

**Advisory Committee of the  
Regenerative Medicine Research Fund  
Regular Meeting  
September 20, 2016**

A regular meeting of the **Regenerative Medicine Research Fund Advisory Committee** (the “Committee”) was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at the office of Connecticut Innovations. Inc, (CI), 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

**Call to Order:** Noting the presence of a quorum, Mr. Wurzer – Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, and acting Chairperson and Secretary of the meeting – called the Advisory Committee meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Committee members present: David Wurzer (acting Chair); Ronald Hart, Ph.D. (by phone); Mark Tomishima, Ph.D. (by phone); Christopher Heinen, Ph.D. (by phone); Diane Krause, Ph.D. (by phone); Daniel Devine (by phone); Rosalba Sacca, Ph.D. (by phone); Paul Pescatello, J.D., Ph.D. (by phone).

Other Attendees: Philip Siuta (CI); Ariel Drew (CI); Leslie Larson (CI); Whitney Brown, Ph.D. (CI, by phone); Scott Murphy (Shipman & Goodwin); Allison Bonds (Yale, by phone); Isolde Bates (UCHC, by phone); and Milton Wallack.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Wurzer asked the Committee members to consider the minutes from the July 12, 2016 funding award meeting:

Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Sacca, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the July 12, 2016 meeting. VOTE: 8-0-0 (In favor: Wurzer, Hart, Tomishima, Heinen, Krause, Devine, Sacca, Pescatello).

**2016 & 2017 Award Update:**

Mr. Siuta – Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer – provided an update to recent RMRF award cycles. He stated that CI is waiting to receive the \$10M in 2015 awards, as well as the \$6M awarded in 2016 from the CT Bond Commission. The Bond Commission will meet on September 30, 2016; Mr. Siuta anticipates that RMRF’s funding requests will be listed on the agenda. He also stated that due to the legislative and Bond Commission’s schedule, it has been advised by the CT Office of Policy and Management to hold the 2017 final award meeting for RMRF in October of next year. A discussion ensued. The Committee agreed that RMRF will move forward with the standard timeline and procedures for release of the 2017 RFP, and that a preliminary funding meeting will be held in the summer of 2017, and the final funding award meeting will be held in October 2017.

**16-RMA-YALE-09 Inquiry:**

Mr. Wurzer presented the formal inquiry that was received on July 14, 2016 from Yale University in regards to application 16-RMA-YALE-09. He restated the funding strategy that the Committee created for the July 12, 2016 award meeting, and reviewed the reasons the Committee had agreed not to make an award for application 16-RMA-YALE-09. As reflected in the July 12, 2016 meeting minutes, the Committee had expressed concern regarding the top scoring Seed and Established Investigator applications from Yale University, including the overlap in personnel between each application. The Committee regarded the Seed application as excellent research; however, in alignment with the Committee's established funding strategy, concern was also expressed for the future funding of a Seed application and its early stage, given the current funding climate and future funding availability. Given the funding cut that was put into effect for the 2016 award cycle, the Committee voted to eliminate the Seed proposal, 16-RMA-YALE-09, as well as universally decrease the awarded dollar amounts to each of the top scoring Established Investigator applications.

Dr. Heinen reiterated that the funding strategy the Committee had agreed upon in July consisted of making the best decision possible in the face of a funding cut, and which awards would be the best use of dollars for RMRF as well as the state of CT. Mr. Wurzer stated that the Committee referred to the AAAS review, and then had to apply judgment during the July award meeting, and appropriately did so.

Mr. Wurzer asked the Committee members if they would like to add an agenda item to reconsider the motion of approval previously taken at the July 20, 2016 meeting, which did not include the approval of application 16-RMA-YALE-09. There was general consensus from the Committee that the decision made on July 20, 2016 stands, and a motion to add an agenda item for reconsideration was not necessary.

Mr. Wurzer stated that CI would respond to the inquiry received by Yale University on behalf of RMRF.

**Discuss and Structure 2017 RFP and 2017 Core RFP**

Ms. Drew proposed that the 2017 RFP will follow the standard procedure and timelines, with a release date scheduled for fall 2016, and RFP submissions to be due in mid-December 2016. A preliminary funding strategy meeting will be held in summer 2017, and the 2017 final award meeting will be held in October of next year.

Mr. Wurzer revisited the idea of creating an RFP specifically for Core facility applications. As discussed by the Committee in previous meetings, Core facility

awards are considered to be supportive of the most valuable asset to the future of RMRF. There was agreement from the Committee that separating Core applications from the standard RFP and review process would create a mechanism to potentially protect the future of Core facilities, post RMRF funding.

A discussion ensued regarding the structure of a Core RFP. There was general consensus from the Committee that the timeline and award amount should be increased; each Core application may be for up to \$1M, for a two (2) year project. There was also agreement to continue to utilize AAAS for peer review for Core, however, the peer review criteria should be revised specific to Core applications.

Mr. Wurzer asked for non-conflicted volunteers to participate in the creation and review of the Core RFP document; Dr. Tomishima and Mr. Devine volunteered to participate. The Core RFP will follow the standard annual timeline as set with the regular RMRF RFP.

**Advocacy Sub-Committee Discussion:**

A kick-off meeting was held for the Advocacy Sub-Committee volunteers to discuss a strategy and communication plan when lobbying to state representatives and legislators the importance and success of RMRF. Mr. Wurzer stated that Commissioner Catherine Smith (CT Department of Economic and Community Development) and Mr. Matthew McCooe (Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Innovations) would like to meet with representatives of the Advocacy Sub-Committee to better understand the plan for advocating, and to work together to identify additional sources of funding within the state that RMRF awardees may be directed to in the future. Mr. Wurzer stated that a meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

**Advisory Committee Vacancies:**

Mr. Wurzer stated that the RMRF Advisory Committee consists of 18 seats, and there are currently 6 vacancies on the Committee. He reviewed the expertise and background requirements for each of the vacant seats, and asked the Committee for any recommendations to individuals who may be appropriate to request appointment to the Committee by the governor and legislators who hold such authority.

**Adjournment:**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Krause, seconded by Dr. Heinen, the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adjourning the meeting at 10:23 a.m. VOTE: 8-0-0 (In favor: Wurzer, Tomishima, Heinen, Krause, Devine, Sacca, Pescatello and Hart).

Respectfully Submitted,



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David Wurzer, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer  
Connecticut Innovations, Inc.  
Acting Chair