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FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

CONNECTICUT STEM CELL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Tuesday – March 18, 2014

A regular meeting of the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee “Advisory Committee” was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at the offices of Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Call to Order: There being a quorum present the meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. Members present: Richard H. Dees Ph.D (by phone); Sandra Engle, Ph.D. (by phone); Gerald Fishbone, M.D; David Goldhamer, Ph.D.; Robert Grosso; Ronald Hart, Ph.D. (by phone); James Hughes, Ph.D. (by phone); Diane Krause, M.D., Ph.D. (by phone); Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.; and Milton B. Wallack, D.D.S.

Members absent: Treena Livingston Arinzeh, Ph.D.; Christopher Heinen, Ph.D.; Ann Kiessling, Ph.D; and Paul Pescatello, J.D., Ph.D.

Other Attendees: Isolde Bates (UCONN-by phone); Terri Clark (CASE); Ariel Drew (CI); Joseph Landry (CI); Rick Strauss (CASE); and Paula Wilson (Yale-by phone).

Opening Remarks

Mr. Grosso, President of Advanced Clinical Perspectives, was welcomed as a new member of the Advisory Committee. He spoke about his background and experience.

Ms. Leonardi introduced the Bioscience Innovation team members, Jeremy Crisp, Margaret Cartiera and Ariel Drew. The team members spoke about their experience and background.

Approval of Minutes – Advisory Committee Meeting

The Advisory Committee members reviewed the minutes from the January 21, 2014 meeting.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Fishbone, seconded by Dr. Wallack, the Advisory Committee members voted unanimously in favor of adopting the minutes from the January 21, 2014 regular meeting as presented. VOTE: 10-0-0 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Krause, Mullen and Wallack). **MOTION PASSED.**

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Legislative Update

Ms. Leonardi provided an update on the Governor's bill number 5042, "An Act Concerning the Regenerative Medicine Research Fund." She spoke about some of the advantages of combining the stem cell research fund with the Connecticut Bioscience Innovation Fund. She clarified that the intent of combining the funds is to take advantage of and expand on the strengths in the state and create efficiencies but not to move away from basic research. Mr. Crisp spoke about the potential to leverage private investments similar to what is being done around the country. Ms. Leonardi indicated the need to work on the structure of the bill and desired objectives. Dr. Wallack noted that he testified against the bill and expressed concerns with the reduction of emphasis on stem cell research and the Bioscience Advisory Committee having final jurisdiction. Ms. Leonardi stated that staff is working on modifications to the proposed legislation. In response to a question, Mr. Crisp described the areas which will hopefully be broadened in the proposed legislation. Ms. Leonardi noted the importance of having a strategic overlay, flexibility and the ability to grow.

Questions arose regarding potential royalties resulting from funding provided by the State. Attorney Horn noted the need to look at tracking and reporting on the filings and patents granted.

There being no objection, the order of the agenda was changed.

2014 Peer Review Process

Mr. Strauss provided an update on the peer review process. He noted that all peer reviewers participated in an orientation, and key points brought up by the Advisory Committee from last year's process were highlighted. Mr. Strauss explained some of the changes that will be made in this year's review. He talked about changes being made to the reconciliation process when there is a significant difference in the scores between the two peer reviewers. Mr. Strauss discussed the time frame for the study sections and noted that it is anticipated that the results of the peer review process will be available on or about April 14 and forwarded to the Advisory Committee members on or about April 22.

There was a discussion about changing the regularly scheduled April meeting to April 22 to discuss the plan and process for reviewing the grants at the June 9, 2014 Grant Review meeting.

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Annual Reports

Attorney Horn reminded the members who have conflicts to refrain from discussion and voting on those items.

Mr. Landry mentioned that annual reports were received for the following grants:

- 11SCA33, Dr. Qyang, principal investigator (Yale)
- 12-SCA-UCHC-06, Dr. Crocker, principal investigator
- 12-SCA-Yale-02, Dr. Slack, principal investigator

Some concern was expressed with some of the information provided in the report for grant 11SCA33. It was noted that the principal investigator lists all publications and all activities and does not differentiate the publications and activities related to the project funded with the grant. Guidance should be provided to the principal investigator on how to resubmit the annual report.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Dees, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of rejecting the annual report for grant 11SCA33, Dr. Qyang, principal investigator. VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause). **MOTION PASSED.**

There was a discussion on the lay summary for grant 12-SCA-UCHC-06. A comment was made that the lay summary does not describe what has been done on the project in comparison to the aims of the project.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Dees, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the annual report for grant 12-SCA-UCHC-06, Dr. Crocker, principal investigator, contingent upon receipt of an acceptable revised lay summary. VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Krause, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Goldhamer). **MOTION PASSED.**

The Advisory Committee members discussed the annual report for grant 12-SCA-YALE-02. It was noted that the lay summary does not clearly indicate what was done with the project. The Advisory Committee members expressed a general concern with some of the principal investigators not taking the reporting responsibilities serious enough.

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A suggestion was made to require principal investigators in the future to provide a cover letter indicating the changes made to a resubmission.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of rejecting the annual report for grant 12-SCA-Yale-02, Dr. Slack, principal investigator, and requiring that the principal investigator revise the lay summary before resubmission. VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause). **MOTION PASSED.**

Final Reports

The Advisory Committee members reviewed the final reports for the following grants:

- 11SCA37, Dr. Guo, principal investigator (Yale)
- 11SCA15, Dr. Fan, principal investigator (Yale)
- 11SCA34, Dr. Wu, principal investigator (Yale)
- 11SCB18, Dr. Qyang, principal investigator (Yale)
- 11SCA40, Dr. Sundaram, principal investigator (Yale)
- 11SCA03, Dr. Resch, principal investigator (UCHC)
- 11SCA01, Dr. Martins-Taylor, principal investigator (UCHC)

There was a general discussion about the lay summaries and how they should be written. Ms. Leonardi suggested that CI do a pre-read of the lay summaries before they are presented to the Advisory Committee. There was general agreement for CI to forward a template and a thorough description of how the lay summaries should be written.

It was noted that the lay summary for grant 11SCA37 could more clearly indicate what was done.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Fishbone, seconded by Dr. Goldhamer, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 11SCA37, Dr. Guo, principal investigator (Yale). VOTE: 8-1-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, and Mullen; Opposed: Wallack; Abstention: Krause). **MOTION PASSED.**

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The Advisory Committee members acknowledged the well written lay summary for grant 11SCA15.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Goldhamer, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 11SCA15, Dr. Fan, principal investigator (Yale). VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause). **MOTION PASSED.**

Concerns were expressed with the final report for grant 11SCA34, and it was noted that the report appears to be a progress report rather than a final report.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Dees, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of rejecting the final report for grant 11SCA34, Dr. Wu, principal investigator (Yale), and the principal investigator will be asked to rewrite the report. VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause). **MOTION PASSED.**

The Advisory Committee members asked that rejected reports and lay summaries be tracked for future reference. It was noted that there should be a clear definition between quality of work and quality of lay summaries.

Some concern was expressed with the report provided for grant 11SCB18 since it appears to have some duplication or overlap some of the information on the work from another project by the principal investigator.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of rejecting the final report for grant 11SCB18, Dr. Qyang, principal investigator (Yale), and the principal investigator will be asked to clarify and resubmit the report. VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause). **MOTION PASSED.**

The Advisory Committee members acknowledged the well written lay summary for grant 11SCA40.

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MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Goldhamer, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 11SCA40, Dr. Sundaram, principal investigator (Yale). VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause). **MOTION PASSED.**

It was noted that the lay summary for grant 11SCA03 is too long and not lay enough.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Dees, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 11SCA03, Dr. Resch, principal investigator (UCONN), contingent upon the receipt of an acceptable lay summary. VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Krause, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Goldhamer). **MOTION PASSED.**

The Advisory Committee members acknowledged the well written lay summary for grant 11SCA01.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Engles, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 11SCA01, Dr. Martins-Taylor, principal investigator (UCHC). VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Krause, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Goldhamer). **MOTION PASSED.**

Revised Budget Request

The Advisory Committee members reviewed the revised budget request for grant 11SCB11, Dr. Han, principal investigator (UCONN).

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of approving the revised budget for grant 11SCB11, Dr. Han, principal investigator. VOTE: 9-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Hughes, Mullen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause). **MOTION PASSED.**

Mr. Landry mentioned that the following revised budget requests were approved by CI and provided for informational purposes:

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- 13SCA28, Dr. Ma, principal investigator (UCONN)
- 11SCA34, Dr. Wu, principal investigator (Yale)
- 10SCD01, Dr. Antic, principal investigator (UCONN)

Statement of Financial Interests

Attorney Horn reminded the Advisory Committee members that annual statements of financial interests are due either electronically or paper by May 1, 2014. A link to the electronic filing was provided.

Grant Review Meeting

The grant review meeting will be held on Monday, June 9, 2014.

Public Comments

Dr. Wallack spoke about and invited everyone to the symposium dedicated to “Innovative Approached to Diabetes Research and Therapies” that will be co-sponsored by Yale University and the University of Connecticut in cooperation with Jackson Laboratory and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at Yale’s West Campus.

Next Meeting Date

A poll will be taken to reschedule the regularly scheduled April 15 meeting to April 22.

Adjournment

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Fishbone, seconded by Dr. Wallack, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dr. Jewel Mullen, Chair