



HEALTH RESEARCH SCIENCE BOARD

Business Meeting

November 2, 2016

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Locations

NYS DOH Metropolitan Area Regional Office, Conference Room 4C, 90 Church Street, New York, NY

NYS DOH Wadsworth Center, Biggs Laboratory, Sturman Conference Room, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

HRSB Members Present

Beverly Canin, Temporary Chair

Maria Torroella Carney, M.D.

Jeanette Dippo*

Donald W. Distasio

Susan K. Gibbons, M.D.

M. Suzanne Hicks

Diana E. Lake, M.D.

Annette T. Lee, Ph.D.

Randa Maher

Catherine Putkowski-O'Brien*

Regina Resta, M.D.

Charles L. Shapiro, M.D.

Marc Wilkenfeld, M.D.

*non-voting member

NYS DOH Staff Present

Teresa Ascienzo

Charles Burns

Kathy Chou, Ph.D.

Andrea Garavelli

Joan K. Harris, Esq.

Carole Ju

Matthew J. Kohn, Ph.D.

Brian Rourke

Jeannine Tusch

Carlene Van Patten

Ex-Officio Members Present

Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D.

HRSB Members Absent

Douglas S. Conklin, Ph.D., Chair

James L. Speyer, M.D.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks of the Chair

The Health Research Science Board (HRSB) meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. with a welcome by Carlene Van Patten, Executive Secretary to the Board and Andrea Garavelli, Director of Extramural Grants Administration. Ms. Van Patten said that the HRSB Chair, Douglas S. Conklin, Ph.D. was unable to attend the meeting and Beverly Canin graciously volunteered to act as temporary Chairperson pending the HRSB's approval.

ACTION

M. Suzanne Hicks made a motion nominating Ms. Canin as temporary Chairperson for today's meeting. Susan K. Gibbons, M.D. seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

The HRSB members and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) staff introduced themselves. New member Charles L. Shapiro, M.D., was introduced and welcomed.

Marc Wilkenfeld, M.D. joined the meeting.

Ms. Van Patten noted that Wendy Watkins, appointed in 2013, concluded her time as a member. The HRSB members thanked her for her service during this essential time. She said

the HRSB members should send potential candidate names for membership consideration via email to hrrsb@health.ny.gov. She stated that this candidate must be actively involved with a community-based, grass-roots breast cancer organization, have or have had breast cancer and be from Western, New York.

Ms. Van Patten announced that Diana Yang, J.D., who has worked closely with the HRSB will no longer be the DOH Counsel. Ms. Van Patten welcomed Joan K. Harris, Esq. on her recent appointment to represent DOH at the HRSB meetings.

Consideration of June 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Canin asked the HRSB members to consider Exhibit 1, the minutes from the June 22, 2016 HRSB meeting.

ACTION

Dr. Gibbons made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Regina Resta, M.D. seconded.

During discussion Ms. Canin asked her fellow HRSB members to confirm if the Patricia S. Brown Breast Cancer Risk Reduction Education Projects (Brown) Round 4 Request for Applications (RFA) recommendations were listed correctly. The HRSB members who attended the June 22, 2016 meeting were able to confirm the accuracy of the minutes as presented.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Wilkenfeld and Dr. Shapiro abstained from the vote as they were not present at the meeting.

Program Update

Ms. Garavelli provided a report on the Breast Cancer Research and Education Program activities. She noted the following:

- The awarded organizations recommended for funding from the Peter T. Rowley Breast Cancer Scientific Research Projects (Rowley) Round 3 RFA received their award letters. One principal investigator (PI), Dr. Wenjun Gao from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, declined funding due to receiving funding elsewhere. Consequently, the first approved, not funded application was recommended for funding. This was from PI, Dr. David Jeruzalmi at The Research Foundation of CUNY, City College of New York. These two-year contracts total \$3.56 million to be used through December 31, 2018.
- The awarded organization for funding from the Brown Round 4 RFA received their award letter. Unfortunately, this applicant had to decline the award because they previously accepted funding for this project from the National Institute of Health. Therefore, no awards were made from this RFA.
- DOH staff anticipate that the Healthcare Practitioner Breast Cancer Education Research Projects (Healthcare Practitioner) Round 1 RFA will be released in December, applications will be due in April, and independent peer review of the applications will be coordinated by the American Institute of Biological Sciences in June. The next HRSB meeting will be in late summer 2017 to recommend awards for funding. This RFA has \$810,000 available for up to three (3) multi-year awards.

Ms. Garavelli also reviewed Exhibit 2, which covered the history and current state of the Breast Cancer Research and Education Program contracts.

Diana E. Lake, M.D. joined the meeting.

Ms. Van Patten stated that the HRSB should consider offering recurring competitive RFAs to ensure there is a constant request for breast cancer research and education projects. The DOH staff provided a few programming suggestions for the HRSB to consider. Ms. Van Patten said the RFA release strategy decisions made today would impact future fiscal years. She also noted the HRSB could develop their own RFA strategy.

OPTION 1

The HRSB reviewed Option 1, which would be to program the Rowley RFA for release every year with \$2.52 million available for seven (7) multi-year awards. This option did not include the release of the Brown or Healthcare Practitioner RFA.

- The HRSB reviewed the purpose of the Rowley awards which is to stimulate and support research related to breast cancer biology, causation, prevention, detection or screening, treatment (including treatment of its effects), survivorship or cure. Any investigative approach appropriate to the application topic may be pursued, including but not limited to, basic, translational, clinical, demographic, mapping, epidemiological, environmental, behavioral or psychosocial research.
- The HRSB noted that even though the purpose of this RFA is broad, most of the top scoring applications recommended for funding were in the basic research.

The HRSB agreed that they were also interested in supporting risk reduction education projects and communication training programs for healthcare practitioners. Ms. Canin called for a motion approving Option 1 and the motion was not considered for action.

The HRSB discussed other RFA items related to the peer review process and role of the HRSB in recommending applications. Maria Torroella Carney, M.D. suggested having a member from the Peer Review Panel attend a future meeting. Ms. Van Patten stated that the HRSB does not have to recommend a high scoring application, however, they would have to provide sufficient justification as part of the procurement record submitted to the Office of the State Comptroller for contract approval.

OPTION 2

The HRSB reviewed Option 2, which would be to program the Rowley RFA for release every year with \$2.16 million available for six (6) multi-year awards. Round 4 of this RFA would be issued in September 2017. The Brown and Healthcare Practitioner RFAs would be programmed to be issued every other year. The next Brown would be released in September 2017 with \$1.08 million available for three (3) multi-year awards. Subsequently, the Health Care Practitioner would be released in September 2018 with \$810,000 available for three (3) multi-year awards.

The HRSB discussed eliminating and/or lowering the triage score for the RFAs, so they could consider all/more of the research projects received in response to the future RFAs. As written in previous RFAs, the HRSB does not consider applications that receive a final score of 4.0-9.0.

ACTION

Dr. Gibbons motioned to approve Option 2 (as listed above) and Donald W. Distasio seconded.

During further discussion, many members suggested programming the Brown and Healthcare Practitioner RFAs for release every year with different funding levels.

Dr. Gibbons amended the motion to issue the Brown RFA for release with funding for two (2) multi-year awards in 2017 and to issue the Healthcare Practitioner RFA for release with funding for one (1) multi-year award in 2017. She furthered that the number of the multi-year awards would alternate between these RFAs every subsequent year thereafter. She noted that the Rowley RFA would be issued yearly, as stated in Option 2.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shapiro and Dr. Wilkenfeld left the meeting.

After a short break, the HRSB continued the discussion for amending triage language in future RFAs. Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D. explained that the HRSB could decide to eliminate triage for the Rowley, Brown and Healthcare Practitioner RFAs separately or all together. Ms. Hicks reminded the HRSB that they decided on the evaluation criteria for the RFAs.

ACTION

Mr. Distasio motioned to eliminate triage for the Brown and the Healthcare Practitioner RFAs. Ms. Hicks seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

ACTION

Ms. Randa Maher motioned to amend the current triage level, 4.0 to 9.0, in the Rowley RFA to 6.0 to 9.0. The HRSB would receive the critiques for all applications scored in the range of 1.0-5.9. Dr. Gibbons seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

Bylaws

Ms. Van Patten reviewed Exhibit 3, which included a copy of the HRSB Bylaws with amendments for their consideration. She stated the changes were intended to streamline board and program activities through the elimination of two standing committees, the Committee on Funding and Outreach and the Committee on Program Needs and Effectiveness. She noted that the standing Pesticide Committee would not be eliminated because its responsible for reviewing requests made by researchers for confidential pesticide registry information and application information for research projects. She also noted that the HRSB could establish a committee on any subject and define its duties.

ACTION

Mr. Distasio made a motion to approve the amendments to the Bylaws as presented. Dr. Gibbons seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting Planning

At its next meeting in late summer 2017, the HRSB will consider applications for funding in response to the Healthcare Practitioner RFA.

Adjournment

The HRSB unanimously voted to adjourn and the meeting ended at 3:45 p.m.