

## **Spinal Cord Injury Research Board**

Regular Business Meeting

**October 24, 2014**

1:00 PM to 2:00PM

MINUTES

### **Locations**

**Albany:** NYS DOH David Axelrod Institute, 120 New Scotland Ave, Executive Conference Room

**New York City:** NYS DOH Metropolitan Area Regional Office, 90 Church St, Conference Room 4D

**Rochester:** University of Rochester Medical Center, Saunders Research Building, Room 1404

### **Board Members Present**

David A. Carmel

Jeffrey Ehmann

Donald Faber, PhD

Nancy A. Lieberman, JD

Lorne Mendell, PhD

Gary Paige, MD, PhD

Adam Stein, MD

Jonathan R. Wolpaw, MD

### **DOH Staff Present**

Terry Ascienzo

Bonnie Brautigam

Mary Rogers

Jeannine Tusch

Carlene Van Patten

Diana Yang, JD

### **Board Members Absent**

Michael Goldberg, MD

Keith Gurgui

Paul Richter

### **Call to Order and Opening Remarks of the Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. with a welcome by Chair, Lorne Mendell, PhD.

Board members introduced themselves. New member Nancy Lieberman, JD was introduced and welcomed.

### **Consideration of 2014 Application for Funding Institutional Support for Spinal Cord Injury Research RFA Round 3**

The summary was sent to the board for review and for consideration today.

### **ACTION**

Dr. Mendell entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session to begin discussion of the application. Ms. Lieberman made the motion to go into Executive Session; seconded by Donald Faber, PhD. A roll call vote was taken and the Board voted to adjourn into Executive Session (8-0). After discussing the application, the Board reconvened in open session.

### **Application Votes**

Dr. Mendell began the process of considering the application for funding. He explained that any amount recommended by the Board will be contingent on correction of any arithmetic errors. He said the final recommendation will be forwarded to the Commissioner and upon his acceptance contracts will be initiated.

### **S14I-019 Discussion**

Bonnie Jo Brautigam announced application S14I-019 from Research Foundation of CUNY - City College, with a recommended budget of \$544,157.76. A required match from the

Institution results in \$294,157.76 in contribution. David Carmel recused himself from discussion and left the room.

### **S14I-019 ACTION**

Adam Stein, MD made a motion to approve. Gary Paige, MD, PhD seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved (7-0).

Ms. Brautigam concluded by noting that in Fiscal Year 2014-2015, 13 applications were recommended for funding and 61% of the funds were made available. She distributed a handout, "Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Institutional Support for Spinal Cord Injury Research," to the Board. While Board members reviewed the handout, she noted that a total of \$6,255,592.80 will be infused into Spinal Cord Injury Research this year. She further explained that this amount included a sum from approved budget and institution commitment (match) of \$4,791,800.14 and \$1,463,792.66, respectively.

### **Peer Review Contract Status**

Ms. Brautigam announced that the technical and cost component review of bids for the Merit Peer Review Services for Scientific and Education Research Applications award is proceeding and the anticipated contract is expected to be in place by June 1, 2015.

In answer to questions from the Board about the delay from bid consideration to contract execution, Ms. Brautigam explained the procurement process and timelines associated with the Request for Proposals (RFP). She said that staff will be able to issue the Requests for Applications (RFAs) already authorized by the Board and applications from the scientific community will be ready for peer review in July 2015. Peer review results will be provided to the Board for consideration in the fall of 2015. She noted that resulting contracts would likely start June 1, 2016.

Members voiced concern regarding this timeline and asked questions. She emphasized that the Grants Gateway, the result of the Governor's commitment to streamline the grant contracting process, will help expedite the entire process from RFA issuance through contract execution. The goal is to reduce the time from application acceptance to contract execution to no more than six months.

Members expressed significant concern regarding the apparent inability to spend the remaining funds in Fiscal Years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Ms. Lieberman said that this is unacceptable and after further discussion, she made the following motion:

Resolved, the SCIRB hereby has determined to meet as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days from the date hereof, along with representatives of the Department of Health, and representatives of the New York State Comptroller's Office, in order to devise and approve a plan to be implemented in order to disburse all remaining funds for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and beyond for spinal cord injury research in New York State. Further resolved, that the governmental representatives attending such meeting and any subsequent meeting with SCIRB on the topic set forth in the preceding resolution shall come prepared with an outline and plan to facility such expedited projects.

Dr. Wolpaw seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved (8-0).

**Public Comment**

Eric Shipp, PhD and Nurit Kalderon, PhD individually voiced agreement with and support for the Board's resolution. No other members of the public wished to comment.

**Adjournment**

At 2:34 PM, Dr. Mendell made a motion to adjourn. All members were in agreement.