

**Empire State Stem Cell Board**  
**Funding Committee**  
**Minutes**

**January 7th, 2008**  
**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM; and**  
**1:15 PM – 2:00PM**

The Empire State Stem Cell Board Funding Committee held a meeting on Monday, January 7, 2008 at the Department of Health's Offices at 90 Church Street in New York City. Commissioner Richard F. Daines, M.D., presided as Chairperson.

**Funding Committee Members Present:**

Dr. Richard F. Daines, Chairperson  
Dr. Bradford Berk  
Dr. Richard Dutton  
Mr. Robin Elliott  
Dr. Gerald Fischbach  
Dr. David Hohn  
Dr. Hilda Hutcherson  
Dr. Michael Stocker  
Dr. Harold Varmus

**Ethics Committee Member(s) Present:**

Dr. Robert Klitzman

**Department of Health Staff Present:**

Ms. Terry Ascienzo  
Dr. David Anders  
Ms. Bonnie Brautigam  
Mr. Thomas Conway  
Ms. Judy Doeschate  
Mr. Mike Heeran  
Ms. Marti McHugh  
Ms. Amy Nickson  
Dr. Tia Powell  
Ms. Beth Roxland  
Dr. Lawrence Sturman  
Ms. Mary Szesnat

Observers Present:  
Dr. Michelle Cissell  
Dr. Kevin Eggan  
Mr. Robert Feldman  
Mr. Ross Frommer  
Ms. Arlene Grame  
Ms. Arana Hankin  
Mr. Steven Klein  
Dr. Ihor Lemischka  
Ms. Sarah Lewis  
Ms. Crystal Mainiero  
Ms. Kathleen McAnulty  
Ms. Susan Solomon  
Ms. Gilda Ventresca-Ecroyd  
Ms. Jo Wiederhorn

### **Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Chairman Daines called the meeting of the Funding Committee to order and welcomed members, staff and the public to the Funding Committee's first meeting for 2008.

Dr. Daines previewed the agenda and advised Committee members and the public of some changes, including the addition of the approval of amendments to the appendices for Requests for Applications (RFA) and the contract award for independent peer review services. Dr. Daines also noted that the times for the planned Executive Sessions were changed.

Dr. Daines advised the Committee that Mr. Adams was unable to attend the meeting due to an illness and that Dr. Fischbach would be joining the Committee shortly. Dr. Daines then asked Committee members and staff to briefly introduce themselves for the benefit of the public attending the open session and those tuning in to the webcast.

### **Approval of Minutes of the December 13, 2007 Meeting of the Funding Committee**

Following the introductions, Dr. Daines directed Committee members to the draft minutes under tab 1 of the agenda book and asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the regular and executive session meetings of the Funding Committee for December 13, 2007. Dr. Varmus so moved; Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Strategic Planning Updates and Budgeting Priorities**

Dr. Daines noted the next item on the agenda is strategic planning updates and budgeting priorities. He asked Dr. Stocker, Chair of the Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee, to provide an update on the activities of that Committee.

Dr. Stocker advised the members that the Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee has met several times and recently retained the services of a professional science writer, Dr. Michelle Cissell. Dr. Stocker introduced Dr. Cissell and spoke briefly about her background, which included providing assistance to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the development of their strategic plans. He noted that Drs. Fischbach and Klitzman had volunteered to prepare initial drafts of the plan and would be working with Dr. Cissell on that. He noted that the coordinating committee would be meeting after the Funding Committee completes its business for the day.

Dr. Daines reminded members of the Committee that they had asked Dr. Sturman to provide projections on the possible fiscal commitments for the next five years based upon the various RFAs the Committee had been considering. Dr. Daines then turned the floor over to Dr. Sturman to provide that information.

Dr. Sturman directed members to the documents provided under tab 2 of their agenda books, which included potential breakdowns for expenditures in the categories of infrastructure, research, training, ELSIE (educational, legal, social, ethical issues), and administration. He noted the updated chart provided at the beginning of the meeting included information about the actual amounts requested in the first RFA in the categories of infrastructure, research, and training. The categorical budget distributed showed what the impact would be if funding were provided at the level proposed for the first RFA and the additional RFAs under consideration by the Committee. The chart also showed what the impact would be over the next five years, and the remaining available funds to be allocated under the strategic plan. He projected, if the Committee approved all of the proposals under consideration, one hundred and ninety million dollars would be available over the next five years for additional initiatives after the expenditure of the funds for those proposals and the initial RFA. In response to questions, Dr. Sturman confirmed that the proposed categorical allocations were only provisional and were subject to the strategic plan.

## **Discussion of RFA Appendices, Including Intellectual Property and Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research Standards**

Dr. Daines directed Committee members to the appendices for RFAs found under tab 7 of their agenda books. He noted that the intellectual property policies and standards for human embryonic stem cell research included in Appendix A-2 had been changed to reflect the Committee's discussions at its last meeting. The intellectual property standards had been revised to provide broader access to the results of the research funded

through the Empire State Stem Cell Trust Fund. The standards for human embryonic stem cell research included the recommendations of the Ethics Committee that the Funding Committee adopted for the first RFA, and provided that funded researchers would also need to comply with additional standards that may be recommended by the Ethics Committee and adopted by the Funding Committee. Dr. Daines advised the Committee that if it approved these changes, all RFAs approved by the Funding Committee in the future would be subject to these additional conditions.

Dr. Stocker made a motion to approve the revised appendices to be incorporated into all RFAs issued by the Department on behalf of the Empire State Stem Cell Board. Dr. Berk seconded the motion. Dr. Hohn expressed concern that the requirement in the introductory section of Appendix A-2 requires grantees to ensure that collaborating researchers comply with New York State laws and regulations that would apply to such research if it were performed in New York State when those standards have not yet been fully established. He also questioned whether the use of the term “scientific integrity” would pose problems for researchers due to the non-alignment of ethical standards from one state to another. Dr. Hohn clarified that he was not looking for a modification of the language at this time, but urged caution in its application in those regards. The motion to approve the revised appendices passed unanimously.

### **Executive Session – Consideration of Contract Awards**

Dr. Daines advised the Funding Committee that New York State procurement laws require the Committee to go into Executive Session to discuss potential contract awards emanating from the RFA for Grants for Institutional Development of Stem Cell Research Capabilities and the RFP for peer review services, and asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Dr. Berk so moved; Dr. Stocker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resumption of Public Session (at 1:15 P.M.)

### **Independent Peer Review Contract Award**

Dr. Daines asked Ms. Brautigam to provide some information on the selected bidder.

Ms. Brautigam stated that the selected bidder, American Institute of Biological Sciences, is an organization with a 44 year history of providing scientific peer review services. She noted that their application was very detailed and covered the services requested in the RFP, including the Committee’s desire to be actively engaged in the selection and recruitment of review panel members.

Dr. Stocker made a motion to authorize the Department to enter into a contract with the selected bidder for peer review services and expend the necessary funds to make payments under the contract. Dr. Varmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Approval of Grant Awards for Institutional Development of Stem Cell Research Capabilities

Dr. Daines advised the Committee and the public that the next item on the agenda was the approval of the grant awards to applicants who responded to the first RFA for Institutional Development of Stem Cell Research Capabilities. He noted the Department received 25 applications and would first act on the applications for which Committee members had not declared a conflict of interest. After that they would take up the applications for which members of the Committee had identified a conflict of interest individually so that members with a conflict would be able to recuse themselves for those applications. He then asked Ms. Brautigam to provide a brief overview of the process for reviewing the applications.

Ms. Brautigam advised the Committee that the applications were received and reviewed in-house by staff. The first level of review was a “pass/fail” for basic compliance with the application requirements. The second level of review was conducted by staff with expertise in the different areas for which funding was requested, i.e. supplemental funding, bridge funding, equipment, and training. They then went under an additional level of review to assimilate the entire application. She noted that Committee members were provided with summaries of those reviews, along with staff recommendations, at the beginning of the meeting.

Dr. Daines then asked Dr. Sturman to read the list of applicants for which no conflicts of interest exist, the recommended awards, and whether staff recommended the award should be subject to additional contingencies. Dr. Sturman noted that all awards were contingent upon the submission of the documentation required by the contract appendices, but that he would identify those awards that would be subject to additional contingencies that would be addressed by Department staff with the applicant. He then read the list of proposed awards as recommended by staff:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Recommended Award</u>	<u>Additional Contingencies Recommended</u>
Montefiore Medical Center	\$ 150,899	no
Cold Spring Harbor	\$ 380,933	no
City College of New York/CUNY	\$ 198,000	yes
Hunter College - CUNY	\$ 155,980	no
New York University	\$ 553,586	no
Cornell University	\$1,000,000	yes
New York Medical College	\$ 215,718	no

SUNY Stony Brook	\$ 871,000	yes
NYU School of Medicine	\$ 999,715	no
SUNY Upstate Medical University	\$ 196,581	no
SUNY Downstate Medical Center	\$ 192,267	no
Mount Sinai School of Medicine	\$1,000,000	no
Ordway Research Institute	\$ 100,000	yes
Polytechnic University	\$ 100,000	yes

Dr. Daines then asked for a motion to recommend approval of the awards for all institutions for which no conflict of interest exists, in the amounts and with the contingencies recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton so moved; Dr. Stocker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Daines then advised the Committee they would be considering the remaining applications one by one so that members with a conflict of interest could leave the room during the discussion and vote on applications for which they had declared a potential conflict of interest.

#### **Trudeau Institute**

Dr. Daines stated the Committee would be considering the application from Trudeau Institute and noted Dr. Dutton had advised staff of a potential conflict and was leaving the room. Dr. Berk was also out of the room. Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that the recommended award was \$101,457 with no additional contingencies recommended. Dr. Varmus moved to recommend approval of the award to Trudeau Institute in the amount recommended by Department staff. Dr. Fischbach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry**

Dr. Dutton returned to the room and Dr. Berk remained out of the room for consideration of the application for the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry due to a conflict of interest. Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that the recommended award was for \$1,000,000 with two additional contingencies that would be resolved by Department staff with the applicant. Dr. Stocker moved to recommend approval of the award to the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in the amount and with the contingencies recommended by Department staff. Dr. Hohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Yeshiva University**

Dr. Berk returned to the room and Dr. Daines advised the Committee the next application to be considered was Yeshiva University. Dr. Stocker left the room due to a conflict of interest. Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that an award of \$999,933 was recommended with no additional contingencies. Dr. Hohn moved to recommend approval of the award to Yeshiva University in the amount recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SUNY Buffalo**

Dr. Stocker returned to the room and Dr. Daines advised the Committee the next application to be considered was SUNY Buffalo. Dr. Hohn left the room due to a potential conflict of interest. Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that an award of \$606,422 was recommended with no additional contingencies. Dr. Fischbach moved to recommend approval of the award to SUNY Buffalo in the amount recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Sloan-Kettering Center for Cancer Research**

Dr. Hohn returned to the room. Dr. Daines advised the Committee that Dr. Varmus had advised the Department of a potential conflict of interest with this application and the next two applications for Weill-Cornell Medical College and Rockefeller University, and would be leaving the room for all three applications. After Dr. Varmus left the room, Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that an award of \$1,000,000 was recommended with no additional contingencies. Dr. Hohn moved to recommend approval of the award to Sloan-Kettering Center for Cancer Research in the amount recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Weill-Cornell Medical College**

Dr. Varmus remained out of the room while Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that Department staff recommended an award of \$997,382 be made to Weill-Cornell Medical College with three additional contingencies that would be resolved by Department staff with the applicant. Dr. Stocker moved to recommend approval of the award to Cornell-Weill Medical College in the amount and with the contingencies recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Rockefeller University**

Dr. Daines advised the Committee that the next application to be considered was Rockefeller University and that Dr. Fischbach had advised the Department of a potential conflict of interest with this application and the next three applications for Columbia-Morningside Campus, Columbia University Medical Center, and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. He noted that Dr. Fischbach was leaving the room and that Dr. Varmus remained out of the room. Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that Department staff recommended an award of \$768,426 be made to Rockefeller University with no additional contingencies. Dr. Stocker moved to recommend approval of the award to Rockefeller University in the amount recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Columbia University Medical Center**

Dr. Varmus returned to the room. Dr. Daines advised the Committee the next application to be considered was Columbia University Medical Center and that Dr. Hutcherson had advised Department staff of a potential conflict of interest for this application and the next two applications for Columbia – Morningside Campus and the New York State Psychiatric Institute and was leaving the room. After Dr. Hutcherson left the room, Dr.

Sturman advised the Committee that Department staff recommended an award of \$1,000,000 be made to Columbia University Medical Center with no additional contingencies. Dr. Hohn moved to recommend approval of the award Columbia University Medical Center in the amount recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Columbia – Morningside Campus**

Drs. Fischbach and Hutcherson remained out of the room while Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that Department staff recommended an award of \$1,000,000 be made to Columbia – Morningside Campus with no additional contingencies. Dr. Stocker moved to recommend approval of the award Columbia – Morningside Campus in the amount recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **New York State Psychiatric Institute**

Drs. Fischbach and Hutcherson remained out of the room while Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that Department staff recommended an award of \$504,809 be made to New York State Psychiatric Institute with no additional contingencies. Dr. Berk moved to recommend approval of the award New York State Psychiatric Institute in the amount recommended by Department staff. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Roswell-Park Cancer Institute**

Drs. Fischbach and Hutcherson returned to the room and Dr. Daines advised the Committee that he and Dr. Hohn would be recusing themselves due to a conflict of interest with the application for Roswell-Park Cancer Institute. He turned the chair over to Dr. Stocker and left the room with Dr. Hohn. Dr. Sturman advised the Committee that Department staff recommended that an award of \$419,442 be made to Roswell Park Cancer Institute with several contingencies that would be addressed by Department staff and the applicant. Dr. Hutcherson moved to recommend approval of the award to Roswell Park Institute in the amount and with the contingencies recommended by Department staff. Dr. Berk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Daines and Dr. Hohn returned to the room.

#### **Executive Session – Consideration of New Initiatives**

Dr. Daines advised the Funding Committee that New York State procurement laws require the details of pending RFAs to be kept confidential, and therefore, the discussion of the RFAs being considered for issuance need to be discussed in executive session. Dr. Daines asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the proposed RFAs. Dr. Hutcherson so moved; Dr. Varmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*Approved: February 15, 2008*