



**NJ Department of Health  
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism  
Council Meeting Minutes (ratified)  
December 5, 2016**

**Council Members Present**

**Elizabeth K. Bell, BS**, Public Member - Individual or Family Member with Autism Representative; Volunteer and Independent Contractor with Autism Speaks

**Cheryl F. Dreyfus, Ph.D.**, Academic Institution Representative; Professor and Chair, Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology, Rutgers University, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

\***Caroline Eggerding, MD**, Healthcare Organization Representative; Division Head, Department of Pediatric Neurology and Development, Cooper Children's Regional Hospital

**Wilma Judith Friedman, Ph.D.**, Academic Institution Representative; Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Rutgers University

**B. Madeleine Goldfarb, MA**, Autism Organization Representative; Founder/Director of the Noah's Ark Institute, via teleconference

**Ketan Kansagra, MD, FAAP**, Academic Institution Representative; Division of Neonatal Medicine, Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

**Dana E. Spett, MSW**, Autism Organization Representative; Founder/Executive Director, Pony Power Therapies

**Samuel Sheng-Hung Wang, Ph.D.**, Academic Institution Representative; Professor, Department of Molecular Biology and Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton University

\*Denotes Council Chairperson

**Absent**

**Michael Aquino, MD, F.A.C.G.**, Senate President Appointee; Partner, Shore Gastroenterology Associates, Cofounder, VP of Operations, Pathology Solutions

**Susan P. Evans, Ed.D.**, Commissioner of Health Appointee; Education Program Specialist for Early Intervention Program, NJ Department of Health

**Thomas V. Macchiaverna, MA**, Public Member Representative; Special Education Teacher

**Gary Weitzen, BA**, Autism Organization Representative; Executive Director of POAC (Parents of Autistic Children)

**NJ Department of Health (DOH) Attendees**

Martin T. Zanna MD, MPH, Acting Executive Director  
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Linda N. Bocclair, M.Ed., MBA, Executive Assistant  
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Mary Ray, Contract Administrator 2  
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism  
Commission on Brain Injury Research and Commission on Spinal Cord Research

Daphne Robinson, Ph.D., Consultant  
Scientific Planning Consulting

**Public Attendees**

Gerard Costa, Ph.D., Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health at Montclair State University and Principal Investigator, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Cecelia Feeley, Ph.D., Rutgers University

Karen Hood-Kasim MPH, Project Coordinator, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Mary Lou Kerwin, Ph.D., Rowan University

Michelle Soreth, Ph.D., Rowan University

T. Peter Stein, Ph.D., Professor, Rowan University, School of Osteopathic Medicine

**Note: Motions are numbered.**

**Welcome** - Council Chairperson, Dr. Caroline Eggerding called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and welcomed everyone.

**Public Meetings Act Announcement**- Dr. Eggerding read the Open Public Meetings Act notification statement and roll call was taken by Ms. Bocclair.

**Approval of the September 12, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes**-Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the minutes.

1. MOTION by Dr. Dreyfus to approve the minutes was seconded by Dr. Friedman. Five members voted in favor, two members abstained, motion passed.

**Revision of the 2017 Council Meeting Calendar**- Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the revised calendar, cancelling the March 6, 2017 meeting and scheduling the April 3, 2017 meeting.

2. MOTION by Ms. Bell to approve the calendar was seconded by Dr. Dreyfus. Seven members voted in favor, motion passed.

Note: At least two members (Dr. Dreyfus and Friedman) will not be able to attend the June 5, 2017 meeting due to their attending a national conference.

**Continuation funding for Grant # CAUT13APS010 *The Generation and Characterization of Autism iPSCs.***

Dr. Costa provided an overview of the project goals and highlighted the accomplishments referring to summary of the project included in Council's meeting packet.

Dr. Costa recommended the grant be presented to Council for continuation funding. Dr. Zanna agreed with the recommendation.

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve Grant # CAUT13APS010 for year five continuation funding.

3. MOTION by Ms. Bell to approve CAUT13APS010 for year five continuation funding was seconded by Dr. Kansagra. Five members voted in favor, two members recused, motion passed.

**Presentation by Dr. Marylou Kerwin (Final Grant Report- CAUT13APL015)**

Dr. Kerwin presented her research project entitled *Efficacy of Relationship Development Intervention and Parent-Implemented Applied Behavior Analysis/Verbal Behavior on Joint Attention and Communication of Preschool Children with Autism*. The long-term goal of this program of research is to evaluate parent-implemented treatments for ASD. The specific objective of this proposal is to compare two parent adjunctive interventions, RDI and ABA/VB, with each other and against services as usual (SAU) on joint attention and language in preschool children with ASD. The results from this pilot project partially supported the hypotheses (details presented in project summary-Council meeting packet), and suggest new avenues for future

research. The key deliverables are intervention manuals for RDI and parent-implemented ABA/VB that have been approved by the respective content experts/developers, specifically, Dr. Rachael Sheely and Dr. Vincent Carbone, respectively. In addition, the researchers (1) created a methodology for assessing treatment integrity of each intervention with reliability, (2) developed a system for coding joint attention and language behavior reliably and (3) presented preliminary data on how different instructional demand conditions under which parents and children interact affect direct observation data as well as the behaviors of parent and child that may be sensitive to each of the interventions. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session. Dr. Eggerding, on behalf of the Council, thanked Dr. Kerwin for her most informative presentation.

### **Presentation by Dr. Peter Stein (Final Grant Report- CAUT13APL016)**

Dr. Stein presented his research project entitled *Glucuronidation and Autism*. The etiology of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is believed to be multifactorial. One popular hypothesis involves toxicant exposure acting upon genetically-sensitive individuals. The objectives of this study were to determine whether (i) there was a relationship between exposure to Bisphenol A (BPA), a widely used plasticizer, and ASD and (ii) if BPA glucuronidation was compromised in children with ASD. The major pathway for BPA metabolism and excretion is via glucuronidation (a biochemical process which occurs in the liver). Urine specimens were collected from 46 children with ASD and 52 controls. Free and total BPA concentrations were determined by isotope dilution-liquid chromatography mass spectrometry–mass spectrometry. The fraction glucuronidated was calculated from the difference. A metabolomics study was done to investigate metabolite distribution in the urine. Results of the study concluded there is an association between BPA and ASD. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session. Dr. Eggerding, on behalf of the Council, thanked Dr. Stein for his most informative presentation.

**NJACE CC-MSU Update – Gerard Costa, Ph.D.** – Dr. Costa presented a summary of the Coordinating Center’s activities and services focusing on plans for the 2017 Summit. Part I of the Summit is planned for April 19-20, 2017 at the Marriot Forrestal Hotel in Princeton, NJ and Part II on June 9, 2017 at Montclair State University in Montclair, NJ.

### **Acting Executive Director Report- Martin T. Zanna, MD, MPH**

NJACE Coordinating Center Dr. Zanna thanked Dr. Costa for his report on the work of the NJACE Coordinating Center.

Ethics Requirements Members who have not fulfilled the ethics requirements were notified by Linda Bocclair. Dr. Zanna requested members to please do so within the next week.

SFY'17 RFA Forty-two applications were received for the current grant cycle including 18 Clinical and Translational, 21 Basic Science and 3 Autism Medical Homes. To date 35 reviewers are confirmed to serve on the review panels with Daphne Robinson continuing to identify others. Report on NJ ACE Grantees Dr. Zanna thanked Drs. Stein and Kerwin for presenting their final grant reports. Dr. Mintz, the fifth grantee to complete his research, will present at the June 5, 2017 Council meeting. That leaves a total of 17 grants active in FY18 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018), in addition to those in no cost extensions.

NJACE Mission Statement During the September 12, 2016 Council meeting members requested Victoria Brogan, DOH Legislative Liaison, be invited to attend the December 5, 2016 Council meeting to hear from them regarding the use of the word “prevention” in the NJACE Mission Statement. Ms. Brogan had objected to inclusion of the word in public documents. Anthony Welch, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning, spoke to Ms. Brogan and she agreed “prevention” can be used in Council’s documents given “prevention” is included in the Statute.

Rutgers University Work with Rachel Hammond, DOH Ethics Officer, continues on the request to permit Council members who are employees of Rutgers to vote on grant applications and grants from Rutgers as long as the grant applications/grants are not from or connected to the Council member’s home campus. She has requested additional information before presenting to the State Ethics Commission. We will respond to her request and reach out to Drs. Dreyfus and Friedman to assist us with obtaining information from Rutgers.

Medical Homes Grants Meetings were held at Children’s Specialized Hospital and Meridian/Jersey Shore on October 24 to transfer oversight of the autism medical homes grants to the NJACE Coordinating Center. Lisa Shulman MD, a developmental pediatrician and consultant to Montclair will oversee the grants. We are working with Hackensack and recommended they request a no cost extension through December 2017 given their late start with the project due to a delay in hiring staff.

Management of Revenue from Motor Vehicle Violations In response to the memo sent to Council regarding the appropriation of \$4M to the Early Intervention Program (EIP), a program of Family Health Services (FHS), DOH, Dr. Michael Aquino suggested it would be helpful for Council to hear how and when revenues are deposited into the Autism Medical Research and Treatment Fund and when the money is appropriated with the goal of strategizing on how to better manage the incoming money to make sure funds are used as intended by the Council. In response to Dr. Aquino’s questions, Treasury makes approximately \$4 million available in the beginning of each fiscal year. This amount is based upon previous actual deposits to the Autism Medical Research and Treatment Fund. Since the actual deposits are based upon motor vehicle violations, usually deposits are made on a monthly basis to the account. These deposits usually start around September after the beginning of each fiscal year. Please note, of the \$4 million,

\$500,000 is appropriated to the Autism Registry and \$250,000 to Autism NJ for their Hotline. When the State of New Jersey has a fiscal emergency, it is authorized to pull funds from all accounts in order to meet its obligations, including funds previously encumbered. The Annual Appropriation Act (budget language) supersedes all existing legislation. If the Council wants to strategize how to better optimize the incoming revenues it would be helpful if members tell us what additional information they will need. Dr. Eggerding suggested we schedule time, possibly in our next meeting, for Council to further discuss this issue.

### **Report of Revenues and Expenditures**

The report was included in members' Council packets, for information.

**Public Comments** No public comments.

### **Closed Session**

4. Motion made by Ms. Spett to move into closed session for discussion of the Council's Strategic Plan, seconded by Dr. Dreyfus, all members voted in favor, motion passed.
5. Motion made by Ms. Spett to move out of closed session, seconded by Dr. Dreyfus, all members voted in favor, motion passed.

**Adjournment** Dr. Eggerding asked for a motion to adjourn.

6. MOTION to adjourn by Ms. Spett and seconded by Dr. Dreyfus. All members voted in favor, motion passed.