

**Advisory Committee
of the Regenerative Medicine Research Fund
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2015**

A regular meeting, rescheduled from the cancelled February 17, 2015 meeting, of the Regenerative Medicine Research Fund Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at the offices of Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Call to Order: There being a quorum present, Margaret Cartiera, designated chairperson of the Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Members present: Margaret Cartiera, Ph.D.; Daniel Devine, J.D.; Sandra Engle, Ph.D.; David Goldhamer, Ph.D.; Ronald Hart, Ph.D. (by phone); Christopher Heinen, Ph.D.; Diane Krause, M.D.; Paul Pescatello, J.D., Ph.D. (by phone); Kevin Rakin; Rosalba Sacca, Ph.D. and Mark Tomishima, Ph.D.

Members absent: Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.; James Hughes, Ph.D.; John Hambor, Ph.D.,

Other Attendees: Isolde Bates (UCONN, by phone); Whitney Harris Brown, Ph.D. (CI); Ariel Drew (CI); Leslie Larson (CI) Phil Siuta (CI); Paula Wilson (Yale, by phone) and Milton Wallack, D.D.S.

Opening Remarks: Mr. Siuta, Chief Financial Officer and acting CEO of Connecticut Innovations, introduced himself to the Advisory Committee and noted that Dr. Cartiera was appointed his designee to the RMRF Advisory Committee. Dr. Cartiera welcomed new members to the Advisory Committee and thanked members who had been excused from the Committee.

Approval of Minutes – Advisory Committee Meeting

The Advisory Committee members reviewed the minutes from the October 20, 2014 regular meeting.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Tomishima, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the October 20, 2014 regular meeting.
VOTE: 11-0-0 (In favor: Cartiera, Devine, Engle, Goldhamer, Hart,

Heinen, Krause, Pescatello, Rakin, Sacca, and Tomishima)
MOTION PASSED.

Introductions

The newly appointed Advisory Committee members Rosalba Sacca, Kevin Rakin, Daniel Devine and Mark Tomishima were introduced. All members of the Advisory Committee had the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide information about their background and experience.

2015 RFP Proposal Status Update

Dr. Cartiera discussed the details of the AAAS peer review and the steps involved. Questions were raised and a discussion ensued regarding the AAAS Scientific and Technical Merit Peer Review Form. Dr. Cartiera discussed the intake and proposal process and stated that the results of the 92 proposals sent on to AAAS for scientific review are expected soon.

Citing the legislative language for a 5 person review, there is an opportunity for a second tier of peer review. The committee members agreed with putting the panel in place that would consist of qualified individuals who are not conflicted. The responsibilities for the 5 person panel were outlined.

It was stated that all is on schedule to have the necessary information and pieces in place for the June 1, 2015 Committee RFP award meeting.

RMRF Strategy

Focused discussion ensued on the strategic direction and metrics that should be tracked going forward. It was stated that Connecticut has been recognized as a leader of stem cell research. This commitment has attracted faculty and jobs to the state and facilitated laboratories to be built. It was asked, "But what is our future? What data is relevant to our state? How can we increase returns on the dollars we give out?" A discussion about these questions commenced. It was suggested that in addition to the CASE study listing Connecticut's stem cell accomplishments through 2012, that additional data be collected from 2012 through present day for latest outcomes. Mr. Milt Wallack, a recently retired advisory member, provided a historical perspective and stated that the 10 year stem cell program enabled the Amistad facility at Yale, the \$50,000 contribution to University of

Connecticut's laboratory for research, as well as early research using stem cells across the state.

RMRF Sub-Committee

Dr. Cartiera stated that there are two vacant seats on the Operational Sub-Committee. Dr. Hart and Dr. Tomishima were nominated to serve on the Sub-Committee with Dr. Engle.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Engle, seconded by Dr. Goldhamer, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of appointing Dr. Hart as a member of the Operational Sub-Committee. VOTE 10-0-0 (In favor: Cartiera, Devine, Engle, Goldhamer, Heinen, Krause, Pescatello, Rakin, Sacca, and Tomishima) **MOTION PASSED.**

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Engle, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of appointing Dr. Tomishima as a member of the Operational Sub-Committee. VOTE 10-0-0 (In favor: Cartiera, Devine, Engle, Goldhamer, Hart, Heinen, Krause, Pescatello, Rakin and Sacca). **MOTION PASSED.**

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Next Meeting Date

Full Advisory Committee: May 19, 2015 (In-person)

Adjournment:

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Mr. Rakin, seconded by Dr. Engle the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 2:03 p.m.
MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted:



Margaret Cartiera, Ph.D.
Acting Chair RMRF