

Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2021

Members in Attendance:

Robert W. Downs, Jr., M.D., Chair
Eric Lowe, M.D., Vice Chair
Thomas W. Eppes, Jr., M.D.
Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., M.B.A.
Julia A. Spicer (virtual via WebEx video conferencing)

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance:

Anne C. Pace, M.P.A.
Raya Mandler, Ph.D. (virtual via WebEx)
Merrill Mitler, Ph.D. (virtual via WebEx)
Arnold Revzin, Ph.D. (virtual via WebEx)
Carla R. Collins (virtual via WebEx)

Administrator
Scientific Consultant
Scientific Consultant
Scientific Consultant
Senior Assistant Attorney General,
Office of the Attorney General
Systems Engineer, Department of Accounts

Matt Winders

Call to Order:

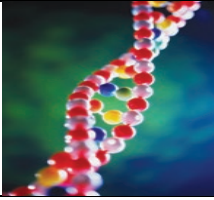
Chair Robert W. Downs, Jr., M.D. called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The meeting was held at the Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, 2nd Floor, George Washington Conference Room, Richmond, Virginia 23219. A quorum was present for the transaction of business throughout the meeting.

Celebration of Service

Board Members recognized Cynda A. Johnson, M.D., M.B.A. for 10 years of service to the Commonwealth Health Research Board, of which she served as Chair for 5 years.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Downs moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 meeting. Dr. Lowe seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

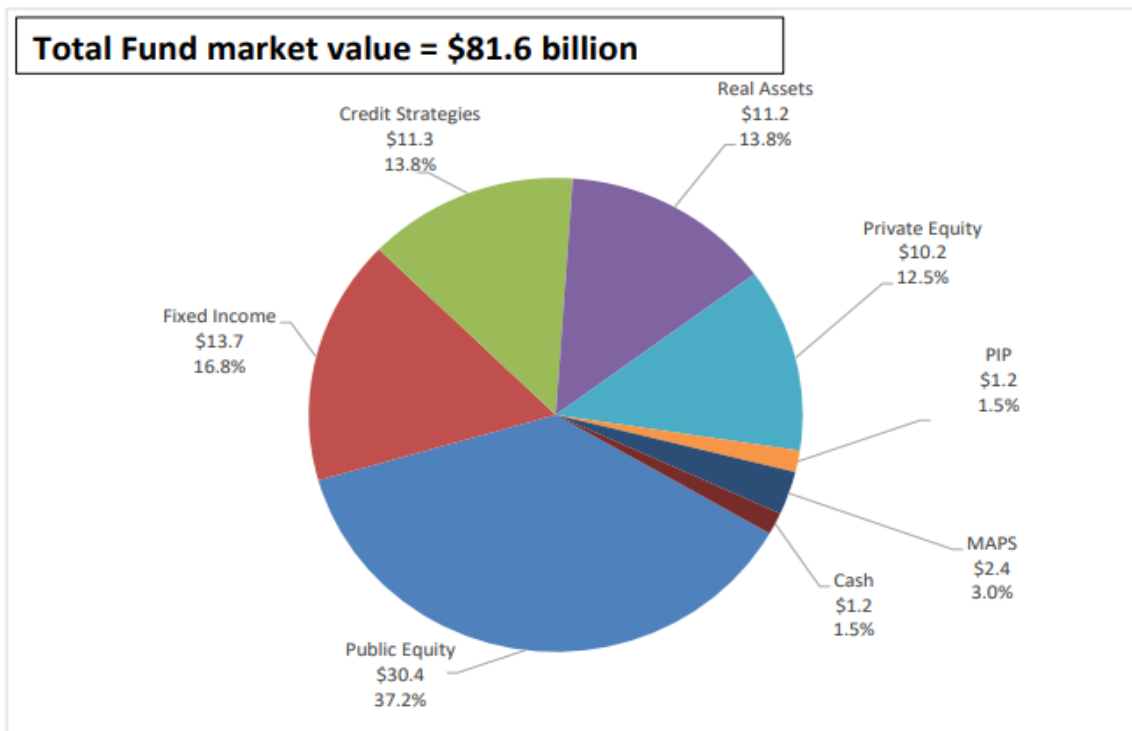


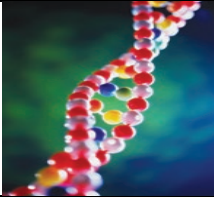
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Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Financial Reports:

Administrator Pace provided updates on the quarter ending June 30, 2020:

1. Commonwealth Health Research Fund Activity through June 30, 2020; which reflects the CHRF balance at \$39,633,417.46.
2. Performance Summary Rolling Periods as of June 30, 2020; which reflects Total VRS Fund Performance for various periods ranging from 1 year to 10 years.
3. VRS Asset Allocation as of June 30, 2020 for the Total VRS Fund: \$81.6 billion.





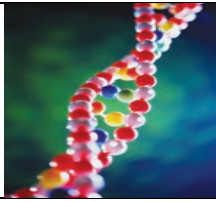
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CHRB Financial Reports:

Year-to-date FY 2020/2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021) CHRB Administrative & Grant Expenses Administrator Pace provided the Board with FY 2020/2021 YTD administrative and grant expenses through January 31, 2021: (Per the Commonwealth's CARDINAL accounting system)

Cash Balance as of January 31, 2021 = \$690,362.53

FY 2020/2021 Budget	Proposed	YTD Expenses as of January 31, 2021	Difference
Administrative	\$278,312.66	\$117,405.05	\$160,907.61
Grant Disbursements (estimated)	\$1,299,954.00	\$1,337,799.00	-\$37,845.00
Total	\$1,578,266.66	\$1,455,204.05	\$123,062.61

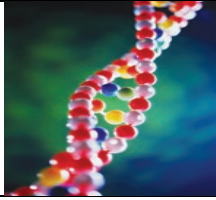


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Grant Funding Available for FY 2021/2022 CHRB Grant Awards

Administrator Pace provided updates regarding grant funding available for 2021 Grant Awards. Various funding scenarios ranging from 4.0% up to 6.0% were provided. VRS and CHRB Administrative Expenses, as well as outstanding CHRB Grant Obligations will be subtracted from the grant funding available to provide the amount of CHRB funds available for new FY 2021/2022 grants.

Funds available for 2021 Grant Awards			
Calendar Year		Market Value as of 12/31/xx	
January 1 - December 31, 2015	Year 1	\$34,052,161.12	Source: VRS Finance Division Activity Report through December 31, 2015
January 1 - December 31, 2016	Year 2	\$35,296,332.08	Source: VRS Finance Division Activity Report through December 31, 2016
January 1 - December 31, 2017	Year 3	\$38,776,234.09	Source: VRS Finance Division Activity Report through December 31, 2017
January 1 - December 31, 2018	Year 4	\$36,998,370.93	Source: VRS Finance Division Activity Report through December 31, 2018
January 1 - December 31, 2019	Year 5	\$40,977,689.88	Source: VRS Finance Division Activity Report through December 31, 2019
	Total	\$186,100,788.10	
	Average Market Value	\$37,220,157.62	
Funds available for 2021 grants based on 5% of the average market value	5.00%	1,861,007.88	
Less Administrative Expenses:			
Less Operating Expenses (using FY 2020/2021 Approved Budget as an estimate)		278,312.66	
Less VRS Administrative Fees		2,600.00	
Total Administrative Expenses		280,912.66	
Funds Available for 2021 grants less estimated expenses:		1,580,095.22	



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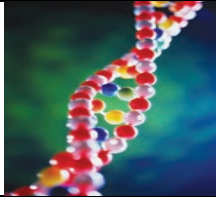
There was some discussion regarding an increase in the amount and length of CHRБ grants. Dr. Lowe asked if the Board should consider increasing the lengths of grants to three years. Dr. Downs asked the scientific reviewers to look at criteria points. Ms. Spicer proposed consideration of eliminating the Unique Virginia Considerations criteria. Dr. Johnson asked the CHRБ Administrator to add a column to the [Excel] spreadsheet that reflected the score for Unique Virginia Considerations so that it can be viewed in comparison to the overall scientific score.

Dr. Downs asked the CHRБ Administrator to provide the following guidance to those Principal Investigators from whom a Full Proposal has been requested: When preparing your Full Proposal, please carefully describe:

- ✓ Any overlap between the CHRБ grant proposal and any current/pending grants and how you intend to address any overlap, if applicable
- ✓ The budget and budget rationale
- ✓ Relevant preliminary data

Status of Ongoing 2020 CHRБ Grant Awards

Principal Investigator	Submitting Institution/Organization	Grant Award \$	Recipient Matching \$	Total Project \$	Grant Title	Start Date	First Interim Report Due	Second Interim Report Due	Final Reports Due
Farrokh Alemi, Ph.D.	George Mason University	\$ 78,382	\$ 44,039	\$ 122,421	Optimizing Antidepressant Selection through Artificial Intelligence	November 1, 2020	May 31, 2021	-	December 31, 2021
Bahareh Behkam, Ph.D.	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 160,000	Mechanobiology of Implant Infection: Effect of Surface Roughness on the Attachment Density and Phenotype of Adherent <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	May 1, 2021	January 31, 2022	November 31, 2022	June 31, 2023
Paul Fisher, MPhil, Ph.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University	\$ 100,000	\$ 99,785	\$ 199,785	Rational Design of Cancer Invasion and Metastasis Inhibitors	November 1, 2020	July 31, 2021	May 31, 2022	December 30, 2022
Aurora Esquela Kerscher, Ph.D.	Eastern Virginia Medical School	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000	Molecular dissection of a microRNA cluster network of aggressiveness	November 1, 2020	July 31, 2021	May 31, 2022	December 30, 2022
Kyle Lampe, Ph.D.	University of Virginia	\$ 100,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 133,000	Self-assembling, sehar-thinning peptide hydrogels to support cell transplantation and host cell interaction after ischemic stroke	March 1, 2021	November 30, 2021	September 30, 2022	April 30, 2023
Alicia Pickrell, Ph.D.	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 160,000	STING-dependent Type I Interferon Response in TBI	November 1, 2020	July 31, 2021	May 31, 2022	December 30, 2022
Steven Shell, Ph.D.	University of Virginia's College at Wise	\$ 38,745	\$ 12,786	\$ 51,531	Mass Spectrometry Analysis of the Human XPA-XPC Complex	November 1, 2020	May 31, 2021	-	December 31, 2021
Chongzhi Zang, Ph.D.	University of Virginia	\$ 100,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 133,000	Aberrant CTCF binding as an epigenetic signature of cancer	May 1, 2021	January 31, 2022	November 31, 2022	June 31, 2023



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CLOSED SESSION: FY 2021/2022 CHRB Grant Process

Step Two: Discussion of Concept Papers recommended to submit a Full Proposal

Vice Chair, Eric Lowe, 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. Epes seconded the Motion, and it passed unanimously. Vice Chair, Eric Lowe, M.D. moved that the Board reconvene in open session. Chair Robert Downs, Jr., M.D. seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously. The Board adopted the following resolution by roll call vote.

CERTIFICATION

Vice Chair Eric Lowe, M.D. moved, and Chair Robert Downs, Jr., M.D. seconded, the adoption of the following resolution:

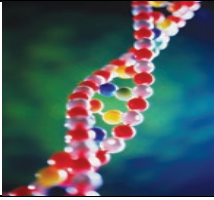
WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Health Research Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

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.

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

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



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Julia Spicer moved that 22 Full Proposals be requested for submission to the CHRB by April 22, 2021; which was seconded by Dr. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Administrator Pace will provide reviewer comments to those Principal Investigators from whom Full Proposals were not requested.

Next meeting:

Chair Robert Downs, Jr., M.D., moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Thomas Eppes, Jr., M.D., voted upon, and passed unanimously by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

The Board's next meeting will be Thursday, May 27, 2021 at the Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, 2nd Floor, George Washington Conference Room, Richmond, Virginia 23219. At this meeting, the Board will also determine the finalists who will present their respective Full Proposals to the Board on June 23, 2021.