

Empire State Stem Cell Board
Funding Committee
Executive Session
Minutes

January 7th, 2008
10:30 AM - 1:15 PM; and
2:20PM - 3:30PM

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

Information Relating to the Independent Peer Review Contract Award

The Funding Committee discussed the selection of the contractor to perform independent peer review services for future applications submitted for funding through the Empire State Stem Cell Trust Fund. Staff provided members with information about the selection process and the selected bidder.

Discussion of Grant Applications for Institutional Development of Stem Cell Research Capabilities

The Funding Committee met in Executive Session to discuss information relating to the 25 applications received in response to the first Request for Applications (RFA) for Institutional Development of Stem Cell Research Capabilities and the Department's recommendations for awards. The Committee first was provided with information relating to applications for which no Committee member had identified a conflict of interest. Following that, the Committee considered the following applications individually to allow members who had identified a potential conflict of interest to leave the room while that application was being discussed:

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Member(s) Recused</i>
Trudeau Institute	Dr. Dutton
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry	Dr. Berk
Yeshiva University	Dr. Stocker
SUNY Buffalo	Dr. Hohn
Sloan-Kettering Center for Cancer Research	Dr. Varmus
Weill-Cornell Medical College	Dr. Varmus
Rockefeller University	Dr. Varmus; Dr. Fischbach
Columbia University Medical Center Hutcherson	Dr. Fischbach; Dr.
Columbia – Morningside Campus Hutcherson	Dr. Fischbach; Dr.
New York State Psychiatric Institute Hutcherson	Dr. Fischbach; Dr.
Roswell-Park Cancer Institute	Dr. Daines; Dr. Hohn

Dr. Daines noted that the Committee needed to adjourn Executive Session so that it could reconvene in public session for the purpose of approving the awards discussed. Dr. Fischbach made a motion to adjourn; Dr. Berk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of New Initiatives

Following an afternoon public session, the Funding Committee reconvened in Executive Session to consider the issuance of additional RFAs to fund new initiatives. The following RFAs were discussed and acted on by the Committee:

The Committee discussed and modified a proposed RFA to provide funding for investigator-initiated grants. Dr. Varmus made a motion to authorize the Department to issue the RFA for investigator-initiated research grants, as modified. Dr. Hohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the draft RFA to provide funding for targeted pluripotent stem cell research. After discussion of several amendments to the proposed RFA, Dr. Fischbach made a motion to authorize the Department to issue the RFA for Targeted Pluripotent Stem Cell Research Grants, with the specified modifications. Dr. Dutton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed and modified the draft RFA for Emerging Opportunities and Consortia Planning Grants. Dr. Stocker made a motion to authorize the Department to issue this RFA, with the specified modifications. Dr. Varmus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed and modified the proposed RFA to provide funding for specialized equipment and facilities needed for stem cell research. Dr. Stocker then made a motion to authorize the Department to issue the RFA for Shared Facilities and Resources Grants, with the specified modifications. Dr. Hohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr Daines then asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Varmus so moved; Dr. Dutton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved: February 15, 2008