

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Research Service Merit Review Committee, Notice of Meetings

The Department of Veterans Affairs
gives notice under the Public Law 92-

463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act)
that the subcommittees of the Medical
Research Service Merit Review
Committee will meet from 8 a.m. to 5
p.m. as indicated below:

Subcommittee for	Date(s)	Location
Aging and Clinical Geriatrics	November 5, 2003	Holiday Inn Central.
Clinical Research Program	November 17, 2003	Marriott Residence Inn.
Immunology	November 18-19, 2003	Marriott Residence Inn.
Endocrinology-A	November 20-21, 2003	Marriott Residence Inn.
General Medical Science	November 24, 2003	Governor's House.
Mental Health and Behav Sci	December 1-2, 2003	Holiday Inn Central.
Surgery	December 8, 2003	Governor's House.
Infectious Diseases	December 11-12, 2003	Holiday Inn Central.
Endocrinology-B	December 18-19, 2003	Holiday Inn Central.

The addresses of the hotels are:

Governor's House, 1615 Rhode Island
Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Holiday Inn Central, 1501 Rhode
Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Marriott Residence Inn (Thomas
Circle), 1199 Vermont Avenue, NW.,
Washington, DC.

These subcommittee meetings are for
the purpose of evaluating the scientific
merit of research conducted in each
specialty by Department of Veterans
Affairs (VA) investigators working in
VA Medical Centers and Clinics.

The subcommittee meetings will be
open to the public for approximately
one hour at the start of each meeting to
discuss the general status of the
program. The remaining portion of each
subcommittee meeting will be closed to
the public for the review, discussion,
and evaluation of initial and renewal
projects.

The closed portion of the meetings
involves discussion, examination,
reference to and oral review of site
visits, staff and consultant critiques of
research protocols and similar
documents. During this portion of the
subcommittee meetings, discussion and
recommendations will deal with
qualifications of personnel conducting
the studies, the disclosure of which
would constitute a clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy, as well as
research information, the premature
disclosure of which could significantly
frustrate implementation of proposed
agency action regarding such research
projects.

As provided by subsection 10(d) of
Public Law 92-453, as amended, closing
portions of these subcommittee
meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C.,
552b(c)(6) and (9)(B). Those who plan to
attend or would like to obtain a copy of
minutes of the subcommittee meetings
and rosters of the members of the

subcommittees should contact LeRoy G.
Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review
Division, Medical Research Service
(121F), Department of Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC, (202) 408-3630.

Dated: October 10, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggins,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-26435 Filed 10-20-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs
(VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-
463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act)
that a meeting of the Research and
Development Cooperative Studies
Evaluation Committee will be held at
the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel,
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway,
Arlington, VA 22202, on December 16
and 17, 2003. The sessions will be held
on December 16 from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
and December 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 2
p.m.

The Committee advises the Chief
Research and Development Officer
through the Director of the Cooperative
Studies Program on the relevance and
feasibility of the studies, the adequacy
of the protocols, and the scientific
validity and propriety of technical
details, including protection of human
subjects.

On December 16, the Committee will
review the following studies submitted:
Efficacy of GM-CSF to Reduce
Incidence and Duration of Mucositis
Associated with Concomitant
Chemoradiation Therapy in Head and

Neck Cancer Patients; Integrating
Practice Guidelines for Smoking
Cessation into Mental Health Care for
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder;
Risperidone Treatment for Refractory
Combat-Related Post-Traumatic Stress
Disorder; and A Randomized,
Multicenter, Double-Blind, Placebo-
Controlled Trial of DL-Alpha-tocopherol
for the Treatment of Functional Decline
in Outpatients with Alzheimer's Disease
on Donepezil. On December 17, the
Committee will review the study
submitted on S-Adenosylmethionine
Improves Survival in Alcoholic
Cirrhosis.

The meeting will be open to the
public December 16 from 8 a.m. to 8:30
a.m. to discuss the general status of the
program. Those who plan to attend
should contact Mrs. Karen Hood, Staff
Assistant, Department of Veterans
Affairs, Washington, DC, at (202) 254-
0276. The meeting will be closed
December 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
and December 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 2
p.m. That portion of the meeting
involves committee business that falls
within the scope of provisions set forth
in section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463,
as amended by sections 5(c) of Public
Law 94-409, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).
During the closed session of the
meeting, discussions and
recommendations will deal with
qualifications of personnel conducting
the studies, staff and consultant
critiques of research proposals, and
similar documents, and the medical
records of patients who are study
subjects, the disclosure of which would
constitute a clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: October 14, 2003.