

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
of the Connecticut Bioscience Innovations Fund  
Minutes – Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 21, 2015

A regular meeting of the **Advisory Committee of the Connecticut Bioscience Innovation Fund** (the “Advisory Committee”) was held on January 21, 2015, at the office of the Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

**Call to Order:** Philip Siuta, Interim Chief Executive Officer at Connecticut Innovations, and acting Chairperson of the Advisory Committee, noting the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Advisory Committee members present: Peter Farina, Ph.D., Steven Hanks, M.D., Marc Lalande, Ph.D., Charles Lee, Ph.D., Alan Mendelson, Eleanor Tandler, Catherine Smith, Bill LaRochelle, Ph.D., Edmund Pezalla, M.D., Katharine Lewis, Ph.D., MSN, MPH, RN, and Philip Siuta.

Member Absent: Joseph Kaliko, J.D., Carolyn Slayman, Ph.D.

Staff present: Margaret Cartiera, Ph.D., (CI), Ariel Drew (CI), Christine Gemelli (CI), Leslie Larson (CI).

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Siuta asked the Advisory Committee members to consider the minutes from the December 3, 2014 meeting.

**MOTION:** Upon a motion made by Dr. Farina, seconded by Ms. Smith, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the December 3, 2014 meeting as presented. VOTE: 10-1-0 (In favor: Farina, Lalande, Lee, Mendelson, Tandler, Smith, LaRochelle, Pezalla, Lewis, Siuta; Abstained: Hanks). **MOTION PASSED.**

Mr. Siuta introduced himself as acting CEO and CFO of Connecticut Innovations (CI). He thanked the CBIF team for their continued effort and dedication to the Fund.

**Funding Opportunities**

- 532—Yale (Wu)

Dr. Cartiera introduced the proposed project. She reviewed the risks and benefits of the research and discussed the potential of the project. The project was recommended for funding, in the full requested amount.

Dr. Lee inquired about the number of PDX models that are being used in the research. He suggested that the PI consider having additional genetically-characterized PDX models to test. Dr. Cartiera directed the Committee attention to the supplemental information received from Dr. Wu and noted that she would highlight this to Dr. Wu.

Ms. Tandler asked about the business expertise that is currently on the team, and whether or not the PI is actively engaging the necessary resources to obtain an appropriate business advisor. A discussion ensued. The Committee agreed that the PI does need to formally engage a business development advisor. A discussion ensued whether a reserve budgetary percentage should be placed on all deals going forward; to ensure unmet project contingencies and to allow for flexibility in project budgeting.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Mendelson, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of funding Application 532, Yale, Wu (Principal Investigator), in the amount of \$500,000. VOTE: 10-1-0 (In favor: Hanks, Lalande, Lee, Mendelson, Tandler, Smith, LaRochelle, Pezalla, Lewis, Siuta; Abstained: Farina). **MOTION PASSED.**

Mr. Siuta asked to extend the meeting agenda to continue the budget contingency discussion at a later time in the meeting.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Mendelson, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of extending the regular agenda. VOTE: 11-0-0 (In favor: Hanks, Lalande, Lee, Mendelson, Tandler, Smith, LaRochelle, Pezalla, Lewis, Siuta, and Farina). **MOTION PASSED.**

- 508—ImStem Biotechnology (Wang)

Dr. Cartiera reviewed the resubmission application from ImStem. She discussed the proposed project, the Committee's concerns that were expressed at the July meeting, and individual pieces submitted by ImStem in the resubmission package in response to concerns raised in July. Dr. Cartiera reviewed how the requested CBIF dollars would be used in relationship to ImStem's funding and research activities. A discussion ensued on the company's current funding, status in relationship with the FDA and its research studies, and team development.

The Advisory Committee unanimously agreed that ImStem should resubmit their application to CBIF once they have made substantial progress on research as per the request made during the July Committee meeting, and following hire of a full-time CEO.

### **CBIF Value-Add Discussion**

Dr. Cartiera gave a progress update since the Fund's doors opened in January, 2014. She reviewed metrics, adjustments in the application process, and recent increase in outreach efforts. She elaborated on the balance of applications that have been submitted from for-profit entities and non-profit/academic universities. Dr. Cartiera discussed the hurdles that for-profit entities have been facing when applying to the Fund, specifically the legislative requirements that limits eligibility of applicants to being in operation for less than three (3) years. A discussion ensued.

Dr. Cartiera revisited the Fund's suggested royalty terms with universities and non-profits. A discussion ensued. There was general consensus from the Committee that the terms are reasonable given the objectives of the fund. The Committee expressed support of CBIF staff moving the discussions forward with universities.

### **Budget Contingency Discussion**

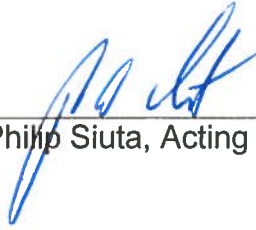
Mr. Siuta asked the Advisory Committee to resume the discussion regarding adding a possible 5% budget contingency on all applications going forward in the Fund. In addition to this item, a discussion ensued on the current maximum award investment, the definition of "early stage technology", and the objectives of the CBIF. Dr. Farina suggested adding a second tier of funding to be offered to a select number of larger, higher quality projects which require funding in excess of \$500,000. A discussion ensued on the dollar limit, and project milestones associated with such funding. There was general agreement that the second tier of funding could be offered for up to \$2 million.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Lalande, seconded by Dr. Pezalla, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of (i) adding a budgetary contingency on tier 1 projects awarded up to \$500,000, to be developed by the CBIF management team and (ii) developing a tier 2 funding structure of up to \$2 million for projects, to be developed by the CBIF management team. VOTE: 11-0-0 (In favor: Hanks, Lalande, Lee, Mendelson, Tandler, Smith, LaRochelle, Pezalla, Lewis, Siuta, Farina). **MOTION PASSED.**

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Dr. Pezalla, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 12:06 p.m. VOTE: 11-0-0 (In favor: Hanks, Lalande, Lee, Mendelson, Tandler, Smith, LaRochelle, Pezalla, Lewis, Siuta, Farina). **MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully Submitted,



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Philip Siuta, Acting Chairperson