

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Research Advisory Council Meeting**

**131 M St. NE, Washington, DC  
Middleton Conference Room  
VANTS Line: 1-800-767-1750, ACCESS CODE: 23315  
April 18, 2011**

**Minutes**

**Members Present**

Butler, Aaron  
Czerneiki, Joe  
Freidl, Karl  
Kelch, Robert  
Korn, David  
Waxman, Stephen  
Wenzel, Richard

**VA Staff Present:**

Atkins, David  
Birdsall, Holly  
Cates, Lynn  
Clemons, Gina  
Crow, Janet  
Cuccherini, Brenda  
Dorn, Patricia  
Ferguson, Ryan  
Fiore, Louis  
Garcia, Stephen  
Guccione, Andrew  
Hannon, Peggy  
Hawkins, Alison  
Jaeger, Robert  
Kupersmith, Joel  
O'Leary, Timothy  
Przygodzki, Ronald

**10:00 a.m. Meeting called to order by Richard P. Wenzel, M.D., M.Sc., Chair**

**Opening Remarks - Joel Kupersmith, M.D., CRADO**

- Budget for 2011 was \$581M. For the 2012, the President's budget is \$509M (plus carry-overs).
- New Organizational Chart

- ORD now reports to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services.
- Dr. David Korn said that from the outside looking in it appears that the VA is lowering the importance of research in its reorganization. Dr. Kupersmith states that he doesn't think that is the case.

**10:45 a.m. BL/CSR&D Update - Timothy J. O'Leary, M.D., Ph.D., Director**

- VINCI- working to make data available. CHIR- natural language processing
- Drs. Kelch and Korn suggested we tighten up LOI process to fund more than 10%. Dr. O'Leary stated that the President's budget limits how many LOIs we can accept.

**11:30 a.m. - Lunch**

**12:10 p.m. RR&D Update - Dr. Patricia Dorn, Interim Director, RR&D**

- Accolades go to:
  - Dr. Tshaka Cunningham - recipient of the Northern VA Urban League Award for his activities in the community.
  - Lisa Finklea - nominated Chair of the Federal Women's Advisory Council, Baltimore.
  - Dr. Richard Macko - VA's 2011 Paul B. Magnuson Award for Outstanding Achievement in Rehabilitation Research and Development.
- New staff members expected to arrive in May, 2011.
- Thomas Pierce, M.B. B.S. will be retiring.
- Robert Jaeger, Ph.D. will continue as the point of contact for issues related to the DEKA arm; DOD and ORD continue to coordinate in prosthetics issues.

**12:40 p.m. HSR&D Update - Andrew Guccione, Ph.D., Deputy Director HSR&D reporting for Seth Eisen, M.D., M.Sc., Director, HSR&D**

- 27 CREATE LOIs submitted in June 10 (50% will be asked to submit in August, and 10% will be asked to submit a full proposal).
- REAPs will end September 30, 2012.
- COE will become COINs (Centers of Innovation). Each COIN will have a CREATE.

**1:10 p.m. PRIDE Update - Lynn Cates, M.D., Director, PRIDE**

- New IRB Administrator meeting will be instituted.
- 2011 Local Accountability meeting will be held in June; anticipate 600 attendees.
- VHA Handbook 1200.05 is being revised to make VA more compatible with requirements elsewhere.
- Central IRB reviews all VA funded multi-site projects.

**1:20 p.m. Communications Update - Gina Clemons, MHA**

**1:40 p.m. Research Presentation - Louis Fiore, M.D. and Ryan Ferguson, Boston VAMC**

- Points of Care Research
  - o Providing quality care while learning about the effects of that care.

**2:00 p.m. Spinal Cord Research Advances, - Audrey Kusiak, Ph.D., Program Manager, Rehabilitation Research & Development**

**2:15 p.m. Q&A**

**3:00 p.m. Adjournment**