



**NJ Department of Health
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
Council Meeting Minutes (ratified)
December 7, 2015**

Council Members Present

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
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

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

Eileen McKeating, Ph.D., Research Associate, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

I. Welcome - Council Chairperson, Dr. Caroline Eggerding called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and welcomed everyone.

II. Public Meetings Act Announcement- Dr. Eggerding read the Public Meetings Act, followed by roll call.

III. Approval of the September 21, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the minutes. MOTION by Ms. Goldfarb to approve the minutes was seconded by Dr. Wang. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the minutes was passed with seven in favor and three abstentions

IV. Continuation Funding for 2013 Grantee

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve continuation funding for grant number CAUT13APS010. MOTION by Ms. Goldfarb to approve continuation funding was seconded by Dr. Evans.

Discussion: Dr. Gerard Costa presented an overview of progress for the grant entitled *The Generation and Characterization of Autism iPSC's* indicating that the project is on schedule in accomplishing the three major aims of his research. Dr. Costa recommended approval of continuation funding for the fourth year of the grant and Dr. Zanna concurred.

MOTION to approve continuation funding for year four of grant number CAUT13APS010 was passed with nine members in favor and two recusals.

V. NJ ACE Coordinating Center Report

Dr. Costa reported that (1) he and his staff are continuing with developing their strategic plan; (2) he completed visits to 14 sites and met with the Principal Investigators;(3) eight applicants were interviewed for consultant positions (both for a biomedical consultant and a clinical behavioral consultant) with recommendations to be sent to the DOH in mid-December; (4) grantees met via an online platform (Join Me) on November 19, 2015 and the face-to-face meeting is January 14, 2016; (5) planning has begun for the 2017 NJ ACE Summit with the third week in April as a tentative date (6) several SFY13 grantees have been approved for no cost extensions; (7) Dr. Cecelia Feeley completed her grant in September 2015 and others were extended through mid-2016; and (8) site visits were conducted for three new grantees to provide orientations.

In response to a member's comment at the last meeting the NJ ACE logo has been changed to highlight NJ ACE as compared to the previous logo highlighting the Coordinating Center at Montclair (CC-MSU).

Dr. Costa will follow up to a member's request for plans for Autism Week in April.

VI. Acting Executive Director Report

1) The office is busy with activities related to the current SFY '16 RFA Cycle. The RFA was released on September 9, 2015. 32 Letters of Intent were received; 6 for Autism Health Needs Medical Homes and 26 for Clinical and Translational research. Applications are due December 12, 2015. Three grant review panels will be meeting in February (Biomedical, Behavioral, and

Medical Home panels). A total of 42 reviewers have committed to providing critiques and scoring the applications. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) will meet in late February.

2) Council will receive access to SAGE to review the applications and reviewers' critiques on March 7, 2016 for voting on March 21, 2016. Grantees will receive letters of Intent to Fund by March 31, 2016 and other applicants will be notified funding was not granted. All applicants receive blinded copies of their respective critiques. Grants are then processed through several offices within the DOH. We anticipate the Notice of Funding Awards (NOFAs) will be issued on or about June 1, 2016 with start date of June 30, 2016.

3) The new position Quality Assurance Specialist, Health Services, Nursing is pending. In the interim we are overseeing the medical homes grants providing assistance, as needed. Progress reports covering Q1 and Q2 are due January 15, 2016. We have requested services from the Coordinating Center, specifically program evaluation services to address one of the grantees' deliverables from Dr. Eden Kyse and her team.

4) Reminders were recently sent to several Council members who must fulfil ethics requirements. We are required by the State Ethics Commission to document compliance.

5) There will be a lecture by Dr. David S. Mandell on December 11, 2015 entitled "What we need to do to make autism interventions work in the Community" at Children's Specialized Hospital. The program will be from noon until 1:30 in the PSE & G Auditorium at Children's Specialized Hospital Auditorium 200 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. This information was sent to Council. Dr. Mandell is well known through his work with the IACC at NIH.

6) The October/November issue of the DOH's Newsletter HEALTH MATTERS (posted on the DOH website) included a feature article by Acting Commissioner Cathleen Bennett highlighting the September 18, 2015 Autism Summit convened by the Montclair State University NJACE Coordinating Center. Dr. Eggerding and Dr. Costa are quoted in the article that was provided to you.

VII. Review of NJSA 30-6D-56 and Council's Rules of Order

Dr. Eggerding encouraged new members to be familiar with both documents. She suggested the Rules of Order be reviewed annually and revised, as needed. A recommendation was made to consider establishing committees to review and make recommendations to the full Council.

VIII. Discussion and recommendations-SFY17 funding, including the NJ ACE Coordinating Center

The statute defines the range of topics to be funded. A member commented that the review process has been significantly improved ensuring Council has the appropriate information to make objective decisions when voting to fund grants.

Just prior to the transfer of the Council from UMDNJ in 2007 to the DOH, six Clinical Enhancement Centers were funded with a focus on service. Although the Council has been in existence since 1999 it wasn't until the transfer to the DOH that focus on research became a

priority with funding allocated to basic, clinical and translational research. Health services research (medical homes) was added during the last funding cycle.

The discussion continued with questioning plans for the next coordinating center with responsibilities to address “gaps” and if the research grants should cover a broader range of topics including basic research.

After a lengthy discussion Dr. Eggerding appointed two committees, one for the Coordinating Center RFA and one for the research RFA to make recommendations for the respective RFAs.

Committee chairs and members are:

Research RFA: Drs. Dreyfus (co-Chair), Friedman, Kansagra and Wang; Ms. Bell (co-Chair)

Coordinating Center RFA: Drs. Evans and Aquino (co-Chairs); Ms. Goldfarb; Ms. Spett; and Mr. Macchiaverna.

IX. Report of Revenues and Expenditures

The report was included in members’ Council packet for information. There were no questions.

X. Adjournment

Dr. Eggerding asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION to adjourn by Dr. Evans and seconded by Dr. Dreyfus was approved with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.