



## SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH BOARD

Regular Business Meeting

January 24, 2020

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**ADOPTED**

### Locations

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

NYS DOH, Wadsworth Center, Biggs Laboratory, Sturman Conference Room, Albany, NY

University of Rochester, School of Medicine & Dentistry, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY

### **SCIRB Members Present**

Donald S. Faber, Ph.D., Vice Chair

Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D., D.Sc.(hon.)

Keith Gurgui

Nancy A. Lieberman

Lorne Mendell, Ph.D., Chair

Gary D. Paige, M.D., Ph.D.

Kristjan T. Ragnarsson, M.D.

Fraser J. Sim, Ph.D.

Adam B. Stein, M.D.

### **SCIRB Members Absent**

Anthony O. Caggiano, M.D., Ph.D.

Michael E. Goldberg, M.D.

### **NYS DOH Staff Present**

Teresa Ascienzo

Valerie Bolivar, Ph.D.

George Cotich, Jr.

Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D., Executive Secretary

Andrea Garavelli

Jonathan B. Karmel

Kerri Kluetzman, Ph.D.

Farrah M. O'Brien

Brian Rourke

Jeannine Tusch

Carlene Van Patten

### **Members of the Public**

Kaitlyn MacLeod

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. with a welcome by Chair, Lorne Mendell, Ph.D., followed by introductions of New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Board (SCIRB) members, members of the public and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) staff.

Note, two (2) board members were absent and there is one (1) gubernatorial vacancy and one (1) vacancy to be filled by legislative leadership.

### **Board Membership**

Dr. Mendell said that Dr. Thomas Bryce, M.D., Ph.D., has resigned from the SCIRB (effective September 19, 2019) and that the Commissioner of Health thanked him for his dedicated service over the past five (5) years, and the SCIRB wishes him all the best on his future endeavors.

### **Consideration of September 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Mendell asked the SCIRB to consider Exhibit 1, the minutes from the September 13, 2019 meeting.

---

Dr. Mendell said that at the last meeting, a question was asked if Board members could be appointed to the SCIRB if they lived outside of New York State and the answer is new candidates must be New York State residents to be considered for membership moving forward.

#### **ACTION**

Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D., D.Sc.(hon.) made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vice Chair, Donald S. Faber, Ph.D., seconded.

A roll call vote was taken, and the minutes were unanimously approved (9-0).

#### **Projects to Accelerate Research Translation (PART) and Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities in Spinal Cord Injury (Round 4) Request for Applications (RFA)**

Andrea Garavelli provided an overview of the applications received in response to this RFA; the procurement timeline is bulleted below:

- The RFA was approved by the SCIRB and then it was issued on April 25, 2019,
- Prospective applicants were given a period of eight (8) weeks to prepare and submit their applications,
- Twenty-nine (29) applications were submitted by the deadline,
- Independent peer review of the applications was held in September 2019,
- The RFA made \$5 million available to fund approximately 5-14 awards,
- The contracts are expected to begin on July 1, 2020 for a term of three (3) years for PART awards and two (2) years for IDEA awards.

#### **Translational Research Projects (TRP) in Spinal Cord Injury (Round 3) RFA**

Ms. Garavelli provided an overview of the applications received in response to this RFA; the procurement timeline is bulleted below:

- The RFA was approved by the SCIRB and then it was issued on April 29, 2019,
- Prospective applicants were given a period of ten (10) weeks to prepare and submit their applications,
- Three (3) applications were submitted by the deadline,
- Independent peer review of the applications was held in September 2019,
- The RFA made \$6 million available to fund approximately two (2) awards,
- The contracts are expected to begin on August 1, 2020 for a term of five (5) years.

For both abovementioned RFAs, Ms. Garavelli said that the SCIRB may vote in favor or against any application submitted for funding, and if an application for which there are available funds is not recommended for funding, the SCIRB will fully justify why the application was not approved. She stated the SCIRB could “approve, but not fund” other meritorious applications, which could become recommended awards for funding, should there be any declinations.

The SCIRB adjourned into Executive Session for the purpose of considering applications for research funding and future RFAs at 10:25 a.m. Members of the public and non-essential staff were asked to leave the room.

After discussing the research applications and future RFAs, the SCIRB reconvened in Public Session at 3:00 p.m.

## **Future RFA: Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in Spinal Cord Injury Research (Round 5)**

### **ACTION**

Keith Gurgui made a motion to approve a Fellowships (Round 5) RFA, with revisions, as presented in their meeting materials during Executive Session. Dr. Grafstein seconded.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved (9-0).

## **SCIRB Recommendations**

Dr. Mendell began the process of considering the applications in response to the PART and IDEA and TRP in Spinal Cord Injury RFAs. Ms. Garavelli announced the application number, organization, and principal investigator. A listing of the SCIRB's recommendations are provided on pages 5-7.

In summary, the SCIRB recommended funding of \$3.8 million in the form of one (1) PART and eight (8) IDEA awards. The SCIRB's recommendations will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Health for approval.

## **Future RFA: Translational Research Projects (TRP) in Spinal Cord Injury (Round 4)**

### **ACTION**

Dr. Grafstein made a motion to approve a TRP (Round 4) RFA for release in 2020 and previous applicants will be allowed to respond to a prior critique in one-page or less. Fraser J. Sim, Ph.D., seconded.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved (9-0).

## **Future RFA: Projects to Accelerate Research Translation (PART) and Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities in Spinal Cord Injury (Round 5)**

### **ACTION**

Dr. Grafstein made a motion to approve a PART & IDEA (Round 5) RFA for release in 2020. Dr. Faber seconded.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved (9-0).

## **Future NYS SCI Research Symposium**

### **ACTION**

Dr. Mendell made a motion for the DOH staff to begin planning a future NYS SCI Research Symposium in 2021 with a scientific committee, comprised of SCIRB members. Adam B. Stein, M.D., seconded.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved (9-0).

## **Public Comment**

No members of the public provided a written statement and there was no public comment.

**Future Meeting & Adjournment**

At its next meeting, the SCIRB will consider applications for funding two (2) SCI Research RFAs: Projects to Accelerate Research Translation and Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities in SCI and Translational Research Projects in SCI. Dr. Mendell thanked members of the SCIRB, public and DOH staff for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

### **PART and IDEA (Round 4)**

\$3.8 million in the form of one (1) PART and eight (8) IDEA awards were recommended.

Projects are three (3) years for PART awards and two (2) years for IDEA awards.

Organization(s)	Funding Mechanism/Research Category	Project Title	PI & Co-PI(s)	Recommended Funding	Votes (Y-N)
Research Foundation for SUNY, University at Albany	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Elemental Analysis of a Gene Network Implicated in CNS Axon Regeneration	Ben G. Szaro, Ph.D.	\$ 351,031	9-0
Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	PART/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Novel Combinatorial Approach to Improve Motor Recovery After Spinal Cord Injury	Yutaka Yoshida, Ph.D.	\$ 990,000	9-0
Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Modulation of Presynaptic Partners of Corticospinal Neurons to Improve Motor Recovery After Spinal Cord Injury	Yutaka Yoshida, Ph.D.	\$ 360,000	9-0
Cornell University	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Investigating Regenerative Goldfish Extracellular Matrix in Mammalian SCI	Yadong Wang, Ph.D., Chris B. Schaffer, Ph.D.	\$ 360,000	9-0
The Research Foundation of CUNY obo College of Staten Island	IDEA/Rehabilitation	Function of Spinal Locomotor Centers During Transspinal Stimulation After SCI	Maria Knikou, P.T., Ph.D.	\$ 359,004	9-0
The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York Sub-applicant: Helen Hayes Hospital	IDEA/Rehabilitation	Wheelchair Robot for Active Postural Support (WRAPS) of People with Spinal Cord Injury	Sunil K. Agrawal, Ph.D., Victoria A. Lent, M.D.	\$ 346,220	8-0 Mr. Gurgui recused
Research Foundation for SUNY Stony Brook	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Targeting CaV3.2 Calcium Channel to Treat Chronic Neuropathic Pain Following SCI	Michelino Puopolo, Ph.D., Martin Kaczocha, Ph.D.	\$ 360,000	8-0 Dr. Mendell recused

Organization(s)	Funding Mechanism/Research Category	Project Title	PI & Co-PI(s)	Recommended Funding	Votes (Y-N)
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	IDEA/Rehabilitation	Long Term Effects of rTMS in Chronic Neuropathic Pain in People with SCI	Mar Cortes, M.D.	\$ 357,170	7-0 Ms. Lieberman & Dr. Ragnarsson recused
Research Foundation for SUNY Stony Brook	IDEA/Rehabilitation	Neuroprotective Strategies to Minimize SCI Tissue Damage and Improve Bladder and Respiratory Function	Irene C. Solomon, Ph.D., William F. Collins, Ph.D.	\$ 357,782	8-0 Dr. Mendell recused
The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York	IDEA/Rehabilitation	MyHand-SCI: A Powered Wrist/Hand Orthosis to Assist Individuals with Tetraplegia with Hand Function	Joel Stein, M.D., Matei Ciocarlie, Ph.D.	\$ 0	0-9
Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	PART/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Targeting $\alpha$ -Tubulin Acetylation to Promote Regeneration and Functional Recovery Following SCI	Dianna E. Willis, Ph.D.	\$ 0	0-9
Bronx Veterans Medical Research Foundation	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Impact of SCI on Osteoblast Lineage Cell Function and Effects of Anabolic Stimulation	Hesham A.W. Tawfeek, M.D.	\$ 0	0-9

**TRP in Spinal Cord Injury (Round 3)**

Zero (0) TRP awards were recommended; however, the SCIRB will release the next TRP in Spinal Cord Injury (Round 4) RFA in 2020 and encourages applicants to resubmit their projects with revisions in response to the peer review critiques.

Organizations	Research Category	Project Title	PI & Co-PI(s)	Recommended Funding	Votes (Y-N)
The Research Foundation of CUNY obo College of Staten Island Sub-applicant: Drexel University	Rehabilitation	Enabling Maximum Recovery by Targeted Transspinal Stimulation After SCI	Maria Knikou, P.T., Ph.D., Marie-Pascale Côté, Ph.D.	\$ 0	0-9
The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research Sub-applicant: University of Louisville	Rehabilitation	Cortically-Modulated Epidural Stimulation for the Treatment of SCI	Chad E. Bouton, M.S., Ashesh Dinesh Mehta, M.D., Ph.D. Susan J. Harkema, Ph.D.	\$ 0	0-8 Dr. Stein recused
The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York Sub-applicant: University of Louisville	Rehabilitation	Recovery of Postural Control in Children with Spinal Cord Injury Using a Trunk Support Trainer (TruST)	Sunil K. Agrawal, Ph.D., Andrea L. Behrman, Ph.D., Victor Santamaria Gonzalez, P.T., Ph.D.	\$ 0	0-9