



**HEALTH RESEARCH SCIENCE BOARD**

Business Meeting & Public Hearing

June 29, 2022

**DRAFT AND UNADOPTED MINUTES**

**Locations**

Video conferencing technology was utilized since State of New York Executive Order 11.7 extended Executive Order 11, allowing public meetings to be held remotely through July 14, 2022.

**HRSB Members Present**

Douglas S. Conklin, Ph.D., Chair  
Beverly Canin  
Jeanette Diplo  
Donald W. Distasio  
M. Suzanne Hicks  
Adrian Krainer, Ph.D.  
Diana E. Lake, M.D.  
Annette T. Lee, Ph.D.  
Catherine Putkowski-O'Brien  
Erasmus Schneider, Ph.D.  
Regina Resta, M.D.

**NYS Staff Present**

Teresa Ascienzo  
Alana Buscher  
Tiffany Fischer  
Andrea Garavelli  
David Googins  
Kerri Kluetzman, Ph.D.  
Edward McCormick, II  
Farrah M. O'Brien  
Brian Rourke  
Jeannine Tusch

**Members of the Public**

Frances Harfouche, M.S.W.

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

James Chithalen, Ph.D., DOH Designee  
Richard Dickinson, DEC Designee

**HRSB Members Absent**

Randa Maher  
James L. Speyer, M.D.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. with a welcome by Chair, Douglas S. Conklin, Ph.D. followed by introductions of Health Research Science Board (HRSB) members and New York State Department of Health (DOH) staff. Note, two (2) board members were absent and there is one (1) candidate in process to fill a gubernatorial vacancy and six (6) vacancies to be filled by legislative leadership. Dr. Conklin urges the legislative leaders to fill vacant seats and asked current members to send potential candidate names to DOH staff.

**Board Membership Updates**

Dr. Conklin announced two (2) new HRSB members have been appointed, both scientists, Adrian Krainer, Ph.D. and Erasmus Schneider, Ph.D. and one (1) has resigned, Marc Wilkenfeld, M.D. after many years of service.

**DOH Staff Updates**

Andrea Garavelli, Executive Secretary to the Board, announced Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D. and Carlene Van Patten have retired and two (2) new DOH staff have joined the Administration, James Chithalen, Ph.D., Deputy Director of Wadsworth Center and the Commissioner of Health's Ex-Officio Designee and Alana Buscher, the Wadsworth Center's Associate Director for Administration.

*Diana E. Lake, M.D. joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m. and introduced herself.*

**Exhibit 1. Consideration of May 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Conklin asked the HRSB to consider Exhibit 1, the minutes from the May 8, 2020 meeting.

## **ACTION**

Donald Distasio made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Jeanette Dippo seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved (11-0).

### **Consideration of Applications for Funding**

Ms. Garavelli provided an overview of the applications received in response to two (2) of three (3) recurring breast cancer scientific/education research request for applications (RFAs); the procurement timelines are bulleted below.

#### **Exhibit 2. Order of Review, Patricia S. Brown Breast Cancer Risk Reduction Education Research Projects (Brown Round 8)**

- There is \$270,000 available to fund approximately one (1) award
- This RFA was issued on December 1, 2021
- One (1) application did not pass administrative review and two (2) were peer reviewed
- Independent peer review of the applications was held on May 3, 2022 and the applications were scored on a scale of 1.0-9.0.

#### **Exhibit 3. Order of Review, Peter T. Rowley Breast Cancer Scientific Research Projects (Rowley Round 7)**

- There is \$2.16 million available to fund approximately five-seven (5-7) awards
- This RFA was issued on August 11, 2021
- Nineteen (19) applications were received by the due date
- Independent peer review of the applications was held in January 2022, fifteen (15) applications were scored on a scale of 1.0-9.0 and four (4) applications were triaged
- The Research Plan score is the tie-breaker and the Impact score is the second tie-breaker

Ms. Garavelli stated the three-year Brown Round 8, and the two-year Rowley Round 7 contracts will start in January 2023. She said the HRSB may decide to program available funds towards more Rowley Round 7 awards.

For both abovementioned RFAs, Ms. Garavelli said that the HRSB 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 HRSB will fully justify why the application was not approved. She stated the HRSB could approve, but not fund other meritorious applications due to limited resources, which could become recommended awards for funding, should there be any declinations.

Ms. Garavelli provided a summary of the HRSB's third recurring RFA, although no applications were received, the procurement timeline is bulleted below.

#### **Healthcare Practitioner Breast Cancer Education Research Projects (Healthcare Practitioner Round 4)**

- There was \$540,000 available to fund approximately two (2) awards
- This RFA was issued on January 26, 2022
- No applications were received by the due date
- A non-applicant poll was sent, and a few respondents said they may apply if the opportunity is offered again.

Ms. Garavelli noted a member of the public, Frances Harfouche, M.S.W., from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center was in attendance since her institution is interested in applying if this RFA is offered again.

**ACTION**

M. Suzanne Hicks motioned to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the applications received in response to the RFAs. Regina Resta, M.D. seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved (11-0).

Members of the public exited the virtual meeting and were invited to rejoin after Executive Session. After discussing the research applications and future RFAs, the HRSB reconvened in Public Session at 1:15 p.m.

*Richard Dickinson and Tiffany Fischer from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) joined the meeting at 1:15 p.m.*

**HRSB Award Recommendations**

Dr. Conklin proceeded with the next order of business to vote on the recommended awards for the RFAs:

Dr. Conklin began the process of considering Exhibit 2, Brown Round 8 peer review results. Ms. Garavelli announced the application number, principal investigator and organization of the top scoring application.

**ACTION**

Dr. Resta made a motion to approve (fund) this Brown Round 8 application (DOH01-PBRWN8-2023-00004 from Marthy Eddy, Ed.D., at Moving for Life Inc.) for funding using the peer review results as the basis for this decision. Dr. Lake seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion was not approved (8-3).

In summary, the HRSB did not recommend the Brown Round 8 application for funding.

Dr. Conklin began the process of considering Exhibit 3, Rowley Round 7 peer review results. Ms. Garavelli announced the application numbers, principal investigators and organizations of the top three (3) scoring applications. A listing of the HRSB's recommendations is provided on page 5.

**ACTION**

Ms. Hicks made a motion to recommend three (3) Rowley Round 7 applications for funding to the Commissioner of Health using the peer review results in order of best to worst scores. Ms. Dippo seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved (11-0).

In summary, the HRSB recommended \$1.08 million for three (3) Rowley Round 7 awards. Ms. Garavelli stated that the HRSB's recommendations will be sent to the Commissioner of Health for approval.

## **Future RFAs**

Dr. Conklin asked the Board to consider the release of three (3) recurring breast cancer scientific/education research RFAs. Andrea Garavelli announced the names of the RFAs and the funding amounts for future release.

### **ACTION**

Ms. Distasio made a motion to approve the Brown Round 9 RFA with \$270,000 available for release as soon as possible with revisions as discussed and agreed upon, and the Healthcare Practitioner Round 5 RFA with \$270,000 available for release as soon as possible with revisions and discussed and agreed upon, and the Rowley Round 8 RFA with \$1.8 million available for release as soon as possible with revisions as discussed and agreed upon. Ms. Dippo seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved (11-0).

## **Exhibit 4. Program Update**

Jeannine Tusch provided a review of Exhibit 4, programming of the breast cancer research and education funding. She stated that DOH staff will continue to carefully monitor the expenditures and scientific progress of the contractors and the scientific progress of any closed and current contracts will be included in the 2021-2022 HRSB Biennial Report.

Ms. Tusch said since the Board last met, thirteen (13) awarded contracts concluded and despite COVID-19 restrictions the PIs were able to adapt and meet contract aims. A combined total of fifteen (15) research publications and one (1) manuscript acknowledging HRSB support was created from these projects. A summary of the twelve (12) current contracts is bulleted below.

- Rowley Round 5: One (1) of the (5) contracts that began on November 1, 2019 received a no-cost extension and will conclude in October 2022.
- Brown Round 6: One (1) contract will conclude in November 2022
- Healthcare Practitioner Round 2: Two (2) contracts will conclude in November 2022.
- Rowley Round 6: Eight (8) contracts will conclude in October 2023.

## **Open Meetings Law Update**

Ms. Tusch provided an update on the recent amendments to the Open Meetings Law. She explained that the Board may adopt a resolution which could define videoconferencing processes to use, if necessary, when the Disaster Emergency (Executive Order 11.7) expires and meetings in person are required. She said for HRSB members attendance to count towards quorum, they must be physically present (able to be seen and heard) from a location open to the public. If a member would like to attend the meeting from their institution in a conference room, they could still do so if the address is listed on the meeting notice in advance, and members of the public would have a right to attend at that location DOH staff will still require members of the public to preregister, and they still plan on offering the virtual ability to attend for the public.

### **ACTION**

Beverly Canin made a motion that the Board may in its discretion allow its members to participate remotely, under extraordinary circumstances, for itself and its committees, and as long as there is a quorum of members (9) gathered at a physical location or locations open to the public. Extraordinary circumstances shall include, but not be limited to, temporary or permanent disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member's physical attendance at such meeting. The Chair may use their discretion, on behalf of the Board,

to excuse the member's physical attendance if the reason for the extraordinary circumstance is communicated to the Board's Chair prior to a meeting.

Ms. Hicks seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved (11-0).

### **Future Meetings**

At its next meeting in 2023, the HRSB will recommend applications for funding their three (3) recurring breast cancer scientific/education research RFAs (Rowley Round 8, Brown Round 9, and Healthcare Practitioner Round 5) to the Commissioner of Health.

### **Public Hearing**

The public hearing convened, and Dr. Conklin introduced the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation Ex-Officio Designee, Richard Dickinson. Mr. Dickinson provided a summary of the report on the Efficiency and Utility of Pesticide Reporting. Importantly, he said, the portion of the Environmental Conservation Law related to the Pesticide Reporting Law (Article 33, Title 12) was recently amended and those changes became effective. He explained the minor changes removed the reference to Cornell University in regards to the development of the reporting database and it now states that the database shall now be maintained at the DEC. He said the DEC has developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals for accomplishing the transition of the reporting database to the DEC and it is expected that the RFP will go out later this year. He said another change in the law was that reporting is required to be in electronic format or on scannable forms provided by the DEC. The full DEC report is provided on pages 6-8 and will be included in the 2021-2022 HRSB Biennial Report.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Conklin thanked the members of the public who were in attendance. There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Conklin said he looked forward to the next meeting to be held in 2023 and thanked everyone for the day's deliberations and comments. The HRSB unanimously voted to adjourn and the business meeting concluded at 1:50 p.m.

**Peter T. Rowley Breast Cancer Scientific Research Projects (Round 7): A total of \$1.08 million for three (3) awards were recommended. These projects are two-year awards.**

Organization	Project Title	Investigator	Recommended Funding
Research Foundation for SUNY at Stony Brook	Chemically modified tumor suppressing micro-RNA as a novel therapeutic option for Triple Negative Breast Cancers	Jun Chung, Ph.D.	\$358,510
Albany Medical College Sub-applicant: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Bioprinting of histology-grade breast tumor mimics for personalized drug screening	Margarida M. Barroso, Ph.D.	\$365,000
Research Foundation for SUNY at Stony Brook	Effect of general anesthetics and adjuvant therapy on brain metastasis of breast cancers	Jun Lin, Ph.D.	\$360,000



## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Materials Management, Bureau of Pest Management

625 Broadway, 9th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-7254

P: (518) 402-8788 | F: (518) 402-9024

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

### **Annual DEC update to the Health Research Science Board (June 29, 2022) Provided by Richard Dickinson, Chief of the Pesticide Reporting & Certification Section, NYSDEC**

#### 2021 Annual Report

DEC staff are currently processing the 2021 annual reports. Staff are working with submitters to help them correct their reports as needed and following up with applicators and technicians who are delinquent in submitting their reports. We will be preparing to impose violations on those applicators and technicians who have failed to report in the coming weeks. It is too early in the process to make any accurate assessments of the quality of data that has been submitted.

#### 2020 Annual Report Data

Letters were mailed the second week of January 2021 to the regulated community reminding them to file an annual report of pesticide applications and/or sales made in 2020. A total of 16,489 applicators, technicians, aquatic antifouling paint applicators, and 289 commercial permittees were required to submit an annual report. The reports were due February 1, 2021.

Overdue notices were mailed to 2,024 applicators and technicians and 29 commercial permittees notifying them we had not received their 2020 report. Many of the individuals receiving this notice responded. Notices of Violation and Consent Orders were mailed to 1,092 applicators, technicians and aquatic antifouling paint applicators and 17 commercial permittees that still had not submitted a report as required.

A total of 9,717,704 records (which includes sales and applications) were reported for 2020. Of those, 9,076,342 (93.4%) were submitted electronically and 641,362 (6.6%) were submitted on paper reports. This continues a trend of increasing numbers of data being reported electronically. And this is the third year that we have received greater than 90% of the reporting data in electronic form.

#### Available Annual Reports

Pesticide Reporting Law (PRL) sales and application annual reports are available on DEC's website from 1997 through 2013. Although the data has not been finalized, summarized data from 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 is now available on the Cornell website:

<http://psur.cce.cornell.edu/>

#### Uses of the Data

Over the life of the PRL, a significant amount of staff time and resources have been invested in managing the data reported. DEC and Cornell receive, review, and aggregate the data by zip code and County for public use. Only health researchers who have been approved by the Health Research Science Board (HRSB) can access and use the site-specific application and sales data. Only two entities have ever requested the confidential, site specific-data, and none have requested it since 2006. However, data about pesticide applications, or data that can approximate it, is necessary for DEC to investigate potential environmental impacts from such use. This is important in terms of fulfilling the mandate under Title 7 of Article 33 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) for DEC to utilize water quality information in making pesticide product registration decisions as well as implementing other initiatives. Municipalities,



public interest groups and others also can and do use the annual aggregated data for education, outreach and other purposes.

#### Efforts to Improve Data Quality

The large volume of data submitted in the annual reports has proven cumbersome to manage. Also, errors in many individual reports raises questions about the quality of the data. Based on the suspect quality of the data and other factors, the HRSB recommended in 2013 that the pesticide reporting database be abolished. Following the Board's recommendation, efforts were made to make changes to the law intended to improve data quality, utility, and timeliness. Some changes have been made and they will be discussed later in this report.

DEC has continued its efforts to improve data quality in several ways. DEC continues to meet with representatives of associations representing commercial and private applicators to discuss their concerns and questions about recordkeeping and reporting and provides extensive outreach on recordkeeping and reporting to the regulated community. Beginning in 2014 annual report reminder letters sent to applicators in January included detailed instructions for completing the annual reports along with examples of common reporting errors to avoid. DEC also drafted guidance on recordkeeping and reporting and posted it on DEC's website in 2016. Finally, although not a new procedure, Cornell developed a program several years ago that reviews the annual report data and identifies errors. Cornell then provides a report of those errors to DEC. DEC staff then work with the submitters of the reports to make corrections.

For the 2021 Annual Reports, DEC has continued the process of reviewing paper reports as they are received. When errors are identified, the submitter is contacted to correct the report. Similarly, staff at Cornell also review the electronic reports for errors as they are received. When an error is identified, the report is rejected, and the submitter is contacted to make any necessary corrections. This has proven to result in a demonstrable and dramatic improvement in the quality of the data imported into the database.

As noted above, concerns about the efficiency and utility of the data for health research purposes led the Board to recognize in 2013 "that the pesticide database no longer meets its primary purpose, to provide scientifically useful information regarding a relationship between pesticide use and human health, and recommends that the database should be abolished." The Board therefore recommended that §§33-1205 and 33-1207 of the ECL be modified so that reporting of pesticide use and sales data would no longer be required and related provisions of the Public Health Law be modified as appropriate.

Despite DEC and Cornell's efforts to improve the submitted data, significant concerns remain about its quality and the resources expended to collect and manage this voluminous data, which is not being utilized as originally envisioned in the PRL. While the current site-specific PRL data may not be used or useful for health research purposes, it is important and necessary to collect some form of pesticide use and sales data for monitoring, investigation, trend analysis, outreach and education, and other evaluations. DEC continues to recommend that the PRL be modified to accomplish these purposes.

The portion of the Environmental Conservation Law related to the Pesticide Reporting Law (Article 33, Title 12) was recently amended and those changes became effective June 19, 2022. The changes were mostly minor but they did remove the reference to Cornell University in regards to the development of the database and it now states that the database shall now be maintained at the department (the DEC). The department has developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals for accomplishing the transition of the reporting database to

the DEC along with some other improvements to our current databases. It is expected that RFP will go out later this year and hopefully sometime in 2023 work will begin on this project. Another change in the law was that reporting is required to be in electronic format or on scannable forms provided by the department. It is expected this will further encourage reporters to file their reports utilizing the electronic reporting methods available to them and further reduce the number of paper reports received with the legibility and other issues associated with handwritten reports.