

**Operational Sub-Committee of the
Regenerative Medicine Research Fund
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2015**

A regular meeting of the **Regenerative Medicine Research Fund Operational Sub-Committee** (the "Sub-Committee") was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at the office of Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Call to Order: Noting the presence of a quorum, the Sub-Committee meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

Sub-Committee members present: Sandra Engle, Ph.D. (by phone); Mark Tomishima, Ph.D. (by phone); and Ronald Hart, Ph.D. (by phone).

Other Attendees: Margaret Cartiera, Ph.D. (CI); Ariel Drew (CI); Leslie Larson (CI); Whitney Brown, Ph.D. (CI, by phone); Ewa Lech (Yale, by phone) and Isolde Bates (UCHC, by phone), Dennis Titley (Yale, by phone).

Approval of Minutes

The Sub-Committee members were asked to consider the minutes from the November 15, 2015 Sub-Committee meeting.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Tomishima, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the November 15, 2015 meeting. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Engle, Tomishima and Hart).

Operational Approvals

Annual Reports

The Sub-Committee members considered the following annual reports for a consent agenda vote:

- 12-SCB-UCONN-02 Lai
- 12-SCB-YALE-10 Ivanova
- 12-SCB-YALE-06 Qyang
- 12-SCB-YALE-11 Park
- 12-SCDIS-YALE-01 Redmond
- 12-SCB-YALE-05 Kocsis

- 12-SCB-YALE-01 Horsley

Upon a motion made by Dr. Hart, seconded by Dr. Tomishima, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor of approving the annual reports as listed above, by consent vote. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Engle, Tomishima and Hart).

A discussion regarding lay summaries ensued. The Sub-Committee noted that some of the lay summaries that were submitted were scientifically heavy in content. It was asked that the PI's be reminded – with the help of university representatives - that a lay summary should be written at a basic level, suitable for the general public's understanding.

Personnel Change

- 14-SCA-YALE-20 Liu

Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Hart, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor of approving the personnel change request for grant 14-SCA-YALE-20, Liu. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Engle, Tomishima and Hart).

It was questioned whether personnel change requests should be permissible for seed projects, and if that type of request is in line with the purpose of a seed award. Dr. Cartiera suggested this question to be an agenda item for strategic discussion at the February retreat for the Advisory Committee.

No Cost Extension Requests

- 13-SCA-YALE-38 Kumar

Upon a motion made by Dr. Tomishima, seconded by Dr. Hart, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor of approving the no cost extension request for grant 13-SCA-YALE-38, Kumar. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Engle, Tomishima and Hart).

Carryover Request

- 12-SCB-UCONN-02, Lai

Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Hart, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor of approving the carryover request for grant 12-SCB-UCONN-02, Lai. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Engle, Tomishima and Hart).

Other (new awards pending contract signature)

Dr. Cartiera stated that the following requests pertain to two individual projects that were awarded in 2015, and are pending contract execution.

- 15-RMB-MCT-01 Xian – Relocation/personnel

Dr. Cartiera reviewed the content of the request, including the company's current stage, location, and proposed research that was awarded. A discussion ensued regarding the PI's recent move outside of Connecticut, the percentage of effort devoted to the project, as well as salary percentages. It was noted that MCT, the company, continues to operate in Farmington, CT with collaborator located at the University of Connecticut. General concern was expressed regarding the precedent this scenario may set if investigators have been awarded RMRF dollars, but are not located within the state and whether that violates the spirit of the Fund.

Given the specific circumstances surrounding MCT and its award, the Sub-Committee agreed to the following three scenarios; one of which is to be accepted by the PI in order for funding to move forward:

1. The lead PI may remain in current location (outside of CT), but evidence must be provided that the PI is on-site in CT 20% of the time.
2. The lead PI may remain in current location (outside of CT), but will accept no salary compensation. A detailed plan of how the company's research associate and the MCT laboratory in Connecticut will be managed in accordance with project milestones must be submitted.
3. A lead PI at the company, who is located in CT, must be designated.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Hart, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor of tabling the approval of the request from grant 15-RMB-MCT-01, Xian, until a scenario as listed above is satisfactorily met by the Sub-Committee. The motion for approval is tabled until the next Sub-Committee meeting. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Engle, Tomishima and Hart).

- 15-RMA-UCHC-04, Li – Relocation/budget request

The Sub-Committee reviewed the relocation and budget request of funding the above 2015 project for two months, as opposed to two years. The Sub-Committee discussed the value the Fund can obtain from a two month project. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of data that may be generated from a two month project, or if the laboratory will have the ability to continue the research.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the requested change would be limited in value to the Fund, and to the state of CT. It was stated that if this was an NIH or NSF grant, the award would be different given strategic objectives. However, as RMRF funding is provided by the state of CT, there are legislative restrictions associated with the Fund and the Sub-Committee has a fiduciary duty to the state and to research awarded within the state.

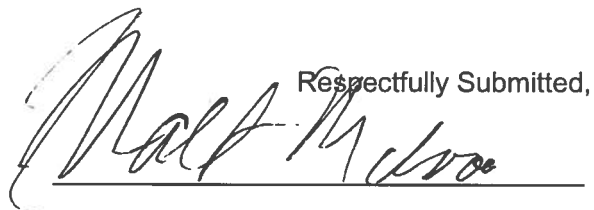
Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Tomishima, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor not approving the relocation and budget request, thus not funding grant 15-RMA-UHC-04, Li, in the amount of \$200,000. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Engle, Tomishima and Hart).

The Sub-Committee agreed that the back-up seed project, as approved at the June 1, 2015 Annual Grant Review meeting, would receive the remaining funding.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Hart, seconded by Dr. Tomishima, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor of funding the back-up seed application, 15-RMA-YALE-22, van del Pol, in the amount of \$200,000. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Engle, Tomishima and Hart).

Adjournment:

Upon a motion made by Dr. Hart, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Operational Sub-Committee members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 1:52 p.m. VOTE: 3-0-0 (In favor: Tomishima, Engle and Hart).

Respectfully Submitted,


Matthew McCooe, Chief Executive Officer
Connecticut Innovations