



SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH BOARD

Regular Business Meeting

January 25, 2019

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Locations

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

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

University of Rochester, School of Medicine & Dentistry, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY

SCIRB Members Present

Thomas N. Bryce, M.D.
Donald S. Faber, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D., D.Sc.(hon.)
Keith Gurgui
Nancy A. Lieberman
Lorne Mendell, Ph.D., Chair
Gary D. Paige, M.D., Ph.D.
Kristjan T. Ragnarsson, M.D.
Fraser J. Sim, Ph.D.
Adam B. Stein, M.D.

NYS DOH Staff Present

Teresa Ascienzo
Kathy Chou, Ph.D.
George Cotich, Jr.
Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D., Executive Secretary
Andrea Garavelli
Jonathan B. Karmel
Farrah M. O'Brien
Brian Rourke
Jeannine Tusch
Carlene Van Patten

SCIRB Members Absent

Anthony O. Caggiano, M.D., Ph.D.
Michael E. Goldberg, M.D.

Members of the Public

Nurit Kalderon, Ph.D.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks of the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. with a welcome by Chair, Lorne Mendell, Ph.D., followed by introductions of Spinal Cord Injury Research Board (SCIRB) members and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) staff. Note, two board members were absent and there is one (1) vacancy is to be filled by legislative leadership.

Consideration of October 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Mendell asked the SCIRB to consider Exhibit 1, the minutes from the October 15, 2018 meeting.

ACTION

Adam B. Stein, M.D. made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Donald S. Faber, Ph.D. seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved (10-0).

NYS Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Research Symposium

Dr. Mendell said that the NYS SCI Research Symposium was held on October 16-17, 2018 at the Rockefeller University, Carson Family Auditorium and 137 individuals in the SCI research field attended. Dr. Mendell thanked the NYS DOH staff, including Andrea Garavelli and

Jeannine Tusch, for organizing the meeting. The NYS DOH received attendee feedback via a post-survey and the SCIRB discussed its results. Overall, Dr. Mendell said that the survey results demonstrated that the Symposium received an excellent rating among attendees.

The SCIRB members discussed hosting a future Symposium in three (3) years. Nancy Lieberman suggested advertising at the International and National level to attract SCI researchers from out of state and Bernice Grafstein, Ph.D., D.Sc.(hon.) suggested participating in an evening social at the Society for Neuroscience meeting to provide information about the next NYS SCI Research Symposium.

**Considerations of Applications:
Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in Spinal Cord Injury Research
(Round 4)**

Ms. Garavelli provided an overview of the applications received in response to this Request for Applications (RFA); the procurement timeline is bulleted below:

- The RFA was approved by the SCIRB and then it was issued on June 13, 2018,
- Prospective applicants were given a period of seven (7) weeks to prepare and submit their applications,
- Twelve (12) applications were submitted by the July 30, 2018 due date,
- Independent peer review of the applications was held on October 11, 2018,
- Applications were scored on a scale of 1.0-9.0 and scoring ties were resolved using the score for “Fellow and Development Plan” among those applications involved in the ties,
- The RFA made \$1.5 million available; if the SCIRB recommends the top nine (9) scoring applications, funding of \$1.54 million would be programmed through 2022-2023,
- The contracts are expected to begin on August 1, 2019 for a three-year term.

The SCIRB adjourned into Executive Session for the purpose of considering applications for research funding. Members of the public and non-essential staff were asked to leave the room.

After discussing the Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in Spinal Cord Injury applications, the SCIRB reconvened in Public Session.

SCIRB Recommendations

Dr. Mendell began the process of considering the applications. Victoria Derbyshire, Ph.D., Executive Secretary to the SCIRB, announced the application number, organization, and principal investigator. A listing of the SCIRB’s recommendations are provided on pages 4-5.

In summary, the SCIRB recommended funding of \$1.16 million in the form of three (3) Predoctoral and four (4) Postdoctoral awards. The SCIRB’s recommendations will be forwarded to the Commissioner of Health for approval.

Public Comment

Nurit Kalderon, Ph.D. attended the meeting to bring her disapproving opinion of a 2008 NYS SCI funded grant application to the SCIRB’s attention. Dr. Mendell said that since the 2008 research project was recommended for funding ten (10) years ago there was nothing the Board could do. Dr. Kalderon emailed her written statement to the SCIRB and said that she would submit her statement to the NYS Inspector General.

Future Meetings

At its next meeting in 2019, the SCIRB will consider its remaining agenda items, including the SCIRB 2018 annual report and future SCI Research RFAs.

Adjournment

Dr. Mendell thanked members of the Board and public for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Individual Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships in Spinal Cord Injury Research (Round 4) RFA: \$1.16 million in the form of three (3) Predoctoral and four (4) Postdoctoral awards were recommended. Projects are three (3) year awards.

Organization	Funding Mechanism/Research Category	Project Title	Sponsor Principal Investigator and Fellow	Recommended Funding	Votes (Y-N)
Burke Medical Research Institute	Postdoctoral/ Rehabilitation	Paired Brain and Spinal Cord Stimulation to Augment Motor Responses in People with Cervical Myelopathy	Jason B. Carmel, M.D., Ph.D. and Bushra Yasin, M.D., Ph.D.	\$192,366	9-0 Dr. Grafstein recused
Burke Medical Research Institute	Postdoctoral, Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Neuron Activity-Dependent Axon Regeneration Program	Edmund R. Hollis, Ph.D. and Juan Sebastian Jara Rojas, Ph.D.	\$0	0-8 Dr. Ragnarsson abstained, Dr. Grafstein recused
Burke Medical Research Institute	Postdoctoral/ Rehabilitation	Layer-Specific Reorganization of Microcircuits After Spinal Cord Injury	Yutaka Yoshida, Ph.D. and Mark Basista, Ph.D.	\$0	5-2 Drs. Mendell and Ragnarsson abstained, Dr. Grafstein recused
Columbia University	Predoctoral/ Rehabilitation	Improving Upper Body Trunk Control in Spinal Cord Injury Patients Through Robotic Rehabilitation Training	Sunil K. Agrawal, Ph.D. and Tatiana D. Luna, M.S.	\$135,600	10-0
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Postdoctoral/ Rehabilitation	The Effects of Incorporated Exoskeletal-Assisted Walking in SCI Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation	Ann M. Spungen, Ed.D. and Chung-Ying Tsai, Ph.D.	\$189,476	7-1 Drs. Bryce and Ragnarsson recused
New York University School of Medicine	Predoctoral/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Enteric Glial Cells Cause Gastrointestinal Complications Post Spinal Cord Injury	Dan R. Littman, M.D., Ph.D. and Hyeon Kyu (Alice) Kwon, B.S.	\$135,600	10-0
Regenerative Research Foundation	Postdoctoral/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Modulation of Inflammation Following SCI Using Plasmid IL-10 Microbeads	Sally Temple, Ph.D. and Elizabeth Fisher, Ph.D.	\$184,686	10-0

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Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Predoctoral/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	Neuroprotective Curcumin-Releasing Hydrogel for Treatment of Acute Spinal Injury	Ryan J. Gilbert, Ph.D. and Jessica Funnell, B.S.	\$135,600	9-1
Research Foundation of CUNY, The City College of New York	Predoctoral/ Rehabilitation	Soft Physiology Sensors and Machine Learning to Enhance Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Outcomes in Home Settings	Hao Su, Ph.D. and Shuangyue Yu, M.S.	\$0	1-9
Syracuse University	Predoctoral/ Rehabilitation	Adaptive Closed-Loop Functional Electrical Stimulation Control using Hybrid Strategies for Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation	Victor H. Duenas, Ph.D. and Chen-Hao Chang, M.S.	\$0	0-10
University at Buffalo	Predoctoral/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	HTT Regulates Rab7 Retrograde Transport and ER Anterograde Transport in Response to Axon Injury, In Vivo	Shermali Gunawardena, Ph.D. and Thomas Joseph Krzystek, M.S.	\$0	0-9 Dr. Sim recused
University of Rochester Medical Center	Postdoctoral/ Cellular Regeneration & Therapeutics	The Role of Phosphodiesterase 10A in Inflammation After Spinal Cord Injury	Bradford C. Berk, M.D., Ph.D. and Chia Hsu, Ph.D.	\$189,366	7-1 Ms. Lieberman and Dr. Paige recused