

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

**MINUTES OF THE WINTER 2024
MEETING OF THE
REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
SERVICE SCIENTIFIC MERIT REVIEW BOARD**

PARTIALLY CLOSED MEETING:

The meeting of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D) Scientific Merit Review Board was convened via Webex on March 6, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. EDT. Dr. Christine M. Olney, Ph.D., RN, presided as Chair.

This meeting was partially closed to the public for the discussion and reference to the scientific evaluation of research applications by subcommittees between October 3, 2023 and February 27, 2024. As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the meeting was in accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (6) and (9)(B).

Ms. Kristy Benton-Grover, Designated Federal Officer, conducted roll call and reaffirmed policies regarding the confidentiality of meeting materials, committee discussions and recommendations.

Open Session:

Dr. Patricia A. Dorn, Director of RR&D, welcomed all participants, expressed appreciation for the time and effort that each member has spent on the scientific review effort, gave a brief presentation of the RR&D Program and emphasized RR&D's on-going efforts to support highly meritorious research to advance scientific knowledge and foster innovations to maximize Veterans' functional independence, quality of life and participation in their lives and community. Dr. Dorn expressed a special thanks to those members whose terms of appointment will end after this meeting.

Closed Session:

Subcommittee Chairs presented the results and subsequent recommendations of their respective subcommittee meeting. Dr. Olney, Chair, provided the subcommittee report when the Subcommittee Chair was not present. The Chair asked each member to vote on the recommendations of the subcommittees to advance all scored applications forward to the agency for further consideration.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Proposed by Dr. Olney

V-1 That the recommendations of the subcommittees to advance all scored applications to the agency for further consideration be approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 P.M. EDT.

The next meeting of the RR&D Scientific Merit Review Board will be scheduled for August 21, 2024.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

/s/ 3/6/2024
Christine M. Olney
Chairperson

/s/ 3/6/2024
Kristy Benton-Grover
Designated Federal Officer