



SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH BOARD

Regular Business Meeting

October 15, 2018

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Locations

NYS Office of the State Comptroller, 59 Maiden Lane, 29th Floor, Conference Room B, New York, NY
NYS Department of Health, Wadsworth Center, Biggs Laboratory, Sturman Conference Room, Albany, NY

SCIRB Members Present

Thomas N. Bryce, M.D.
Donald Faber, Ph.D.
Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D., D.Sc. (hon.)
Keith Gurgui
Nancy Lieberman
Lorne Mendell, Ph.D.
Kristjan Tomas Ragnarsson, M.D.
Fraser Sim, Ph.D.
Adam Stein, M.D.

SCIRB Members Absent

Anthony Caggiano, M.D., Ph.D.
Michael E. Goldberg, M.D.
Gary D. Paige, M.D., Ph.D.

NYS DOH Staff Present

Teresa Ascienzo
Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D.
Andrea Garavelli
Jonathan B. Karmel
Farrah M. O'Brien
Brian Rourke
Jeannine Tusch
Carlene Van Patten

Members of the Public

Dwight Cheu
Mike DiCesare

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, Ph.D., followed by introductions of Spinal Cord Injury Research Board (SCIRB) members and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) staff. New board member, Kristjan Tomas Ragnarsson, M.D., was introduced and welcomed. Note, Dr. Ragnarsson's appointment has filled a gubernatorial seat and there is one vacancy is to be filled by legislative leadership.

Dr. Mendell announced that Joan K. Harris, Esq. who has worked closely with the SCIRB since 2016 will no longer be the DOH Counsel. Dr. Mendell welcomed Jonathan B. Karmel on his recent appointment to represent DOH at SCIRB meetings.

NYS Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Research Symposium

Dr. Mendell provided an update on the NYS SCI Research Symposium to be held on October 16-17, 2018 at the Rockefeller University, Carson Family Auditorium; a summary is listed below.

- All NYS Spinal Cord Injury Research grantees received invitations to present their research during the planned seminars or poster sessions
- Tuesday, October 16th agenda includes four (4) research seminar sessions and one (1) poster session

- Wednesday, October 17th agenda includes two (2) research seminar sessions, an informal discussion and one (1) poster session
- Generous support from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation has made the Symposium possible
- Seven (7) distinguished International/National SCI researchers were invited to deliver seminars on important SCI topics during the scheduled sessions. After today's meeting, they will be joining the SCIRB for a working dinner at the Griffis Faculty Club to prepare for the Symposium

Consideration of February 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Mendell asked the SCIRB to consider Exhibit 1, the minutes from the February 5, 2018 meeting.

ACTION

Donald Faber, Ph.D. made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D., D.Sc. (hon.) seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved (9-0).

Considerations of Applications:

Projects to Accelerate Research Translation (PART) and Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities (IDEA) in Spinal Cord Injury (Round 3)

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

- The RFA was approved by the SCIRB and then it was issued on February 21, 2018
- Thirty-one (31) applications were submitted by the April 18, 2018 due date. One (1) applicant withdrew their application due to alternate funding. Two (2) applications did not pass administrative review
- Independent peer review of the applications was held on July 17-19, 2019
- The RFA made \$5 million available to fund approximately 5-14 (PART and/or IDEA) awards
- The multi-year contracts are expected to begin on May 1, 2019 for a multi-year term of three (3) years for PART awards and two (2) years for IDEA awards

Ms. Garavelli noted that applications were scored on a scale of 1.0-9.0 and scoring ties were resolved using the score for "Research Plan" among those applications involved in the ties.

Adam Stein, M.D. motioned to move into Executive Session and Fraser Sim, Ph.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 PART and IDEA applications, the SCIRB reconvened in Public Session.

SCIRB Recommendations

Dr. Mendell began the process of considering the applications. Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D., Executive Secretary to the SCIRB, announced the organizations and principal investigators' applications. A listing of the SCIRB's recommendations are provided on pages 5-6.

In summary, the SCIRB recommended funding of \$4.1 million in the form of three (3) PART and four (4) IDEA awards.

Program Update

Carlene Van Patten provided a review of Exhibit 3a, current and future programming of SCI research funding. A summary of these contracts/procurements is listed below. Progress for each will be featured in the 2018 SCIRB Annual Report.

- **Collaborations to Accelerate Research Translation (CART) and IDEA in SCI:** Five (5) of the nine (9) multi-year CART/IDEA contracts complete their final reporting period in 2018. Two (2) IDEA contracts received no cost extensions and two (2) CART contracts have requested no cost extensions.
- **Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in SCI (Fellowships) (Round 1):** Contracts are in their fourth reporting period and will conclude in February 2019.
- **Translational Research Projects (TRP) in SCI (Round 1):** Two (2) five-year contracts which totaled \$8.7 million are in their fourth reporting period.
- **Institutional Support for SCI (Round 6):** There are twenty (20) Institutional Support contracts, these funds are intended to further support ongoing SCI research projects.
- **PART and IDEA in SCI (Round 1):** Eleven (11) multi-year contracts which totaled \$6.2 million have completed their fourth reporting period. These seven (7) IDEA contracts conclude December 31, 2018 and four (4) PART contracts conclude December 31, 2019.
Fellowships (Round 2): Eight (8) multi-year contracts which totaled \$1.3 million are in their third reporting period.
- **PART and IDEA in SCI (Round 2) RFA:** Fourteen (14) awards which totaled \$6.5 million are in their first reporting period. These eleven (11) IDEA contracts conclude May 31, 2020 and three (3) PART contracts will end May 31, 2021.
- **TRP in SCI (Round 2):** Two (2) awards which totaled \$2.8 million are in their first reporting period. These contracts will end April 30, 2022. They were awarded to Dr. Mark Noble from the University of Rochester and Dr. Jonathan Wolpaw from Health Research, Inc.
- **Fellowships (Round 3):** Seven (7) applications were recommended for award at the February 5, 2018 SCIRB meeting. One (1) applicant declined funding due to receiving alternate funding; therefore, six (6) awards, totaling \$1 million began on September 1, 2018.
- **PART and IDEA in SCI (Round 3) RFA:** Today's SCIRB meeting agenda included considering applications received in response to this RFA.
- **Fellowships (Round 4) RFA:** The SCIRB will meet to consider the applications for funding in winter 2019.

Programming Future RFAs

Ms. Garavelli noted that the SCIRB received draft excerpts for a RFA entitled Training Programs in Spinal Cord Injury Research for Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows (Training Programs) in their meeting materials. She said they would discuss this RFA in greater detail at their next meeting. She explained that if the Board decides to release the Training Programs RFA (\$6 million available funding) versus its recurring Fellowships RFA (\$1.5 million available funding), the timeline for the next PART & IDEA and TRP RFAs may need to be adjusted. DOH staff will provide programming options for this discussion at the next SCIRB meeting.

Future Meetings

At its next meeting in the early winter of 2019, the SCIRB will consider the Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in SCI (Round 4) RFA applications for funding.

Public Comment

Dwight Cheu attended the meeting to observe and introduce himself. Mr. Cheu is the CEO of Jamboxx, which is a harmonica-like device that attaches to a computer and allows people with limited mobility to create music with their breath. He stated that although Jamboxx did not receive the Board's recommendation for funding, his company will improve their proposal should they apply for future NYS SCI research opportunities.

Adjournment

Dr. Mendell thanked members of the Board and public for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Projects to Accelerate Research Translation (PART) and Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities (IDEA) (Round 3) RFA: \$4.1 million in the form of three (3) PART and four (4) IDEA awards were recommended. Projects are three (3) years for PART awards and two (2) years for IDEA awards.

Organization	Funding Mechanism/Research Category	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Recommended Funding	Votes (Y-N)
Bronx Veterans Medical Research Foundation	PART/Rehabilitation	Abaloparatide to Improve Bone Mineral Density and Architecture in Chronic SCI	William A. Bauman, M.D.	\$826,939	7-0 Drs. Bryce and Ragnarsson recused
Bronx Veterans Medical Research Foundation	IDEA/Rehabilitation	Development of a Self-Regulating Heated Vest to Increase Outdoor Accessibility during Cooler Seasons in Persons with Spinal Cord Injury	John P. Handrakis, P.T., D.P.T., Ed.D., N.C.S.	\$0	0-7 Drs. Bryce and Ragnarsson recused
Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Blood Flow Control and its Impairment in Spinal Cord Injury	Botir T. Sagdullaev, Ph.D.	\$357,566	8-0 Dr. Grafstein recused
Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	PART/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation as a means to Promote CST Axon Regeneration	Jian Zhong, Ph.D.	\$990,000	8-0 Dr. Grafstein recused
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	IDEA/Rehabilitation	Virtual Reality to Reduce Pain in the Upper Extremities After Spinal Cord Injury	David F. Putrino, P.T., Ph.D.	\$357,639	7-0 Drs. Bryce and Ragnarsson recused
University of Rochester	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Transglutaminase 2 as a Therapeutic Target to Facilitate Recovery After Spinal Cord Injury	Gail V.W. Johnson, Ph.D.	\$360,000	8-0 Ms. Lieberman recused

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Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	PART/Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation and Cortical Remodeling After Surgical Intervention for Spinal Cord Injury	Edmund R. Hollis, Ph.D.	\$963,000	8-0 Dr. Grafstein recused
Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	CNS Reorganization in a Mouse Model of Nerve Transfer to Treat SCI	Edmund R. Hollis, Ph.D.	\$360,000	0-8 Dr. Grafstein recused
Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Regeneration of Spinal Cord Sensory Afferents After Dorsal Root Crush Injury	Jian Zhong, Ph.D.	\$348,115	0-8 Dr. Grafstein recused
Winifred Masterson Burke Medical Research Institute	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Retraction Bulbs and Axonal Regeneration Failure: The Contribution of Defective Autophagy	Caitlin E. Hill, Ph.D.	\$0	0-8 Dr. Grafstein recused
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	IDEA/Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Systems Therapeutics for Spinal Cord Injury	Ravi Iyengar, Ph.D.	\$342,914	7-0 Drs. Bryce and Ragnarsson recused
Research Foundation for State University of New York, Stony Brook University	IDEA/Rehabilitation	Combined Neuroprotection and Neuroplasticity Intervention to Improve LUT and Respiratory Function Following SCI	William F. Collins, Ph.D.	\$0	0-8 Dr. Mendell recused
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	IDEA/Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation with a Standing Power Wheelchair for Acute Spinal Cord Injury	Miguel Escalon, M.D.	\$0	0-8 Drs. Bryce and Ragnarsson recused