

Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee

Ethics and Law Subcommittee Minutes: Friday, January 15, 2010

A meeting of the Ethics and Law Subcommittee of the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee "Subcommittee" was held on Friday, January 15, 2010, at the offices of Connecticut Innovations, 200 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Call to Order: Chairperson Stephen Latham, J.D., Ph.D. called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Members present: Audrey Chapman, Ph.D., Lisa Newton, Ph.D., Maurice Jeremiah Mahoney, M.D., J.D., Ph.D. (phone), Anne Hiskes, Ph.D. (phone), Ann Kiessling, Ph.D. (phone).

Absent: Lori Gruen, Ph.D.

Other attendees: Marianne Horn (DPH) and Chelsey Sarnecky (CI).

- Opening Remarks:** An update on the status of CT's stem cell funding was provided by DPH and CI. Review of current applications is on hold until funding for this round is secured. It isn't clear yet whether a special legislative session will be held in the next two weeks to address the budget deficit. Regular session is scheduled to begin Wednesday, February 3, 2010.
- Approval of minutes from November 20, 2009 meeting:** Minutes were approved with one change: Lisa Newton was present at the November meeting.
- Changes to Verification form filled out by PI's re: NIH lines for purposes of state-funded research:** The CT hESC lines (CT1 and CT2) have been submitted to NIH, although it appears from the website that the submission is still in draft form. Audrey Chapman will follow up.
Discussion was held about the status of NIH approval of lines for the NIH stem cell registry. NIH has made two rounds of decisions and is being conservative in its interpretation of the scope of informed consent. Harvard has decided not to follow the NIH determination that the Melton lines developed at Harvard are only approved for certain pancreatic and diabetes related research.
CT ESCROs may decide that a line meets the CT standards even if not approved by NIH; ESCROs may also determine that a line has been "acceptably derived" if developed out of state but in no event may lines where a donor was compensated be used in CT. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's (CIRM) policy on this issue was handed out. The Subcommittee will continue to track the NIH decisions.
- Other states- regulation of the derivation of human gametes from iPS cells:** CIRM's policy on this issue was distributed. CIRM requires such activities to be justified to and approved by an institution's SCRO. Audrey Chapman polled ESCRO/SCROs across the country and found wide variation in how iPS research is regulated. In CT, ESCROs at Yale and UCONN, UCHC expect to be notified if these derivatives are engaged in. Audrey thinks it would be helpful to derive a shared policy in advance for both iPS and hESC. The Subcommittee indicated support for this topic being explored further at a statewide ESCRO meeting. Steve Latham will investigate the possibility of doing something at Yale in the spring.

5. **Next meeting dates:** Friday, February 19 (may be cancelled if no further decisions by NIH have been made) and Friday, March 12, from 9-10:30 at CI.
6. **Other Business:** An announcement was made about a Wesleyan program on January 29 from 9-5: Stem Cells into the Clinic: Biological, Ethical, and Regulatory Concerns.
7. **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.