

Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

Members in Attendance:

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

Members Absent:

Thomas W. Eppes, Jr., M.D.

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

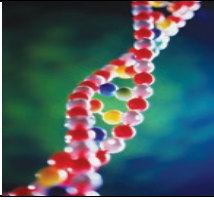
Matt Winders

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.

Approval of Minutes:

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

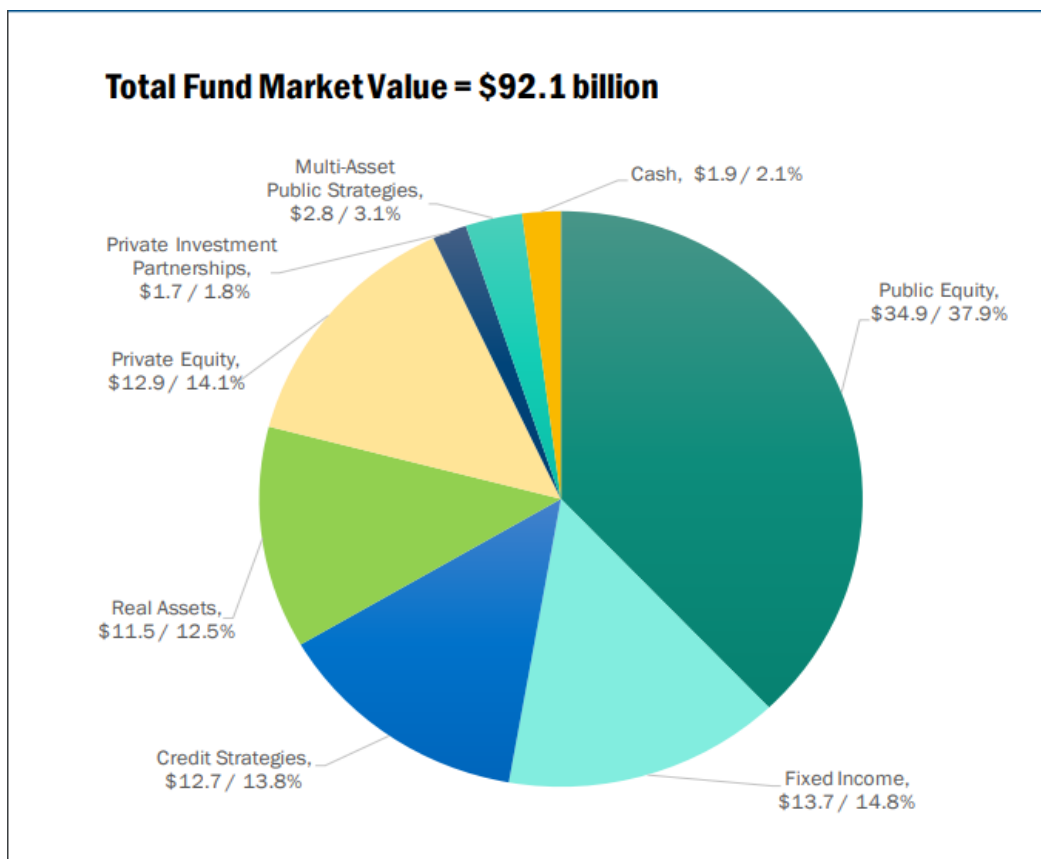


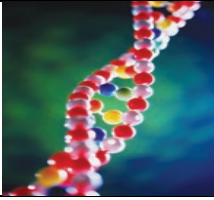
Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Financial Reports:

Administrator Pace provided updates on the quarter ending December 31, 2020:

1. Commonwealth Health Research Fund Activity through December 31, 2020; which reflects the CHRF balance at \$43,250,731.05. CHRF Activity through March 31, 2021 = \$45,056,490.37 balance.
2. Performance Summary Rolling Periods as of December 31, 2020; which reflects Total VRS Fund Performance for various periods ranging from 1 year to 10 years.
3. VRS Asset Allocation as of December 31, 2020 for the Total VRS Fund: \$92.1 billion.





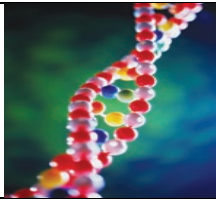
Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

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 April 20, 2021: (Per the Commonwealth's CARDINAL accounting system)

Cash Balance as of April 30, 2021 = \$630,260.75

FY 2020/2021 Proposed Budget	Approved	YTD Expenses as of April 30, 2021	Difference
Administrative	\$278,312.66	\$177,022.91	\$101,289.75
Grant Disbursements	\$1,299,954.00	\$1,337,799.00	-\$37,845.00
Total	\$1,578,266.66	\$1,514,821.91	\$63,444.75



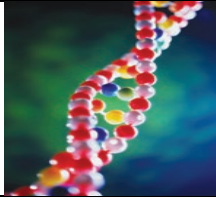
Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

Grant Funding Available for FY 2021/2022 CHRB Grant Awards

Administrator Pace provided updates regarding grant funding available for 2020 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 2021/2021 grants.

Funds available for FY 2021/2022 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 (AMV)	AMV	\$37,220,157.62	
Funds available for 2021 grants based on 5% of the AMV	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 based upon a 5% scenario:		1,580,095.22	



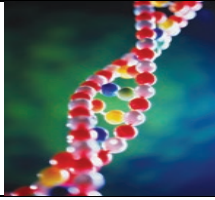
Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

Various Funding Scenarios for FY 2021/2022 Grant Awards

Available Grant Funding and Funding Scenarios	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	4.90%	5.00%	5.25%	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%
Average Market Value = \$37,220,157.62	\$37,220,158	\$37,220,158	\$37,220,158	\$37,220,158	\$37,220,158	\$37,220,158	\$37,220,158	\$37,220,158	\$37,220,158
Available Grant Funding AMV and % scenario	\$1,488,806	\$1,581,857	\$1,674,907	\$1,823,788	\$1,861,008	\$1,954,058	\$2,047,109	\$2,140,159	\$2,233,209
Less VRS admin expenses	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600
Less CHRB admin (est based upon 20/21 budget)	\$278,313	\$278,313	\$278,313	\$278,313	\$278,313	\$278,313	\$278,313	\$278,313	\$278,313
Grant funding available less VRS & CHRB administrative expenses	\$1,207,894	\$1,300,944	\$1,393,994	\$1,542,875	\$1,580,095	\$1,673,146	\$1,766,196	\$1,859,246	\$1,952,297
Outstanding Grant Expenses	\$829,267	\$829,267	\$829,267	\$829,267	\$829,267	\$829,267	\$829,267	\$829,267	\$829,267
Grant funding available to award FY 2021/2022	\$378,627	\$471,677	\$564,727	\$713,608	\$750,828	\$843,879	\$936,929	\$1,029,979	\$1,123,030

Proposed FY 2022/2023 CHRB Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions CHRB Policies and Procedures, CHRB Grant Agreement and CHRB By laws Effective July 1, 2021

Administrator Pace reviewed the following proposed revisions to all grant related documents with the Board with a focus on significant changes. Dr. Downs, Chair, made a motion to accept the proposed revisions to all grant related documents to require **DocuSign** electronic signatures retroactive to October 1, 2020. Dr. Lowe, Vice-Chair, seconded the motion and the Board passed the motion unanimously.

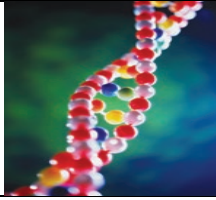


Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

Status of Ongoing CHRB Grant Awards

Administrator Pace reviewed the status of ongoing CHRB Grant Awards, the majority of which requested a delay in the grant start date or a no-cost extension of the grant end date due to the impact of the global pandemic.

Principal Investigator	Second-year funding for Two-Year Grant Awards					Reporting Due Dates			
	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 30, 2023
Matthew Buczynski, Ph.D.	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 160,000	Evaluation of a 12/15-LM receptor as a target for Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics	July 1, 2019	March 31, 2020 June 15, 2020	January 31, 2021 July 30, 2021	August 31, 2021 February 28, 2022
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
Brent French, Ph.D.	University of Virginia	\$ 100,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 133,000	Bioengineering of Cardiac Regeneration In Situ after Myocardial Infarction	July 1, 2019	March 31, 2020 June 15, 2020	January 31, 2021	August 31, 2021 August 31, 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, shear-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
James Landers, Ph.D.	University of Virginia	\$ 100,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 133,000	Diagnostic Assay for On-Site Detection of <i>Bordetella pertussis</i>	July 1, 2019	March 31, 2020 June 15, 2020	January 31, 2021	August 31, 2021 August 31, 2022
Nagaraja Nagre, Ph.D.	Eastern Virginia Medical School	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000	Exploring the potential role of cannabinoid receptor type-2 activation in protection against bacterial pneumonia-induced lung injury	July 1, 2019	March 31, 2020 June 15, 2020	January 31, 2021 June 30, 2021	August 31, 2021 August 31, 2022
Swati Palit Deb, Ph.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University	\$ 99,940	\$ 33,000	\$ 132,940	Targeting mutant p53-dependent checkpoints of genome duplication in lung cancer	July 1, 2019	March 31, 2020 June 15, 2020	January 31, 2021 March 16, 2021	August 31, 2021 August 31, 2022
Bhaumik Patel, M.D.	McGuire Research Institute	\$ 100,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 133,000	Development of a Selective Non-Saccharide Glycosaminoglycan Mimetic for Colon Cancer	July 1, 2019	March 31, 2020 June 15, 2020	January 31, 2021 March 15, 2021	August 31, 2021 August 31, 2022
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 Received 7.27.21	May 31, 2022	December 30, 2022
Jason Reed, Ph.D.	Virginia Commonwealth University	\$ 100,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 133,000	A new approach for detecting IGH translocations in hematologic malignancies	July 1, 2019	March 31, 2020 June 15, 2020	January 31, 2021	August 31, 2021 February 28, 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
Martin Wu, Ph.D.	University of Virginia	\$ 100,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 133,000	Are persister cells culprits of recurrent <i>Clostridium difficile</i> infections?	July 1, 2019	March 31, 2020 June 15, 2020	January 31, 2021	August 31, 2021 August 31, 2022
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
		\$ 1,517,067	\$700,610	\$ 2,217,677					



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

CLOSED SESSION: FY 2021/2022 CHRB Grant Process

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

Chair, Robert Downs, Jr., 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).

Julia Spicer seconded the Motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

CERTIFICATION

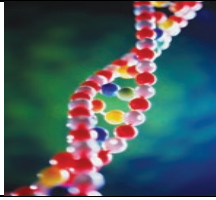
Chair Robert Downs, Jr., M.D. moved, and Dr. Lowe, Vice-Chair, seconded, the adoption of the following resolution:

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.



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

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

Julia Spicer moved that 14 Full Proposals be presented to the CHRB on June 23, 2021, which was seconded by Dr. Lowe, Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Administrator Pace will contact those 14 Principal Investigators requesting that each make a presentation to the Board via WebEx video conferencing. Administrator Pace will also provide reviewer comments to those Principal Investigators from whom a presentation of the Full Proposal was not requested.

The Board will not revise any grant guidelines due to the global COVID pandemic. However, the Board came to a consensus that failure to name specific postdoctoral candidates to fill personnel positions in proposed research teams in Full Proposals, as usually required by the CHRB's Grant Guidelines and Application Instructions, was not the sole consideration for not requesting a presentation from any applicant during the global COVID pandemic, which has made the hiring of postdoctoral candidates difficult. All applicants, identified to present their Full Proposals to the Board, will be allowed to present their Full Proposals even if a specific postdoctoral candidate was not identified in a Full Proposal.

CLOSED SESSION: Personnel and Budget Discussion

Chair, Robert Downs, Jr., 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 Julia Spicer. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

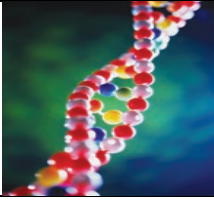
Merrill Mitler, Ph.D., M.P.H., Raya Mandler, Ph.D., and Arnold Revzin, Ph.D. were not present during the discussion concerning the scientific consultants' compensation.

Due to a scheduling conflict, Dr. Lowe, Vice-Chair, left the meeting at approximately 1:33 p.m.; but a quorum was maintained by the remaining members for the conduct of the Board's business throughout the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. Downs, Chair, moved that the Board reconvene in open session. Dr. Johnson 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



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

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.

Julia Spicer moved that the Board approve the CHRB Administrative Budget for FY 2021/2022 to include \$22,612.12 for fiscal services to be provided by the Department of Accounts (DOA) to the CHRB and a \$10,000.00 retainer fee to the OAG for legal services. The Approved Budget also included an increase in the hourly rate for scientific consultants for a combined total annual expenditure of \$55,462.50 and an increase in salary for the CHRB Administrator for a total annual salary of \$133,199.23. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A breakdown of the DOA fiscal fee is provided in Attachment A. The contents of Attachment A are incorporated here by reference thereto as if they are fully set forth here.

Other Business:

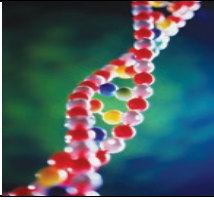
Forward Vision for the Commonwealth Health Research Board

This discussion was deferred to a future time. It is anticipated that the Board may want to form a subcommittee to develop a strategic plan for presentation during a future Special Meeting of the Board.

Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) Audit of the Commonwealth Health Research Board (CHRB) for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020:

The APA Audit of the Commonwealth Health Research Board for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020, found:

- Proper recording and reporting of all transactions, in all material respects, in the Commonwealth's accounting and financial reporting system;
- No matters involving internal control and its operation necessary to bring to management's attention; and,
- No instances of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations or other matters that are required to be reported.



Commonwealth Health Research Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2021

Next meeting:

Chair Robert Downs, Jr., M.D. moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Julia Spicer, voted upon, and passed unanimously by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

The Board's next meeting will be Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at the Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, 2nd Floor, George Washington Conference Room, Richmond, Virginia 23219. 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 8:00 am.