

**Advisory Committee of the**  
Regenerative Medicine Research Fund  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, September 15, 2015

A regular meeting of the **Regenerative Medicine Research Fund Advisory Committee** (the “Committee”) was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at the office of Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

**Call to Order:** Noting the presence of a quorum, Mr. McCooe called the Advisory Committee meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Committee members present: Matthew McCooe; Sandra Engle, Ph.D.; Ronald Hart, Ph.D. (by phone); Mark Tomishima, Ph.D.; David Goldhamer, Ph.D.; Christopher Heinen, Ph.D.; John Hambor, Ph.D.; James Hughes, Ph.D. (by phone); Kevin Rakin; Commissioner Jewel Mullen, M.D.; Diane Krause, Ph.D. (by phone, joined the meeting at 2:00 p.m.)

Other Attendees: Margaret Cartiera, Ph.D. (CI); Ariel Drew (CI); Carrie Collins White (CI); Whitney Brown, Ph.D. (CI, by phone) Leslie Larson (CI); Isolde Bates (UCHC, by phone); Linda Shapiro, Ph.D. (UCHC).

Mr. McCooe appointed Dr. Cartiera acting Chair of the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Dr. Cartiera asked the Committee members to consider the minutes from the following meetings:

- May 19, 2015

Dr. Goldhamer cited minor errors throughout the minutes to be addressed. The fund staff will incorporate the revisions prior to finalizing the minutes.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Heinen, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting. VOTE: 10-0-0 (In favor: McCooe, Engle, Hart, Goldhamer, Heinen, Hughes, Mullen, Rakin, Tomishima, Hambor).

- June 1, 2015 (Annual Grant Review Meeting)

Dr. Goldhamer cited minor errors throughout the minutes to be addressed. The fund staff will incorporate the revisions prior to finalizing the minutes.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Heinen, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the June 1, 2015 meeting. VOTE: 10-0-0 (In favor: McCooe, Engle, Hart, Goldhamer, Heinen, Hughes, Mullen, Rakin, Tomishima, Hambor).

### **Awardee Presentation**

Dr. Cartiera introduced Dr. Linda Shapiro of the University of Connecticut Health Center, a 2006 and 2008 CT Stem Cell Research Fund awardee. In previous Committee discussions, there was curiosity as to what happens after a project is funded and completed. Dr. Shapiro was one case example who was willing to share her story and accomplishments with the Committee.

Dr. Shapiro thanked the Advisory Committee and expressed that without her CT Stem Cell grants, she would never have entered the field of stem cell research. Dr. Shapiro discussed her research focus involving embryonic stem cells as well as her lab's research findings, accomplishments and milestones. She shared with the Committee that she was recently able to file intellectual property, secure additional funding in support of her findings (significant federal funding) and expand her research team.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the Fund and the role it played in Dr. Shapiro's research, as well as that of the larger stem cell/regenerative research community. Questions about how the Fund could further enable projects to reach the next stage of development and commercialization were explored; and resources available to researchers (e.g., stem cell core facilities, technology transfer offices) were discussed.

### **Historical Fund Data: Preliminary Analysis and Discussion**

Dr. Cartiera informed the Committee that a survey was sent to SCRAC/RMRF awardees from 2006-present regarding research accomplishments. A discussion ensued regarding the response rate the survey has received thus far. Suggestions were made as to other resources that can be utilized in order to increase the response rate.

In lieu of survey results, the fund staff gathered and analyzed data from proposal abstracts which were funded since 2006. Dr. Cartiera presented the preliminary analysis to the Committee.

Dr. Cartiera also summarized the staff's review and conversations with other state funds (i.e., CIRM, NYSTEM) in an effort to better understand ways in which RMRF may want to evolve going forward.

A lengthy discussion on the Fund's objectives, the overall mission of RMRF, and future funding objectives ensued.

### **Revised Scientific Research Progress Report Discussion**

Dr. Cartiera presented the revised report and noted that the purpose of the revised scientific research progress report—previously the annual report—is to reflect the transition to RMRF and the strategic direction of the Fund going forward, to track metrics more consistently and effectively, and accommodate administrative reporting requirements.

The Committee provided feedback and requested revisions to be made throughout the report. . Dr. Cartiera stated that the staff will incorporate all revisions as requested and present a final draft of the report to the Committee at a later date.

### **Strategic Discussion: Long-term Fund Goals and Objectives for 2016 RFP**

Dr. Cartiera reviewed areas where the Fund had made improvements over the last year and areas where strategic decisions still needed to be made regarding 2016 RFP goals and long-term objectives.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding specific areas of research that the Fund may want to focus on, available funding, and what the direction of future RFP's should include. The Committee brainstormed ways in which the Fund can build upon its existing strengths, while building and supporting Connecticut's future. It was agreed that the discussion would reconvene after the Committee has reviewed the RMRF's enabling legislative language once again.

Dr. Cartiera stated that a special meeting would be scheduled to continue the discussion. At that time, the Committee would give consideration to 2016 RFP funding objectives/recommendations.

### **Next Full Advisory Committee Meeting: November 17, 2015**

Dr. Cartiera stated that a special full Advisory Committee will be scheduled prior to the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Mullen, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 3:45 p.m. VOTE: 11-0-0 (In favor: McCooe, Engle, Hart, Goldhamer, Heinen, Hambor, Hughes, Mullen, Rakin, Tomishima).

Respectfully Submitted,

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Matthew McCooe, Chief Executive Officer  
Connecticut Innovations