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Terry W. Duclos, MD, PhD
Andrew Kang, MD
John D. Mountz, MD, PhD

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

David I. Daikh, MD, PhD, VA Medical Center, San Francisco, CA
Eric L. Greidinger, MD, VA Medical Center, Miami, FL (teleconference)
James C. Oates, MD, VA Medical Center, Charleston, SC
Chander Raman, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
Edward F. Rosłonec, PhD, VA Medical Center, Memphis, TN

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, PhD, Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Susan Stern, PhD, 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, 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, 2008, was set for the Fall 2008 meeting. Immunology-A and Immunology-B Subcommittees will be combined into one Immunology Subcommittee starting on that date.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 11 Merit Review Programs.

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

SUBMITTED:

Susan A. Stern, PhD
(Signature)

SUSAN A. STERN, PHD
Portfolio Manager

July 9, 2008
(Date)

APPROVED:

Bruce C. Richardson, MD, PhD
(Signature)

BRUCE C. RICHARDSON, MD, PHD
Chairperson

7/15/2008
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 MEETING OF THE MERIT REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR IMMUNOLOGY-B**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. and recessed at 12:30 p.m. on June 13, 2008. The meeting was held in Lafayette Meeting Room at The L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC. The Chairperson, Dale L. Greiner, PhD, presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kohtaro Fujihashi, DDS, PhD
Dale L. Greiner, PhD
Mark L. Jordan, MD
David H. Margulies, MD, PhD

Arnold E. Postlethwaite, MD
Bimal K. Ray, PhD
Virginia L. Shepherd, PhD

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Geri Brown, MD (teleconference)

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Daniel W. Carr, PhD, VA Medical Center, Portland, OR
Patrick M. Flood, PhD, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
Ruby Ghadially, MD, ChB, FRCP, VA Medical Center, San Francisco, CA
Jeffrey C. Rathmell, PhD, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, PhD, Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Susan Stern, PhD, 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, the confidentiality of the proceedings, and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs.

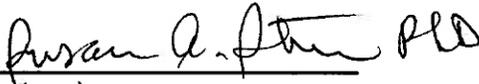
Dr. Stern asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and use the full range of priority scores. She then emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The date of November 14, 2008, was set for the Fall 2008 meeting. Immunology-A and Immunology-B Subcommittees will be combined into one Immunology Subcommittee starting on that date.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 15 Merit Review Programs.

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

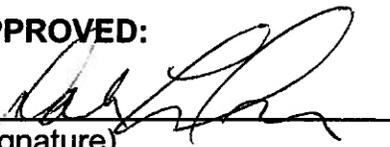
SUBMITTED:


(Signature)

SUSAN A. STERN, PHD
Portfolio Manager

July 9, 2008
(Date)

APPROVED:


(Signature)

DALE L. GREINER, PHD
Chairperson

July 17, 2008
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 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 23, 2008. The meeting was held at The Westin Washington, DC City Center Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. The Chairperson, Suresh K. Arya, Ph.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Suresh K. Arya, Ph.D.
Laura Beretta, Ph.D.
Jean Boyer, Ph.D.
Alexandra L. Howell, Ph.D.
Tomasz Laskus, M.D., Ph.D.
Luis J. Montaner, DVM, MSc, DPhil
Robert L. Murphy, M.D.
Jay Rappaport, Ph.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

David H. Schwartz, M.D., Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Charles Fulhorst, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Texas Medical
Branch, Galveston, TX
Sonia Navas-Martin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Drexel University College of
Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
Ruby Wong, Ph.D., Biostatistician, VA Palo Alto Healthcare System, Menlo Park,
CA

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Sumitra Muralidhar, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for
Infectious Diseases-A, 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. Frey welcomed the Subcommittee members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication. He apprised the Subcommittee members of the conflict of interest policy, the confidentiality of the proceedings, and recommendations pertaining to the merit review of component research programs. Dr. Frey asked them to focus on the scientific merit of the proposals and to use the full range of priority scores. He emphasized the importance of explicit and detailed Summary Statements, especially for those proposals that receive scores outside the funding range.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 10 Merit Review Programs.

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

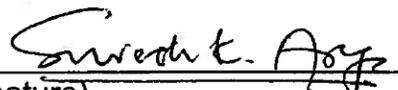
SUBMITTED:



(signature)

SUMITRA MURALIDHAR, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager
7/23/08
(Date)

APPROVED:



(signature)

SURESH K. ARYA, PH.D.
Chairperson
8/2/08
(Date)

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2008 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 28, 2008. The meeting was held at The Marriott Crystal City, 1999 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. The Chairperson, Timothy F. Murphy, M.D., presided throughout the meeting.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT

Peter F. Barnes, M.D.
Suzanne F. Bradley, M.D.
Melanie T. Cushion, Ph.D.
James R. Johnson, M.D.
Timothy F. Murphy, M.D.

MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Kasturi Haldar, Ph.D.
Malak Kotb, Ph.D.

AD HOC CONSULTANT(S)

Caroline E. Cameron, Ph.D., Professor, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
Hattie D. Gresham, Ph.D., Research Investigator, VA Medical Center,
Albuquerque, NM
*Christopher L. King, M.D., Ph.D., Staff Physician, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA
Medical Center, Cleveland, OH
Robert Munson, Ph.D., Professor, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Pyong Woo Park, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston,
MA
Philip Rather, Ph.D., Research Career Scientist, VA Medical Center, Decatur,
GA
Gregory A. Taylor, Ph.D., Research Investigator, VA Medical Center, Durham,
NC
Peter R. Williamson, M.D., Ph.D., Staff Physician, Jesse Brown VA Medical
Center, Chicago, IL

* Telephone Participant

VACO STAFF PRESENT

LeRoy G. Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review, Research and Development
Susan A. Stern, Ph.D., Portfolio Manager, Merit Review Subcommittee for
Infectious Diseases-B, Research and Development
Dante' S. Wells, Program Assistant, Research and Development

OBSERVERS

None

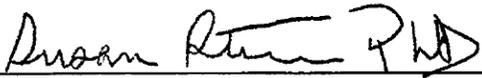
The minutes of the last meeting of the Subcommittee were read and approved.

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 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 remainder of the meeting was devoted to the review of 23 Merit Review Programs.

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

SUBMITTED:



(signature)

SUSAN A. STERN, PH.D.
Portfolio Manager

(Date)

APPROVED:



(signature)

TIMOTHY F. MURPHY, M.D.
Chairperson

(Date)