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**FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

**CONNECTICUT STEM CELL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes – Special Meeting**  
**Tuesday – April 22, 2014**

A special meeting of the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee “Advisory Committee” was held on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014, at the offices of Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

**Call to Order:** There being a quorum present, Marianne Horn—representing Jewel Mullen, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and Commissioner of the Department of Public Health—called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Members present: Richard H. Dees, Ph.D. (by phone); Sandra Engle, Ph.D. (by phone); Gerald Fishbone, M.D (by phone); Diane Krause, M.D., Ph.D. (by phone); David Goldhamer, Ph.D. (by phone); Ronald Hart, Ph.D. (by phone); Marianne Horn, J.D., representing Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.; Ann Kiessling, Ph.D. (by phone); Milton B. Wallack, D.D.S. (by phone), Christopher Heinen, Ph.D., (by phone); Robert Grosso (by phone).

Members absent: Paul Pescatello, J.D., Ph.D., James Hughes, Ph.D.

**Other Attendees:** Isolde Bates (UCONN-by phone); Paula Wilson (Yale-by phone); Terri Clark (CASE); Richard Strauss (CASE); Claire Leonardi (CI); Lori Granato (CI); Margaret Cartiera, Ph.D., (CI); Joe Landry (CI); Leslie Larson (CI); Ariel Drew (CI).

**Opening Remarks:**

Marianne Horn welcomed the committee and indicated that this is the last meeting prior to the June 9, 2014 Grant Review Meeting.

Ms. Leonardi introduced Lori Granato, Director of Government Affairs. Ms. Granato provided a legislative update on the Regenerative Medicine Bill. Ms. Granato stated the Bill (5042) moved out of the Appropriations committee and is moving forward to the floor of the House. Dr. Wallack asked if amendments were made. Ms. Granato answered no, but to expect proposed changes from legislation. Ms. Leonardi discussed changes to the Bill that still need to happen. Discussion regarding Bond Funding ensued.

**Approval of Minutes – Advisory Committee Meeting**

The Advisory Committee members reviewed the minutes from the March, 18, 2014 meeting. Dr. Wallack proposed an amendment to be made to the minutes to include a comment from Claire Leonardi on pending legislation that the final

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jurisdiction of Stem Cell funding decisions should lie with the Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee. Ms. Leonardi could not recall her exact comment at the last meeting but stated that she understood that the current language in the pending legislation places final funding decisions with the Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee (albeit under a new name) and that she supports the Committee having such authority. A discussion ensued.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Dees, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the March 18, 2014 regular meeting as presented.  
VOTE: 10-1-0 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Fishbone, Goldhamer, Grosso, Hart, Kiessling, Krause, Heinen, Horn; Abstained: Wallack). **MOTION PASSED.**

**Annual Reports**

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

Ms. Drew mentioned that annual reports were received for the following grants:

- 12-SCA-UCHC-15 Kuchel
- 12-SCA-YALE-02 Slack
- 11SCA33 Qyang (YALE)

The Advisory Committee acknowledged that the lay summary for grant 12-SCA-UCHC-15 Kuchel was excellent.

**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-15 Kuchel, principal investigator.  
VOTE: 9-0-2 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Krause, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, and Wallack; Abstention: Goldhamer, Heinen).  
**MOTION PASSED.**

The Advisory Committee noted that a prior Annual Report approval attempt was made for grant 12-SCA-YALE-02. It was rejected by the Committee with changes requested. This current Annual Report submission included the changes requested by the Committee.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Heinen, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the annual report for grant 12-SCA-YALE-02 Dr. Slack, principal investigator.

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VOTE: 10-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Goldhamer, Heinen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause).  
**MOTION PASSED.**

The Advisory Committee members discussed the annual report for grant 11SCA33 Qyang, Yale. A concern was raised that the principal investigator may not understand reporting guidelines. A discussion ensued whether holding a workshop to provide further guidance on writing proposals would be beneficial. Attorney Horn encouraged University contacts on the call to convey the committee's concerns to the PI's directly and provide them the necessary guidance.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the annual report for grant 11SCA33 Dr. Qyang, principal investigator.

VOTE: 10-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Goldhamer, Heinen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause).  
**MOTION PASSED.**

**Final Reports**

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

- 10SCA29 Filipovic (UCONN)
- 11SCB18 Qyang (YALE)
- 11SCA34 Wu (YALE)

The Advisory Committee members discussed the Final Report for 10SCA29 Filipovic (UCONN). It was noted that the lay summary was too brief and technical for lay standards. The members asked for a revised lay summary.

**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 10SCA29 Filipovic, principal investigator (Yale) following receipt of a revised lay summary. VOTE: 9-0-2 (In favor: (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack; Abstention: Goldhamer, Heinen).  
**MOTION PASSED.**

Dr. Wallack raised the question whether "future direction of the project" should be addressed in the Annual Report. A discussion ensued. It was agreed that this matter would be revisited in the Fall RFP application/process.

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The Advisory Committee members discussed the Final Report 11SCB18 Qyang (YALE). A general concern was made regarding the quality of reporting by this investigator.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Fishbone, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 11SCB18 Qyang, principal investigator (Yale).

VOTE: 10-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Goldhamer, Heinen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause).

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Advisory Committee members discussed the Final Report 11SCA34 Wu (Yale). It was noted that the submitted lay summary was adequate.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Dees, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the final report for grant 11SCA34 Wu, principal investigator (Yale).

VOTE: 10-0-1 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Goldhamer, Heinen and Wallack; Abstention: Krause).

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Personnel Change**

The Advisory Committee members discussed the requested personal change for the following grants:

- 13-SCB-UCHC-15 Martins-Taylor
- 13-SCD-UCHC-01 Xu
- 13-SCDIS-ISB-01 Xu

The Advisory committee members discussed the Personnel Change request from Dr. Martins-Taylor to Dr. Marc Lalande for grant 13-SCB-UCHC-15. A discussion ensued that Dr. Lalande is already listed as a co-PI and this would simply be an extension of the existing research in his laboratory.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Wallack, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the personnel change for grant 13-SCB-UCHC-15 Martins-Taylor, principal investigator.

VOTE: 9-0-2 (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack; Abstention: Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

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The Advisory committee members discussed the Personnel Change request from Dr. Xu to Dr. Marc Lalande for grant 13-SCD-UCHC-01 Xu. Dr. Dees asked the question if the work of two new researchers will be adequate to support the work. A discussion ensued addressing the matter. It was determined that because this is a Core grant, limited involvement would be needed from Dr. LaLande for oversight and that other support from allocated staff was adequate.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause seconded by Dr. Wallack the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the personnel change for grant 13-SCD-UCHC-01 Xu, principal investigator.

VOTE: 9-0-2 (In favor: (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack; Abstention: Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

The Advisory committee members discussed the Personnel Change request to add Dr. Xiaofang Wang as co-PI to grant 13-SCDIS-ISB-01 Xu. A general agreement was made that the increased personnel efforts should presumably lead to greater productivity.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Hart, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the personnel change for grant 13-SCDIS-ISB-01 Xu, principal investigator.

VOTE: 11-0-0 (In favor: (In favor: Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack, Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Interim Fiscal Report**

For informational purposes, the following interim financial reports were provided to the Advisory Committee members:

- 13-SCB-UCHC-06 Heinen
- 13-SCA-YALE-15 Yao
- 13-SCB-UCHC-05 Chhabra

**Revised Budget Request**

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

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- 10SCA06 Aneskievich (UCONN)
- 13-SCA-YALE-05 Yun

**Revised Lay Summary**

The following lay summaries were resubmitted for informational purposes:

- 11SCA03 Resch (UCHC)
- 12-SCA-UCHC-06 Crocker

**At 1:50 p.m., Treena Arinzeh, Ph.D., joined the meeting.**

There being no objection, a motion was made to change the order of the agenda.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Wallack, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of accepting the change to the order of the agenda.

VOTE: 12-0-0 (In favor: (In favor: Arinzeh, Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack, Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

**CASE Peer Review Update**

Mr. Strauss provided a summary of the Peer Review Study Section held on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the University of Vermont. He discussed changes that were made to the 2014 Peer Review Process. Specifically, changes dealing with the scoring of proposals and reconciliation of scoring differences. Mr. Strauss reviewed the 2013-2014 Peer Review Process Scoring Summary.

**Discussion of Core Proposal Scores:**

The Advisory Committee members discussed the Peer Review scores for the two Core grants. There was general consensus to review both proposals.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Fishbone, seconded by Dr. Wallack, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of reviewing the 2 core proposals submitted for 2014 grant funding.

VOTE: 12-0-0 (In favor: (In favor: Arinzeh, Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack, Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Discussion of Group Proposal Scores:**

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The Advisory Committee members discussed the Peer Review scores for the two Group grants. There was general consensus to review the top scoring proposal.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Wallack, seconded by Dr. Goldhamer, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of reviewing the top scoring Group proposal submitted for 2014 grant funding.

VOTE: 12-0-0 (In favor: (In favor: Arinzeh, Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack, Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Discussion of Disease Directed Proposal Scores:**

The Advisory Committee members discussed the Peer Review scores for the five Disease Directed grants. There was general consensus to review the top four scoring proposals.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Fishbone, seconded by Dr. Wallack, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of reviewing the four Disease Directed proposals submitted for 2014 grant funding.

VOTE: 12-0-0 (In favor: (In favor: Arinzeh, Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack, Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Discussion of Established Proposal Scores:**

The Advisory Committee members discussed the Peer Review scores for the Established Proposals. There was general consensus to review 18 proposals, those scoring 30 points or better.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Dees, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of reviewing eighteen Established proposals submitted for 2014 grant funding.

VOTE: 12-0-0 (In favor: (In favor: Arinzeh, Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack, Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

**Discussion of Seed Proposal Scores:**

The Advisory Committee members discussed the Peer Review scores for the Seed Proposals. It was agreed to review 14 proposals, those scoring 30 points or better.

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**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Fishbone, seconded by Dr. Heinen, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of reviewing fourteen Seed proposals submitted for 2014 grant funding.

VOTE: 12-0-0 (In favor: (In favor: Arinzeh, Dees, Engle, Kiessling, Fishbone, Grosso, Hart, Horn, Krause and Wallack, Goldhamer, Heinen).

**MOTION PASSED.**

Mr. Strauss provided an overview of the proposal review documents for the Advisory Committee member's reference. Mr. Strauss requested that the members test the online peer review system prior to the Grant Review Meeting. Ms. Drew advised the members that proposal assignments would be available on April 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Attorney Horn reminded the Advisory Committee members to submit the Conflict of Interest forms as soon as possible.

**June 9<sup>th</sup> Grant Review Process and Logistics**

Attorney Horn discussed the agenda and procedures for the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Attorney Horn reminded the members the meeting will be held at the Hilton, Hartford, and directions will be provided at a later date.

**Statement of Financial Interests**

Attorney Horn reminded the Advisory Committee members that annual statements of financial interests are due either electronically or by paper by May 1, 2014.

**Public Comments**

There were no Public Comments.

**Next Meeting Date**

Attorney Horn advised the members that the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting is canceled. The next meeting date is June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Dees, seconded by Dr. Wallack the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

**MOTION PASSED.**

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Respectfully submitted:

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Dr. Jewel Mullen, Chair