

**Advisory Committee of the
Regenerative Medicine Research Fund
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2015**

A regular meeting of the **Regenerative Medicine Research Fund Advisory Committee** (the "Committee") was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at the office of Connecticut Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Call to Order: Noting the presence of a quorum, Dr. Cartiera called the Advisory Committee meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Committee members present: Margaret Cartiera, Ph.D.; Sandra Engle, Ph.D.; Ronald Hart, Ph.D. (by phone); Rosalba Sacca, Ph.D., (by phone); David Goldhamer, Ph.D.; Christopher Heinen, Ph.D.; John Hambor, Ph.D.; James Hughes, Ph.D.; Daniel Devine, Kevin Rakin (by phone, joined the meeting at 1:20 pm.); Commissioner Jewel Mullen (by phone, joined the meeting at 2:12 p.m.).

Other Attendees: Carrie Collins White (CI); Ariel Drew (CI); Leslie Larson (CI); Paula Wilson (Yale, by phone); Isolde Bates (UCHC, by phone); Scott Murphy, Esq. (-Shipman & Goodwin); and Milton Wallack, D.D.S.

Dr. Cartiera called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. John Hambor, of Boehringer Ingelheim, newly appointed member of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Cartiera also introduced Carrie Collins White, a recent hire to the BioInnovation CT team.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Cartiera asked the Committee members to consider the minutes from the March 25, 2015 meeting.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Heinen, seconded by Dr. Hambor, the Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the March 25, 2015 meeting. VOTE: 8-1-0 (In favor: Cartiera, Engle, Hart, Sacca, Goldhamer, Heinen, Hughes, Devine; Abstained: Hambor).

Conflict of Interest Discussion:

Mr. Siuta stated that transparency is important to both CI and the different Advisory Committee's within the organization; he stressed the importance of adhering to conflict of interest requirements and recusal processes during Committee meetings. Mr. Siuta introduced Mr. Scott Murphy, Connecticut Innovations' (CI) outside legal counsel. Mr. Murphy reviewed the State's conflict of interest statutes as well as the State's code of ethics for public officials. A discussion ensued regarding the conflict of interest requirements relating to members of the RMRF Advisory Committee. Mr.

Murphy stated that CI would follow best practices whereby an “interested member” of the Advisory Committee, as defined in subsection (d) of Section 32-411 of the Connecticut General Statutes, would leave the room when an application in which they have an interest is being discussed, considered and voted upon. A formal opinion letter from Mr. Murphy was provided to the Committee with details of the relevant conflict of interest statutes and recommendations.

14-SCDIS-JAX-01 Award Update:

Dr. Cartiera stated that the 2014 RMRF project award to JAX had been returned to the Fund. She stated the award amount of \$1,100,000 would be added to the current 2015 RFP award amount of \$10M.

2015 RFP Recap:

Dr. Cartiera discussed the 2015 RFP review process; she reviewed the AAAS review process, the 5-person Oversight Panel responsibilities, and the application criteria and scoring process. She recommended that 2015 funding awards be based on (1) scores, whereby the highest-scoring applications be recommended for funding; as well as (2) strategic objectives of the Fund.

Based on the scoring distribution and recommendations from the two-tier peer review, Dr. Cartiera provided details surrounding the top-scoring applications (raw score of 51 and above) which totaled approximately \$9.6M. She asked Committee members their thoughts on how the Fund could best invest the remaining dollars for 2015. A strategic discussion ensued. The Committee members discussed what the 2015 funding portfolio should consist of, as well as impact to the future of the Fund. Topics included strengths and ongoing research within the state, and what the Fund should focus on in future funding opportunities.

Process for June 1, 2015 Annual Grant Review Meeting:

In an effort to streamline the June 1, 2015 grant review meeting, Dr. Cartiera asked the Committee to agree on a funding strategy in advance. The Committee considered different approaches and agreed that top-scoring proposals with a raw score of 51 and above, which fall within the \$9.6M total, would move forward to funding. To determine which proposals would be funded for the remainder of the \$11.1M, the Committee decided to concentrate their efforts on “Seed” grants with deserving scores. These proposals would be reviewed and considered at the June meeting.

Dr. Cartiera informed the Committee that the June meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will take place at the office of Connecticut Innovations, in Rocky Hill, CT.

Public Comment: Dr. Wallack noted a discrepancy in the presented draft version of the March 25, 2015 RMRF Committee meeting minutes. The BioInnovation team will make the appropriate revisions prior to final release of the minutes.

Next Full Advisory Committee Meeting: June 1, 2015 (Annual Grant Review meeting; mandatory in-person meeting)

Adjournment:

Upon a motion made by Dr. Hambor, seconded by Dr. Goldhamer, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 2:38 p.m. VOTE: 11-0-0 (In favor: Cartiera, Engle, Hart, Sacca, Goldhamer, Heinen, Hambor, Hughes, Devine, Mullen, Rakin).

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret Cartiera Ph.D., Interim Chair