

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING 22 JOINT BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY AND  
CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES SCIENTIFIC MERIT REVIEW BOARD**

The teleconference meeting was called to order by the Chair, Paula Bickford, PhD, at 3:00 PM and concluded at 4:30 PM EST on July 12, 2022. The meeting was open to the public. A Webex meeting ID and password had been announced in the Federal Register. The meeting was held virtually on the Webex meeting platform. Dr. Bickford presided throughout the meeting. Attendees included Board members and Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development (BLRD) staff and Clinical Science Research & Development (CSRD) staff.

Ms. Pauline Cilladi-Rehrer, Alternate Designated Federal Officer (DFO) of the Board, conducted a roll call of subcommittee chairpersons on the WebEx call.

**Subcommittee Chairs Present:**

CAMM	James Carson, PhD
CARA	Anthony Baker, PhD
CARB	Abhinav Diwan, MD
ENDA	Warren Lockett, MD
ENDB	Bruce Troen, MD
GAST	James Goldenring, MD
HEMA	Randal Westrick, PhD
IMMA	Jason Wertheim, MD
INFB	Peter Williamson, MD
MHBA	James Porter, PhD
MHBP	Nathan Kimbrel, PhD
NEPH	Kelly Hyndman, PhD
NURB	Jeffrey Dupree, PhD
NURC	William Wolf, PhD
NURD	Pamela Potter, PhD
NURE	Paula Bickford, PhD
NURR	Peter Shiromani, PhD
ONCA	Linda Malkas, PhD
ONCA	Stephen Plymate, PhD
ONCB	George Simon, MD
PULM	Anne Dixon, MD
SPLD	Vahram Haroutunian, PhD
SURG	Gale Tang, MD

**Subcommittee Chairs not present:**

INFA	Jack Stapleton, PhD
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INFA	Sarah George, MD
MHBC	Bryann Debeer, PhD
NURA	Peter Kalivas, PhD
NURF	Neil Peachey, PhD
NURP	Sulayman Dib-Hajj, PhD
ONCC	Stephen Shiao, PhD
PSYC	Murray Raskind, MD

**BL/CS Staff Present:**

Christopher Bever, MD Director, BLRD  
Jane Battle, PhD Program Manager  
Michael Burgio, PhD Scientific Review Program Manager  
Alex Chui, PhD Senior Program Manager  
Pauline Cilladi-Rehrer, MSBA Alternate DFO  
Shakeria Cohen, PhD Program Manager  
Joseph Constans, PhD Senior Program Manager  
Carol Fowler, PhD Program Manager  
Amanda Hunt, PhD Program Manager  
Khan, Masood, PhD Program Manager  
Ying-Yee Kong, PhD Program Manager  
Holly Krull, PhD Deputy Director, BLR&D  
Vetisha McClair, PhD Program Manager  
Kenute Myrie, PhD Senior Program Manager  
Kimberlee Potter, PhD Program Manager  
Mario Rinaudo, MD Program Manager  
Mark Roltsch, PhD Program Manager  
Arun Sharma, PhD Program Manager  
Nicholas Simon, PhD Program Manager  
Chinagozi Ugwu, PhD JIT Manager

**Public Participants:** Karin Westland-High

**OPEN SESSION:**

- I. Dr. Paula Bickford called the meeting to order.
- II. Ms. Pauline Cilladi-Rehrer led the roll call of the Board Members and BLCS staff.
- III. ORD Updates
  - Dr. Chris Bever thanked the Board Members for their involvement with the review of research applications.
  - Dr. Michael Burgio reported the Fall 2022 cycle results.
  - Dr. Kenute Myrie presented a briefing on the Precision Oncology Program.
  - Dr. Joseph Constans briefed the participants on the VA Suicide Prevention Initiatives.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

- I. Subcommittee Chairs presented the results and subsequent recommendations of their respective subcommittee meeting. Chairs not present at the meeting will be sent an email asking them to concur with their respective panel recommendations.
- II. Proposed next meeting date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 3PM EDT.
- III. Subcommittee Chairs discussed the disparity in font usage for chart legends. Smaller fonts can be a challenge for reviewers to read. Clear guidance on character limits and font sizes should be provided.
- IV. Dr. Bickford adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM EST.

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Paula Bickford, PhD

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Date