

Subject to corrections, additions or deletions.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
of the Connecticut Bioscience Innovations Fund
Minutes – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 5, 2014

A regular meeting of the **Advisory Committee of the Connecticut Bioscience Innovation Fund** (the “Advisory Committee”) was held on March 5, 2014, at the office of the Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

Call to Order: Claire Leonardi, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee, noting the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Advisory Committee members present: Peter Farina, John Fontana, Steve Hanks, Marc Lalande, Charles Lee, Claire Leonardi, Bill LaRochelle, Alan Mendelson, Edmund Pezalla, Carolyn Slayman, and Eleanor Tandler.

Member Absent: Joseph Kaliko and Catherine Smith.

Staff present: Margaret Cartiera, Jeremy Crisp, Ariel Drew, Lori Granato, Leslie Larson, and Claire Leonardi.

Ms. Leonardi welcomed and introduced John Fontana from the Department of Public Health as a new member of the Advisory Committee. She provided a brief overview of Mr. Fontana’s background and experience.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Leonardi asked the Advisory Committee members to consider the minutes from the December 5, 2013 meeting.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Slayman, seconded by Dr. Farina, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the December 5, 2013 meeting as presented (Dr. Fontana abstained from the vote, and Dr. Hanks was not present for the vote).

Timeline for Review and Funding of Applications

Dr. Crisp reviewed the application timeline for wave 1 and mentioned that it is anticipated that there will be 4 waves of applications in the 2014 calendar year. In accordance with the timeline, the Advisory Committee members will review the first wave of applications in June and make a decision in July. In response to a question, Dr. Crisp stated that current applicants are aware of the deadline for the first wave of applications.

Dr. Crisp discussed the tool that will be used to screen preliminary applications to determine eligibility for full applications. He described the full application selection tool.

Dr. Crisp talked about the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the scientific and technical merit assessment criteria that will be used to score the applications by the scientific peer reviewers. He discussed the scoring and explained the process for selecting peer reviewers. In response to a question, it was noted that the AAAS has access to a large cohort of independent reviewers with expertise in the different scientific areas. The Committee members asked staff to provide the definitions and criteria provided to the peer reviewers for each of the categories.

Applications Update & Examples

Dr. Crisp stated that 14 preliminary applications have been received, and 12 applicants were invited to submit full applications. To date, 3 full applications have been received. Dr. Crisp and Dr. Cartiera provided examples of applications received. In response to a question, Dr. Cartiera stated that the applicants are required to explain his/her plan of funding. Staff was asked to provide information on whether applicants have already received funding from CI.

A discussion ensued on the how the Bioscience Innovation funds fit in with other funding available from CI. It was noted that the funds are not intended to be duplicative but used to help fund the best ideas in Connecticut. Staff was asked to analyze the information provided by applicants to be sure there is no double counting of jobs projected to be created.

Revised Guidelines and Terms of Financial Assistance

Ms. Leonardi discussed the proposed revised guidelines and terms of the financial assistance. A discussion ensued on the changes made to the definition of "Connecticut Presence." Ms. Leonardi explained the rationale for the changes. A suggestion was made in the third paragraph under (ii) to change the word "conducted" to "managed" in Connecticut. Questions arose about the applicability of the Connecticut presence requirement and the use of funds for

virtual labs or workshops or for resources that are not available in Connecticut. There was general agreement not to be too restrictive. Staff will determine how to resolve any issues arising as to Connecticut Presence consulting the Advisory Committee as needed.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Tandler, seconded by Dr. Farina, the Advisory Committee members voted unanimously in favor of approving the revised guidelines and general terms of the financial assistance agreement with the additional change suggested.

Strategic Projects

Product Development Company for Connecticut: Dr. Cartiera provided an update on a product development company proposal. She reviewed the proposed objectives and structure of a product development company, noting that the focus will be on medical devices. Dr. Cartiera discussed the items the staff has been working on and highlighted the next steps. She reviewed the proposed framework for the for-profit corporation, including the founding investments needed, the structure of a team, and product sourcing and budgeting. After discussion about the strategic product, there was general agreement to focus on medical devices and for staff to continue to move forward with this strategic project.

Bioinformatics Center for Excellence: Dr. Crisp provided an update on efforts to develop a Bioinformatics Center for Excellence. He talked about the Connecticut Coalition on Research Computing (CCRC) exploring a shared high performance computing infrastructure for the state and the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) being one of the possible models. Dr. Crisp described some of the latest developments, noting that the CCRC will be visiting MGHPCC on March 17. He reviewed the next steps in the process.

Governance of Regenerative Medicine Research Fund

Ms. Leonardi discussed the background and some of the challenges with the current oversight and structure of the Stem Cell Research Fund. She spoke about the governor's bill to establish a Regenerative Medicine Research Fund which is proposed to be the successor to the Stem Cell Research Fund. Ms. Leonardi stated that there is discussion about developing a simpler administrative and governance structure which would involve the Connecticut Bioscience Innovation Fund Advisory Committee in the strategic vision and decision making under the Regenerative Medicine Research Fund. There was general agreement that the Stem Cell Research Fund has been very successful even with the administrative issues. The Advisory Committee members will be kept abreast of the status of the bill.

Other Business

Dr. Crisp reported on the success of the joint UCONN/Yale biomedical engineering workshop held on February 8, 2014. He noted that the intent of the workshop was to stimulate cross institutional, cross disciplinary research and development teams to bring new medical devices and instruments from idea to reality. Dr. Crisp reviewed the next steps in the process and mentioned that the groups will continue to meet to review new ideas and see progress on the collaborations formed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on June 4, 2014.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion made by Dr. Pezalla, seconded by Dr. Hanks, the Advisory Committee members voted unanimously in favor of adjourning the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Leonardi
Chairperson of the Advisory
Committee