

Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority (LSDF)
Public Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 1, 2009 from 11:45am-11:50am and from ~12:55pm-1:05pm PDT
Via Telecon

Trustees Present Via Telecon: Lura Powell, Rep Glenn Anderson, Rita Colwell, Jim Cook, Tony Hey, Sen Chris Marr, and Bruce Montgomery

Trustees Absent: Sen Jerome Delvin, Rep Jeff Morris, and Cheryl Scott

LSDF Staff and Counsel Present Via Telecon: Lee Huntsman, John Des Rosier, Mark Hertle, Alden Jones, Brenda Stav, and Pamela Anderson (AG)

Public Present Via Telecon: none for either session

MINUTES

Public Session One (11:45am-11:50am)

Chairman Powell welcomed group and pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(m) adjourned the Board of Trustees (“the Board”) into an executive session to consider confidential information concerning a specific proposal for funding. Powell noted that if the Board determines that a decision will be made with respect to the proposal, it will reconvene into public session at approximately 12:40pm.

Executive Session (11:50am-12:55pm)

Public Session Two (~12:55pm-1:05pm)

The Board reconvened in public session and Chairman Powell read the following statement:

“Today the Trustees will vote on whether to award a research grant arising from an opportunity under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This award is not subject to LSDF’s current grant competition cycles.

This unique opportunity arises from a request from Dr. Debbie Nickerson to purchase and operationalize new state-of-the-art gene sequencers by the end of September. The sequencers will be deployed under Dr. Nickerson’s leadership at the University of Washington under a \$50M request to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to establish the Northwest Genomics Center.

This is an unprecedented and crucial opportunity to keep Washington at the forefront of genetic medicine. The two-year proposal is to sequence all of the protein coding regions (the exome) in humans to discover genetic influences for important and common medical problems that are the leading causes of death in our state, including cardiovascular and lung diseases and stroke. The new exome center will be the first new genome center in the United States in more than a decade. Its location here in the Northwest will bring new research opportunities to our state and medical benefits to our citizens.

LSDF’s investment will help ensure that the new exome sequencing center at the University of Washington will be fully operational by the end of September according to the stimulus grant timeline. The sequencing center award will allow the hiring of new researchers, the development of new partnerships and technology to stimulate the economy and improve competitiveness, and ultimately the placement of Washington at the cutting edge of technological advances in genetic medicine.

In addition to dramatic economic leverage, this opportunity has the potential to revolutionize the way that we care for people in Washington. By bringing together a talented and accomplished group of scientists and by providing a new exome sequencing infrastructure, the Center is poised to form the foundation for discovery and improved personalized care that will ultimately be linked to better patient health outcomes at lower costs.

In making this award, LSDF accepts the expert review of the Nickerson proposal conducted through NIH peer review mechanisms. The Board is confident that the rigor with which the Nickerson proposal was reviewed and selected by the NIH provides adequate scientific and technical quality assurance.

This opportunity aligns with the Life Sciences Discovery Fund's mission of advancing health care for Washingtonians, strengthening the state's economy, and promoting life sciences competitiveness. Indeed, the exome center is expected to open many new doors for research collaboration across the state and directly and immediately advances the impact of Dr. Nickerson's efforts."

Pam Anderson from the Washington State Attorney General's office then reviewed the Life Sciences Discovery Fund's Conflict of Interest policy as it applies to award selection and announcement. The policy requires Trustees to disclose potential conflicts of interests prior to consideration or action on any grant proposal or award request. Prior to consideration of the Nickerson request, each Trustee was verbally queried about whether he/she had a conflict with the Nickerson request. There were no disclosures made and thus no recusals were recorded.

The Board then voted to approve the following request:

Principal Investigator: Debbie Nickerson, Ph.D.

Applicant Organization: University of Washington

Award Title: "Northwest Genomics Center"

Award Amount: not to exceed \$2M

Award Description: The request is to purchase and operationalize four new sequencers by the end of September 2009 in order to meet the intent of having a \$50M National Institutes of Health exome sequencing center funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) fully operational by the end of September. The award is not to exceed \$2M. The award is contingent upon the University of Washington presenting to LSDF the notice of award for the exome center from the National Institutes of Health and receipt of a formal proposal from the University of Washington Office of Sponsored Programs. The magnitude of the award may be adjusted should the NIH award to Dr. Nickerson be less than \$50M.

Roll Call of Vote: Anderson (yes), Colwell (yes), Cook (yes), Hey (yes), Marr (yes), Montgomery (yes), Powell (yes)

Absent from Roll Call: Delvin, Morris, Scott

The award was approved.

Powell then thanked the Board for their participation, time, and input; and Governor Christine Gregoire and the members of the Washington State Legislature for their ongoing support in carrying out the mission of the Fund.

Powell congratulated Debbie Nickerson and the Northwest Genomics Center team, as they build their exome sequencing center under funding from the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Powell reminded those assembled that the next board meeting will be held on September 15 at Talaris Conference Center. Invited speakers include two LSDF grantees: John Thompson (FHCRC phase one clinical trial unit), and Daniel Chiu (UW device breast cancer prognostication), and WBBA president Chris Rivera.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee L. Huntsman, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority

Addendum to September 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

**Board of Trustees' Conflicts of Interest Disclosures
Nickerson Request**

LSDF policy requires trustees to disclose potential conflicts of interest (COI) based on its COI policy http://www.lsdfa.org/about/background/Ethics_conflicts_interest_policy.pdf prior to consideration or action on any award.

Prior to consideration of the Nickerson request, each Trustee was verbally queried about whether he/she had a conflict with the Nickerson request. There were no disclosures made and thus no recusals were recorded. Therefore, all trustees present at the meeting participated in the LSDF action awarding the Nickerson request.