



SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH BOARD

Regular Business Meeting

January 18, 2017

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Locations

NYS DOH Metropolitan Area Regional Office, Conference Room 4A/B, 90 Church Street, New York, NY

NYS DOH David Axelrod Institute, Auditorium A&B, 120 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY

SCIRB Members Present

Thomas N. Bryce, M.D.
Anthony Caggiano, M.D., Ph.D.
Donald Faber, Ph.D.
Michael E. Goldberg, M.D.
Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D.
Keith Gurgui
Nancy Lieberman
Lorne Mendell, Ph.D.
Gary D. Paige, M.D., Ph.D.
Fraser Sim, Ph.D.

SCIRB Members Absent

Adam Stein, M.D.

NYS DOH Staff Present

Teresa Ascienzo
Charles Burns
Kathy Chou, Ph.D.
Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D.
Andrea Garavelli
Joan K. Harris, Esq.
Kerri Kluetzman, Ph.D.
Matthew Kohn, Ph.D.
Brian Rourke
Jeannine Tusch
Carlene Van Patten

Guests

Kristen Murphy

Call to Order and Opening Remarks of the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. with a welcome by Chair, Lorne Mendell, Ph.D. followed by introductions of Spinal Cord Injury Research Board (SCIRB) members and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) staff.

Dr. Mendell noted that David A. Carmel, appointed in 2014, concluded his time as a member. The SCIRB thanked him for his service during this essential time. Dr. Mendell noted that a candidate's name has been put forward to fill this vacancy. DOH staff will update SCIRB as soon as they receive notice of Mr. Carmel's replacement.

Keith Gurgui said a few words in memory of Dr. Ferne Pomerantz, who recently passed away. Mr. Gurgui noted that she would be greatly missed and thanked her for her contribution as a spinal cord injury (SCI) researcher and her dedication as a physiatrist.

Consideration of September 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Mendell asked the SCIRB to consider Exhibit 1, the minutes from the September 7, 2016 meeting.

ACTION

Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D. made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Gary D. Paige, M.D., Ph.D. seconded. Michael E. Goldberg, M.D. joined the meeting. A roll call vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved (10-0).

Program Update

Carlene Van Patten provided a review of Exhibit 2a, current and future programming of SCI research. She happily reported that ten (10) funding mechanisms have been programmed since the SCIRB funding was reinstated in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013-2014. A summary of these contracts/procurements is listed below.

- 1. Collaborations to Accelerate Research Translation (CART) and Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities (IDEA) in SCI:** Nine (9) multi-year contracts which totaled \$5.7 million have completed their second reporting period. The progress towards specific aims, future directions and impact will be reported in the 2016 SCIRB Annual Report. These six (6) IDEA contracts conclude October 31, 2017 and three (3) CART contracts conclude October 31, 2018.
- 2. Institutional Support for SCI (Round 5):** Nineteen (19) contracts have ended (8/31/2016) and progress from these contracts will be reported in the 2016 SCIRB Annual Report.

Donald Faber, Ph.D. requested for the SCIRB to receive the full progress report from these awards. Dr. Mendell said the SCIRB should view these reports as confidential intellectual property documents.

- 3. Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in SCI (Round 1):** Five (5) contracts conclude February 28, 2019 and progress from these contracts will be reported in the 2016 SCIRB Annual Report.
- 4. Translational Research Projects in SCI (Round 1):** Two (2) five-year contracts totaling \$8.7 million conclude August 14, 2021. These contracts are with Columbia University and the Research Foundation of CUNY at the City College of NY, CUNY School of Medicine.

Nancy Lieberman asked if there are procedures in place should the researchers not meet the project's proposed aims/goals. Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D. explained that the New York State Stem Cell Science Program (NYSTEM) uses an oversight panel to provide review of research for large projects. Dr. Derbyshire stated that in the case of large awards, the SCIRB may discuss utilizing an oversight panel and including this language in the next Translational Research Projects in SCI (Round 3) Request for Applications (RFA).

- 5. Institutional Support for SCI (Round 6):** Twenty (20) eligible organizations received letters of support for the expansion of SCI research within their organizations. These contracts will be executed in the near future for a period of five-years.
- 6. Projects to Accelerate Research Translation (PART) and Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities (IDEA) in SCI (Round 1):** Nine (9) out of the eleven (11) contacts have been executed at this time. Seven (7) two-year IDEA contracts conclude December 31, 2018 and four (4) three-year PART contracts will be executed and conclude December 31, 2019.

7. **Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in SCI (Round 2):** The SCIRB's agenda included considering the applications for funding later on during the meeting.
8. **PART and IDEA in SCI (Round 2) RFA:** This RFA was released on December 27, 2016. Applications are due in spring 2017. There is \$5 million available for 10-15 awards. The SCIRB will meet to vote on these applications in late summer 2017.
9. **Translational Research Projects in SCI (Round 2) RFA:** This RFA was released on January 11, 2017. Applications are due in spring 2017. There is \$6 million available for award. The SCIRB will meet to vote on these applications in late summer 2017.
10. **Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in SCI (Round 3) RFA:** This RFA is expected to be released in spring 2017.

Ms. Van Patten, reviewed Exhibit 2b, SCI research programming by procurement type. She noted that the Institutional Support funding was utilized initially to fully allocate program resources. She said the SCIRB had met the goal of fully allocating program funding through RFAs for competitive SCI research projects.

Andrea Garavelli, provided an overview of the applications received in response to the Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in SCI (Round 2) RFA. The procurement timeline is bulleted below:

- The RFA was approved by the SCIRB on January 20, 2016
- The RFA was issued on June 23, 2016
- Twelve (12) applications were submitted by the August 5, 2016 due date
- Independent peer review of the applications was held on October 12, 2016
- The multi-year contracts are expected have an award period of May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2020

Ms. Garavelli noted that applications were scored on a scale of 1.0-9.0 and scoring ties were resolved using the score for "Fellow and Development Plan" among those applications involved in the ties. As per the RFA, she noted that the SCIRB may vote in favor or against any application submitted for funding. Ms. Garavelli noted that the SCIRB could recommend the top nine (9) applications, and funding of \$1.5 million would be spent through State Fiscal Year 2020-2021. She stated the SCIRB could "approve, but not fund" other meritorious applications, which could become recommended awards for funding, should there be any declinations.

Anthony Caggiano, M.D., Ph.D. motioned to move into Executive Session and Thomas N. Bryce, M.D. seconded. The SCIRB unanimously voted to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of considering applications for research funding. Members of the public and non-essential staff were asked to leave the room.

After discussing the Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in SCI (Round 2) applications, the SCIRB reconvened in Public Session.

Award Recommendations

Dr. Mendell began the process of considering the applications, noting that the final award amounts will be contingent on correction of any arithmetic errors and administrative issues. He

explained the final recommendations will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Health and upon his acceptance, the contract award process will be initiated.

In summary, \$1.5 million in the form of two (2) Predoctoral and seven (7) Postdoctoral Fellowships applications were recommended for funding. Details are provided on pages 5-7.

Future Meetings

At its next meeting in late summer of 2017, the SCIRB will consider Projects to Accelerate Research Translation (PART) and Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities (IDEA) in SCI (Round 2) and Translational Research Projects in SCI (Round 2) applications for funding.

Adjournment

The SCIRB unanimously voted to adjourn and the meeting ended at 3:50 p.m.

Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in SCI (Round 2) RFA: A total of \$1.5 million in the form of two (2) Predoctoral and seven (7) Postdoctoral Fellowships awards were recommended. These projects are three-year awards.

Funding Mechanism/Research Category	Organization	Project Title	Investigators	Recommended Award	Votes (Y-N)
Predoctoral Fellowship/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Cornell University	In vivo three-photon excited fluorescence imaging of spinal cord neural activity in awake, locomoting mice after spinal cord injury	Chris B. Schaffer, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Yu-Ting Chen, Ph.D. Student, Fellow Joseph Fetcho, Collaborator Chris Xu, Collaborator	\$135,600	9-0 Dr. Grafstein recused
Postdoctoral Fellowship/ Rehabilitation	Bronx Veterans Medical Research Foundation, Inc	EMG Triggered Closed-Loop Stimulation for Spinal Cord Injury Individuals	Noam Harel, M.D, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Yu-Kuang Wu, P.T., Ph.D, Co-PI, Fellow	\$187,440	9-0 Dr. Bryce recused
Postdoctoral Fellowship/ Rehabilitation	Columbia University	Improving locomotor function after spinal cord injury with a perturbation-based balance training	Sunil K. Agrawal, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Dario Martelli, Ph.D., Fellow	\$193,482	9-0 Dr. Goldberg recused
Predoctoral Fellowship/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Estrogen based biomaterials promote astrocytic growth factor production and provide neuroprotection against glutamate excitotoxicity	Ryan J. Gilbert, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Anthony D'Amato, Ph.D. Student, Fellow Edmund Palermo, Ph.D., Co-Investigator	\$135,600	10-0
Postdoctoral Fellowship/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Epigenetic modulation of immune response to enhance neuroprotection in spinal cord injury	Hongyan Zou, Ph.D., M.D., PI (Sponsor) Shalaka D. Wahane, Ph.D., Fellow	\$176,550	9-0 Dr. Bryce recused

Funding Mechanism/Research Category	Organization	Project Title	Investigators	Recommended Award	Votes (Y-N)
Postdoctoral Fellowship/ Rehabilitation	Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	Motor learning mechanisms during rehabilitation from spinal cord injury	Edmund R. Hollis, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Yue Li, Ph.D., Fellow	\$168,414	9-0 Dr. Grafstein recused
Postdoctoral Fellowship/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	University of Rochester	Novel pharmacological approach to promoting myelin preservation, neuronal regeneration and preventing muscle atrophy following SCI	Christoph Proschel, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Jennifer Stripay, Ph.D., Fellow	\$176,454	7-0 Ms. Lieberman, Dr. Paige and Dr. Caggiano recused
Postdoctoral Fellowship/ Rehabilitation	Feinstein Institute for Medical Research	Biomarkers in adult and pediatric traumatic spinal cord injury	Ona Bloom, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Nawshin Kutub, Ph.D., Fellow	\$168,414	10-0
Postdoctoral Fellowship/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	Improving axonal growth through Schwann cell transplant by the activation of integrin following SCI	Caitlin E. Hill, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Ying Dai, Ph.D., Fellow	\$174,090	8-1 Dr. Grafstein recused
Predocctoral Fellowship/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Stony Brook University	Enhanced Delivery of Pifithrin- μ via Pluronic F-127 Hydrogel Following SCI	Styliani-Anna (Stella) Tsirka, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Michael Caponegro, Ph.D. Student, Fellow Miriam Rafailovich, Ph.D., Collaborator Clement Marmorat, Collaborator	\$0	6-2 Dr. Mendell recused and Ms. Lieberman abstained

Funding Mechanism/Research Category	Organization	Project Title	Investigators	Recommended Award	Votes (Y-N)
Postdoctoral Fellowship/ Rehabilitation	Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	Computationally Optimizing and Modeling the Effects of Paired Electrical Stimulation on Corticospinal Circuits	Jason Carmel, M.D., Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Shivakeshavan Ratnadurai Giridharan, Ph.D., Fellow	\$0	4-4 Dr. Grafstein recused and Ms. Lieberman abstained
Predoctoral Fellowship/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Columbia University	Active Posture Training in SCI Using Trunk Support Trainer (TruST)	Sunil K. Agrawal, Ph.D., PI (Sponsor) Moiz Khan, Ph.D. Student, Fellow	\$0	0-9 Dr. Goldberg recused