

**SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH BOARD**

Regular Business Meeting

April 10, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

**DRAFT AND UNADOPTED**

**Location**

NYS DOH, Wadsworth Center, Biggs Laboratory, Sturman Conference Room, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY  
500 Hofstra Blvd, Room 144, Zucker School of Medicine, Hempstead, NY  
One Hollow Lane, Suite 212, Lake Success, NY  
Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, Room 108, 785 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains, NY  
Westchester Medical Center, 100 Woods Road, ACP 4th Floor - conference room, Valhalla, NY 10595

**SCIRB Members Present**

Adam B. Stein, MD, Chair  
April B. Coughlin, PhD  
Jessica K. Daigle, MA, OTR/L  
Keith Gurgui  
Shelly Hsieh, MD  
Lorne Mendell, PhD  
Avinash Mohan, MD  
Ramin Rak, MD, FAANS  
Rachel Santiago, MD  
Lauren A. Varriale, MS, OTR/L  
Anne Spungen Ed.D.

**NYS DOH Staff Present**

Michele Kilmartin, Executive Secretary  
Farrah M. O'Brien  
David Googins  
James Magenis  
Alexa Nagy

**Members of the Public**

Jason Carmel  
Payton O'Connor  
Ashiwel Undieh  
Caitlin Hill  
Tommy Sutor  
Treena Arinzeh

**CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME MEMBERS & OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. with a welcome from the Chair, Adam B. Stein, M.D.

**Board Membership Updates**

Dr. Stein introduced himself, followed by Board members.

**Consideration of October 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Stein asked the SCIRB to consider Exhibit 1, the minutes from the October 10, 2025, meeting.

**ACTION**

Dr. Rak made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Santiago seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the minutes were approved (10-0-0).

**Public Comment**

Dr. Jason Carmel read a prepared statement to SCIRB.

**Consideration of SCIRB 2024 and 2025 Annual Reports**

Dr. Stein asked the SCIRB to consider Exhibit 2, the 2024 and 2025 SCIRB Annual Reports.

**ACTION**

Dr. Hsieh made a motion to approve the annual reports as presented. Dr. Spungen seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the annual reports were approved with Dr. Rak abstaining (9-0-1).

**ACTION**

Dr. Santiago moved to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the applications received in response to the Fellowship Round 7 applications and other discussions. Dr. Rak seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved (10-0-0).

*After discussion, the SCIRB reconvened in Public Session.*

**SCIRB vote on Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship (Round 7) Applications**

In summary, SCIRB recommended to forward five (5) applications for funding using the peer review results as the basis for the decision.

**ACTION**

A vote was held on the Fellowship application under consideration submitted by Dr. Zou of Icahn School of Medicine. A roll call vote was taken, and the application was approved with Dr. Rak abstaining (9-0-1).

**ACTION**

A vote was held on the Fellowship application submitted by Dr. Carmel of Columbia University. A roll call vote was taken, and the application was approved (10-0-0).

**ACTION**

A vote was held on the Fellowship application submitted by Dr. Undieh of CUNY. A roll call vote was taken, and the application was approved (10-0-0).

**ACTION**

A vote was held on the Fellowship application submitted by Dr. Rao of SUNY. A roll call vote was taken, and the application was approved (10-0-0).

**ACTION**

A vote was held on the Fellowship application submitted by Dr. Arinzeh of Columbia University. A roll call vote was taken, and the application was approved (10-0-0).

**ACTION**

A vote was held on the Fellowship application submitted by Dr. Friedel of Icahn School of Medicine. A roll call vote was taken, and the application was not approved with Dr. Rak abstaining (0-9-1).

### **ACTION**

A vote was held on the Fellowship application submitted by Dr. Palermo of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. A roll call vote was taken, and the application was not approved (0-0-9).

### **DOH PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Magenis provided an update on the status of other program activities and previously awarded contracts:

- The Peer Review contract with AIBS ended on March 31, 2026. An RFP for new peer review services was released on July 30, 2025. The DOH is currently in the process of awarding the new contract.
- Five (5) PART and IDEA Round 5 contracts began in October 2022 through contract extensions will now end September 2026.
- Two (2) Translational Round 4 contracts began in October 2022 and will end in September 2027.
- Thirteen (13) awards from Institutional Support Round 7 began July 2023 and will end June 2028.
- Four PART and IDEA Round 6 contracts began in October 2023 and will end in September 2026.
- Eight (8) PART and IDEA Round 7 Contracts began in July 2025 and will end in June 2027 for IDEAs or June 2028 for PARTs. One of the contracts was transferred from Icahn School of Medicine to the Bronx VA. This was due to the PI leaving Icahn and requesting the contract be moved to the Co-PI's organization.
- Three (3) Fellowship Round 6 contracts began September 2025 and will end August 2027.
- Two (2) Translational Round 7 contracts are pending final approval and will have a start date of March 1, 2026, these contracts will end February 2031.

### **Future Meeting & Adjournment**

At its next meeting, October 9, 2026, the SCIRB will consider applications from the PART/IDEA Round 8 RFA. Dr. Stein thanked members of the SCIRB and DOH staff for attending. The business meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.