

Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

Members in Attendance:

Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., M.B.A., Chair
L. Matthew Frank, M.D., Vice Chair
Robert W. Downs, Jr., M.D.
Thomas W. Eppes, Jr., M.D.
Julia A. Spicer

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance:

Anne C. Pace, M.P.A.
Raya Mandler, Ph.D.
Merrill Mitler, Ph.D.
Arnold Revzin, Ph.D.
Carla R. Collins

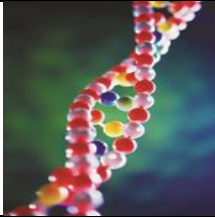
Administrator
Scientific Consultant
Scientific Consultant
Scientific Consultant
Senior Assistant Attorney General,
Office of the Attorney General

Call to Order:

Chair Cynda A. Johnson, M.D. called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The meeting was held at the Gottwald Science Center, University of Richmond, Virginia 23173. A quorum was present for the transaction of business throughout the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Downs moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting. Dr. Eppes seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.



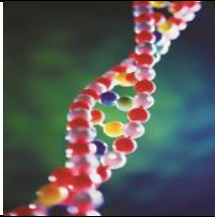
Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Financial Reports:

Due to a conflict, a VRS representative was not available to attend the meeting; however, Dan Whitlock, CFA, DAIA, Director of Global Equity for the VRS provided the following information prior to the meeting:

1. Commonwealth Health Research Fund Activity through December 31, 2017, which reflects the CHRF balance at \$38,776,234.09.
2. Performance Summary Rolling Periods as of December 31, 2017 which reflects Total VRS Fund Performance for various periods ranging from 1 year to 10 years.
3. VRS Asset Allocation as of December 31, 2017 for the Total VRS Fund: \$78.3 billion.

VRS Performance as of December 2017	<p>Positive absolute returns for 1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years</p> <p>Strong relative performance across board – beating benchmark over most longer time horizons</p>
Asset Allocation – Diversified portfolio:	<p>42.4% Public Equities 16.2% Fixed Income 16.9% Credit 12.6% Real Assets 9.1% Private Equity 2.7% Strategic Opportunities (opportunities that don't fit into the other buckets) 0.1% Cash</p>
Economic Update – mid to late cycle depending on who you ask	<p>GDP positive, at long term averages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Real GDP was +2.6% YoY through December (20 year average is 2.6%, 50 year average is 3.1%) <p>Unemployment is low at 4.1% through February, lower than the 50 year average of 6.1%</p> <p>Inflation is rising: CPI is at 2.2% YoY as of February, below long term averages at 2.5%</p>
Market Update –	<p>Market is continuing to digest good earnings, higher geopolitical risks, trade tensions, and the potential for rising interest rates.</p> <p>Tax and deregulation policies are additive to earnings</p> <p>Technology sector boomed last year, is starting to cool off a little</p> <p>U.S. Market is trading at 21x trailing earnings, 16x Forward Earnings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overall reasonable, but a bit rich for some – long term expectations of pricing around 15 – 17x <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If interest rates creep upward, this will put downward pressures on the multiple ✓ If interest rates remain low, multiples could remain elevated ➤ Earnings growth continues to come through quite strong



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

CHRB Financial Reports:

CHRB Revenue and Cash Balance as of February 28, 2018

Administrator Pace provided that the cash balance for CHRB administrative and grant budgets amounted to \$371,741.27 as of February 28, 2018.

Approved FY 2017/2018 CHRB Administrative and Grants Expenses [through February 28, 2018 which represents 8 months of the fiscal year]

Administrator Pace provided the Board with FY 2017/2018 year-to-date [YTD] administrative and grant expenses through February 28, 2018: [Per the CARDINAL System, the Commonwealth's new financial system which replaced the Commonwealth Accounting and Reporting System (CARS) effective January 1, 2016.]

FY 2017/2018	APPROVED FY 2017/2018 Administrative Budget	YTD 2017/2018 Expenses [as of February 28, 2018 or 8 months of the FY]	Expenses YTD as a % of Budget	Special Notes:
Total Administrative	\$ 244,464.94	\$ 161,085.40	66%	The majority of expenses are related to personnel expenses for the CHRB Administrator and services provided by scientific consultants, legal counsel and the Department of Accounts that serves as the CHRB's fiscal agent.
Total Grant Disbursements*	\$ 1,050,916.00	\$ 1,021,082.00	97%	Majority of funds disbursed in July 2017 for initial grant payments and includes \$100,000 disbursed for the CHRB VBHRC jointly funded research project with EVMS/GMU/Sanyal Biotechnology LLC

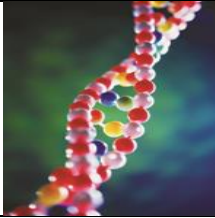
*Please note that the Grants Budget of \$950,016 is the total of the 2017 Grant Awards with disbursements occurring over a period of one or two years. In addition, \$100,000 is included in the Grants Budget for the CHRB VBHRC jointly funded research project with EVMS/GMU/Sanyal Biotechnology LLC.

Increased CHRB NGF Appropriation:

Legislative Appropriation Increases

	FY 2017/2018	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020
Current	\$ 1,326,344		
Approved		\$1,549,871	\$ 1,580,906

Appropriation Increases are needed due to increases in the administrative and grants budget to include proposed IT Security Audit for FY 2019/2020 and an increase in grant awards in both years to include the CHRB VBHRC jointly funded grant project.



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

Grant Funding Available for FY 2018/2019 CHRFB Grant Awards

Administrator Pace provided updates regarding grant funding available for 2018 Grant Awards. Various funding scenarios ranging from 3.5% up to 6.0% were provided. VRS and CHRFB Administrative Expenses, as well as outstanding CHRFB Grant Obligations will be subtracted from the grant funding available to provide the amount of CHRFB funds available for new FY 2018/2019 grants.

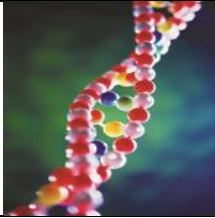
Funds available for 2018 Grant Awards

Calendar Year		Market Value as of 12/31/xx	
January 31 - December 31, 2012	Year 1	\$29,885,251.45	Source: VRS Finance Division CHRFB Activity Report for through December 2012
January 31 - December 31, 2013	Year 2	\$33,153,077.91	Source: VRS Finance Division CHRFB Activity Report through December 2013
January 31 - December 31, 2014	Year 3	\$34,600,580.37	Source: VRS Finance Division CHRFB Activity Report through December 31, 2014
January 31 - December 31, 2015	Year 4	\$34,052,161.12	Source: VRS Finance Division CHRFB Activity Report through December 31, 2015
January 31 - December 31, 2016	Year 5	\$35,296,332.08	Source: VRS Finance Division CHRFB Activity Report through December 31, 2016
	Total	\$166,987,332.08	
Average Market Value*		\$33,397,480.59	

*Five-year average market value amount of \$33,397,480.59 is based upon figures provided by the Virginia Retirement System. This amount is the average market value of the previous five calendar years.

Available Grant Funding and Funding Scenarios	4.00%	4.50%	5.00%	5.50%	6.00%
Average Market Value = \$33,397,480.59	\$33,397,480.59	\$33,397,480.59	\$33,397,480.59	\$33,397,480.59	\$33,397,480.59
Available Grant Funding based upon average market value and % scenario	\$1,335,899	\$1,502,887	\$1,586,380	\$1,836,861	\$2,003,849
Less estimated VRS administrative expenses	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600
Less estimated CHRFB administrative expenses	\$244,465	\$244,465	\$244,465	\$244,465	\$244,465
Grant funding available less VRS & CHRFB administrative expenses	\$1,088,834	\$1,255,822	\$1,422,809	\$1,589,796	\$1,756,784
Grant funding available less outstanding grant expenses to be paid in FY 2018/2019	\$638,537	\$638,537	\$638,537	\$638,537	\$638,537
Grant funding available to award FY 2018/2019	\$450,297	\$617,285	\$784,272	\$951,259	\$1,118,247

Grant funding to be paid in FY 2018/2019 = FY 2016/2017 final grant payments of \$124,999 and FY 2017/2018 final and initial second year payments of \$513,538 for a total of \$638,537.



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

CLOSED SESSION: FY 2018/2019 CHR B Grant Process

Step Two: Discussion of Full Proposals recommended for a presentation to the Board

Vice Chair Matthew Frank, M.D., moved that the Board go into closed session in accordance with the provisions of Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(7), 2.2-3711(A)(30), and 2.2-3705.6 (17) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of

Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Board, and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel regarding :

records submitted as a grant or loan application, or accompanying a grant or loan applicationto the extent such records contain proprietary business or research-related information produced or collected by the applicant in the conduct of or as a result of study or research on medical, rehabilitative, scientific, technical, technological, or scholarly issues, when such information has not been publicly released, published, copyrighted, or patented, if the disclosure of such information would be harmful to the competitive position of the applicant. Virginia Code § 2.2-3705.6 (17).

Dr. Downs seconded the Motion, and it passed unanimously. Vice Chair Matthew Frank, M.D. moved that the Board reconvene in open session. Dr. Eppes seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously. The Board adopted the following resolution by roll call vote.

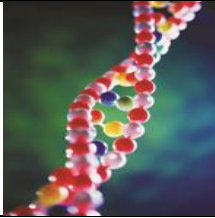
CERTIFICATION

Vice Chair Matthew Frank, M.D. moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Health Research Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth Health Research Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

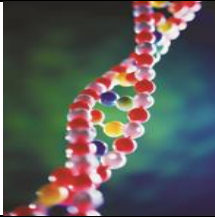
A roll call vote of members present was taken. Each approved this certification.

The following motions were made after the Closed Session, voted upon and passed unanimously:

[1] Dr. Downs moved that 14 Full Proposals be presented to the CHRB on May 10, 2018; which was seconded by Dr. Eppes. Administrator Pace will contact those 14 Principal Investigators requesting that each make a presentation to the Board. Administrator Pace will also provide reviewer comments to those Principal Investigators from whom a presentation of the Full Proposal was not requested.

[2] The Board unanimously approved a motion by Dr. Downs, which was seconded by Ms. Spicer, for the following four Principal Investigators to receive second-year funding to continue their CHRB grant award initially funded in FY 2017/2018. Administrator Pace will contact the following Principal Investigators regarding the outcome of the Board's decisions:

Institution/ Organization	Principal Investigator	Grant Title
Christopher Newport University	Kathryn Cole, Ph.D.	<i>Anticancer Drug Design: Structure and Function of New HDAC8-Depsipeptide Complexes</i>
Virginia Commonwealth University	Nicholas Farrell, Ph.D.	<i>Targeting Triple Negative Breast Cancer</i>
Virginia Commonwealth University	Babette Fuss, Ph.D.	<i>Regulation of myelin repair: the role of the actin cytoskeleton</i>
University of Virginia	Weibin Shi, Ph.D.	<i>Characterization of reticulocalbin 2 as a major gene contributing to atherosclerosis</i>



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

CLOSED SESSION: Personnel and Budget Discussion

Vice Chair Matthew Frank, M.D. moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A)(7) and 2.2-3711 (A)(1) for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Board, and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel regarding a personnel matter pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1).

The motion was seconded by Ms. Spicer. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Matthew Frank, M.D., moved that the Board reconvene in open session. Dr. Downs seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously. The Board adopted the following resolution by roll call vote.

CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Health Research Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

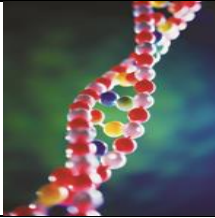
WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia* requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth Health Research Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

A roll call vote of members present was taken. Each approved this certification.

Results of Closed Session:

Dr. Downs moved that the Board approve the proposed FY 2018/2019 CHRB Administrative Budget in the amount of \$248,966.15, including the amounts designated for DOA's fiscal services and the OAG's legal services as set forth below. The motion was seconded by Dr. Frank. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.



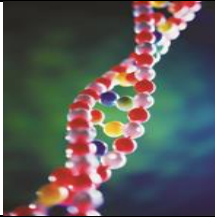
Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

[1] The approved CHRB Administrative Budget includes \$19,992.33 for fiscal services provided by the Department of Accounts (DOA) to the CHRB. A breakdown of the DOA fiscal fee is provided in Attachment A. The contents of Attachment A are incorporated here by reference as if fully set forth here. Dr. Frank moved that the Board delegate the authority to the CHRB Chair, Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., M.B.A., to execute the MOU between the DOA and the CHRB on the Board's behalf. Dr. Eppes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

[2] The approved CHRB Administrative Budget also includes \$10,000 for legal services provided to the Board by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). Dr. Frank moved that the Board delegate the authority to the CHRB Chair, Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., to execute the MOU between the OAG and the CHRB on the Board's behalf. Ms. Spicer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

[3] The approved CHRB Administrative Budget includes a 3% salary increase. The Board, via motion made by Dr. Frank, seconded by Ms. Spicer, and unanimously approved, delegated authority to Chair Cynda A. Johnson, M.D. and authorized her to complete a performance review of the CHRB Administrator and to develop any contracts or contract amendments necessary to establish the scope of work, compensation, and terms and conditions governing the Administrator.

[4] The approved CHRB Administrative Budget also includes funding for three scientific consultants. The Board, via motion made by Dr. Downs, seconded by Dr. Eppes, and unanimously approved, delegated authority to Administrator Pace and Senior Assistant Attorney General Collins to develop any contracts or contract amendments necessary to establish the scope of work, compensation, and terms and conditions governing the scientific consultants as independent contractors of the CHRB and delegated authority to the CHRB Chair, Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., to execute all contracts or contract amendments between the CHRB and the scientific consultants on the CHRB's behalf.



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

Proposed FY 2019/2020 CHRB Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions Proposed CHRB Policies and Procedures effective July 1, 2018

As a follow up to member questions at its December 14, 2017 Board meeting, Administrator Pace reviewed staff responses to these questions along with proposed language changes to grant related documents with the Board. The Board will review the final draft of the proposed FY 2019/2020 CHRB Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions and proposed CHRB Policies and Procedures effective July 1, 2018 along with the proposed CHRB Grant Agreement and CHRB ByLaws effective July 1, 2018 at its May 10, 2018 meeting. The Board will vote on these grant related documents at the May 10, 2018 meeting.

As a result of responses provided to member questions from its December 14, 2017 meeting, the following language will be incorporated into the final grant related documents for approval at the Board's May 10, 2018 meeting:

1 How scientific reviews of Concept Papers and Full Proposals should be assigned.

To be reflected in the following document: CHRB Policy and Procedures effective July 1, 2018:

Scientific Review of Concept Paper and Full Proposal Submissions:

Concept Papers: Scientific Reviewer assignments for Concept Papers are randomized. For a resubmission of a Concept Paper in a previous grant year, a different Scientific Reviewer will be assigned to complete the review.

Full Proposals: The Scientific Reviewer for the Concept Paper will also serve as the Primary Scientific Reviewer of the Full Proposal. A secondary Scientific Reviewer will also review the Full Proposal and provide comments to the Primary Scientific Reviewer.

2 Whether feedback should be provided to applicants who move forward in the grant process at each step in the grant process as well as to "unsuccessful candidates".

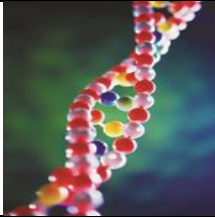
To be reflected in the following document: CHRB Policy and Procedures effective July 1, 2018:

Request for Feedback from Review of Concept Paper, Full Proposal or Presentation of the Full Proposal

Scientific review comments are provided to assist the Principal Investigator in his or her resubmission of grant proposals to the CHRB in a future grant application review cycle. A summary of the review comments will provide both the strengths and weaknesses of the application.

Concept Paper: The CHRB will provide a summary of the Scientific Reviewer's comments to the Principal Investigator, who submits a Concept Paper, but is not asked to submit a Full Proposal.

Full Proposal: The CHRB will provide a summary of the Scientific Reviewer's comments to the Principal Investigator who submits a Full Proposal but is not asked to make a presentation of the Full Proposal to the Board.



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

- 2 Whether feedback should be provided to applicants who move forward in the grant process at each step in the grant process as well as to “unsuccessful candidates”.**
(continued)

Presentation of the Full Proposal: The CHRHB will provide Scientific Reviewer’s comments of the Full Proposal review to the Principal Investigator who presents a Full Proposal to the Board but is not awarded a CHRHB Grant.

When providing feedback to Principal Investigators per the approved policy reflected in CHRHB Policies and Procedures, the response will make suggestions or recommendations to the Principal Investigator regarding other funding opportunities only in general terms e.g. *There are other Virginia funding opportunities in which product commercialization and private sector collaboration are measures used in considering grant awards.*

- 3 Whether questions should be provided to applicants prior to their presentation so that they understand what the Board is interested in knowing. Who will develop these questions?**

To be reflected in the following documents:

CHRHB Policy and Procedures effective July 1, 2018 and CHRHB FY 2018/2019 Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions effective July 1, 2018:

Request for Feedback from Review of Concept Paper, Full Proposal or Presentation of the Full Proposal to the Board

Presentations of the Full Proposal to the Board:

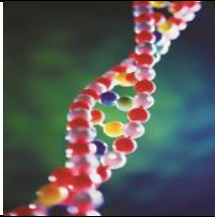
The CHRHB does not provide questions in advance of a Principal Investigator’s oral presentation of their Full Proposal to the Board. The value of the face-to-face presentations with the Principal Investigator is to measure the scientific merit of the Full Proposal and the competence and readiness of the Principal Investigator to successfully carry out the research project.

- 4 Whether, for those projects that propose the development of products, the feedback should inform the applicant of other research funding organizations that may be a better fit --- e.g. Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), Virginia Research Investment Fund (VRIF) and the Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund (CRCF) --- because these organizations expressly provide funding for product commercialization and private sector collaboration.”**

To be reflected in the following document: CHRHB Policy and Procedures effective July 1, 2018:

Request for Feedback from Review of Concept Paper, Full Proposal or Presentation of the Full Proposal

When providing feedback to Principal Investigators per the approved policy reflected in CHRHB Policies and Procedures, the response will make suggestions or recommendations to the Principal Investigator regarding other funding opportunities only in general terms e.g. *There are other Virginia funding opportunities in which product commercialization and private sector collaboration are measures used in considering grant awards.*



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

- 4** Whether, for those projects that propose the development of products, the feedback should inform the applicant of other research funding organizations that may be a better fit --- e.g. Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), Virginia Research Investment Fund (VRIF) and the Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund (CRCF) --- because these organizations expressly provide funding for product commercialization and private sector collaboration.”
(continued)

To be reflected in the following document: CHRFB FY 2018/2019 Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions effective July 1, 2018: (under Research Plan)

All proposed projects, including behavioral or nonbiomedical projects, must have a health-related research component. Any proposed projects that request funding to develop an engineering device and/or a manufacturing process must address and include in their proposal the standard components of a biomedical research proposal such as a hypothesis, control groups, statistical tests and experimental replication.

5 Discussion concerning potential Patents and Future Commercialization of CHRFB proposals:

Staff and the Scientific Reviewers are to review metrics and propose changes as necessary. This is an internal action to reflect on the Administrative and Scientific Summary Reviews for the specific purpose of identifying CHRFB Grant Awards that have the potential for future commercialization and patents.

6 Discussion of capturing “Substance Abuse and Addiction” and/or “Substance Abuse/Mental Health” projects as a disease research area:

Per the CHRFB Minutes for the December 14, 2017 meeting, “Due to current issues involving substance abuse, the opioid epidemic, a “Substance Abuse and Addiction” research category should be added to our list of disease/research areas.”

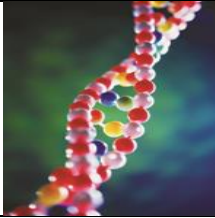
To be reflected in the following document: CHRFB Policy and Procedures effective July 1, 2018:

Expand the Categories of Research to reflect a separate coding category for addiction research:

The existing research category DM Drug Metabolism and Drug Addiction will be separated into two categories:

DM = Drug Metabolism

DA – Drug Addiction and Alcoholism



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

Other Business to come before the Board:

Election of Officers:

The Board unanimously approved the election of CHRБ officers for FY 2018/2019: Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., M.B.A. was reelected as CHRБ Chair and L. Matthew Frank, M.D. was reelected as CHRБ Vice Chair.

Updates on New CHRБ Appointments:

Letters dated February 7, 2018 were sent to Governor Ralph S. Northam and The Speaker of the House of Delegates, M. Kirkland Cox, with recommendations of new Member Appointments for their consideration. (Receipt was confirmed via certified mail on February 23, 2018 and February 14, 2018, respectively.) Per follow up conversations with both parties, the goal is to have new Member Appointments prior to the May 10, 2018 meeting.

VBHRC and CHRБ Collaborative funding project: EVMS/GMU/Sanyal Technologies:

The CHRБ in collaboration with the Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation [VBHRC] have joined together to provide funding for Eastern Virginia Medical School [Prime University/Grantee Institution], George Mason University [First Partner University], and Sanyal Biotechnology LLC [Industry Partner]. The CHRБ has contributed **\$200,000** to Eastern Virginia Medical School for this jointly funded research project while the VBHRC has contributed **\$100,000** towards this project.

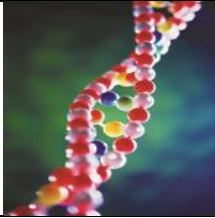
First Interim Scientific Review: Submitted August 21, 2017 and revised on August 29, 2017

The report was prepared and provided to CHRБ by Dr. Nadler. Job Creation: The PI states that the team's activities have created, since January 2017, 2 part-time, 1 full-time, and 1 contractor position. Projected number of jobs to be created in the next three years is 8-10. Progress made by Dr. Nadler and his team appears to be satisfactory and continued funding is recommended. The next scientific and fiscal reports are due to the CHRБ by February 15, 2018.

Second Interim Scientific Review: Submitted February 20, 2018

This report was dated February 16, 2018 and is comprised of a 13-page PDF file. The following three aims are re-stated and progress to date is discussed in detail:

- Aim 1: Building a tissue bank of mouse liver, serum, and other tissues to further scientific characterization of the model and boost sales.
- AIM 2: Characterization of changes in immune cell populations in the liver and adipose tissue.
- AIM 3: Characterization of gut microbiome changes in the DIAMOND™ mouse model over time.



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

Progress on these three aims extends nicely from what was reported on August 28, 2017. Generally, planned milestones have been reached. The PI concludes from the scientific literature and from his study that differences in gut microbiome composition may contribute to the pathogenicity of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, not only in animal models, but also in human patients. Results have been reported in a poster presentation and another abstract is being written up for AASLD (Fall 2018, San Francisco). Results from the analysis at George Mason will be combined with results generated in Sanyal Bio internal R&D and submitted to a peer reviewed journal. This reviewer judges progress to be commendable. The PI's plans for Western blot analysis of key inflammatory pathways in liver tissues promise to be informative. The request to make budget adjustments should benefit the overall project. Approval is recommended.

The next scientific and fiscal reports are due to the CHRB by February 15, 2019.

CHRB Grants Application and Management Electronic System (GAMES):

Another successful grants year utilizing the electronic grants system for the submission of Concept Papers and Full Proposals. Members suggested a name change to more appropriately recognize the Commonwealth Health Research Board's scientific emphasis.

CHRB Website Redesign and Enhancements:

The members were updated on the progress of the newly designed CHRB Website. Projected date of debut: July 1, 2018.

Next meeting:

Chair Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Dr. Frank, voted upon, and passed unanimously by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

The Board's next meeting will be Thursday, May 10, 2018 at the Gottwald Science Center, University of Richmond. At this meeting, presentations will be heard from 14 grant finalists. The Board will also make decisions regarding those finalists that will be awarded a CHRB Grant. Due to the number of presenters, the meeting will begin at 8:30 am.