

**Minutes of the Department of Veterans Affairs
Rehabilitation Research and Development Service**

Rehab R& D Service Scientific Merit Review Advisory Board Meeting

**August 28 -29, 2008
September 3 – 4, 2008
The Madison, a Lowes Hotel
15th and M Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20005**

The first part of the meeting was opened at the Madison Hotel on Thursday August 28, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was reconvened on Friday, August 29, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The second part of the meeting was opened at the Madison Hotel, on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was reconvened on Thursday, September 4, 2008 and adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The meetings were announced in the Federal Register as required. The Board approved the Minutes of February, 2008 review meeting. Two VA observers were present: Neal Eckrich, Program Analyst and Billie Randolph, Deputy Director Chief of Prosthetics.

VA Staff in attendance: Brenda Bean, Kristen Williams, Terrilynn Carlton, MPH, Patricia Dorn, PhD, Wijegupta Elleopola, Ricardo Gonzalez, Aaron Hoop, Robert Jaeger, Audrey Kalehua, Victoria Mongiardo, Thomas Pierce, Ph.D, Rashelle Robinson, Odessa Riveria, Michael Selzer, MD, Sunil Sen-Gupta, Linda Simmons, and Gloria Winford.

Michael Selzer, MD, Director welcomed and thanked the Board members for their participation. Dr Selzer provided a brief program overview and update on R&D activities.

Patricia Dorn, PhD, Deputy Director commented on procedural issues as well as instructions on the review process to be followed during the meetings.

Albert LO, MD served as Chair for the first session. Dr. Lo welcomed members and reviewed the scope of work for the first part of the meeting.

Anne Spungen, Ed.D served as Chair for the second session. Dr. Spungen welcomed members, and reviewed the scope of work for the second part of the meeting.

The Board was asked to review a total of **143** proposals, including Career Development Applications. Conflict of Interest forms and Ethics material (Included in reviewers' packets) were pointed out for the members to review and sign.

Board members were informed that the proceedings and recommendations of merit review deliberations are considered privileged information. Members were instructed to absent themselves from discussions or recommendations of proposals where a potential conflict existed. Each member signed a Conflict of Interest Statement. A paper issued by VA General Counsel on "The Rules for Advisory Committee Members" was distributed by mail prior to the meeting.

Board Recommendations:

Proposals were distributed among 11 Review Panels and reviewed during the two sessions. A Summary Statement reflecting the recommendations of the Board was prepared for each proposal. Proposals were rated on scientific and program relevance. The Summary Statements along with the individual reviewer's reports for each proposal were collected. Each proposal was scored by ballot and a signed score sheet was collected from each reviewer.

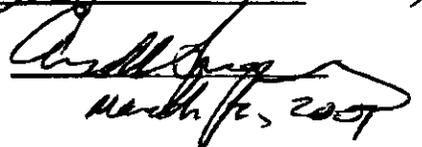
Of the 143 applications reviewed, 52 applications received a score within the fundable range and/or within a high priority program relevancy range and 91 applications received a score within the non-fundable range.

A List of the Scientific Review Board and Ad Hoc review members in attendance is attached.

The next Merit Review Board Meeting is scheduled on March, 2 - 3, 2009, Crystal Gateway Hotel, Arlington, VA

Submitted by 
Terri Carlton, MPH
Designated Federal Officer

Approved by:
Albert Lo, MD, Ph.D.
Chair Session I
Anne Spungen, Ed.D.
Chair, Session II


March 2, 2009

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