

## MEETING LIST

### Scientific Merit Review Board Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Office of Research & Development

March 5, 2025

#### CHAIRPERSON:

Dennis J. Bourbeau, Ph.D.  
Research Investigator  
Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Physical Medicine  
and Rehabilitation  
Case Western Reserve University  
School of Medicine  
Cleveland Heights, OH  
*Subcommittee on Spinal Cord  
Injury/Disorders and Neuropathic Pain  
(RRDA)*

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Todd Cade, Ph.D., MSPT  
Professor and Division Chief  
Doctor of Physical Therapy Division  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Duke University School of Medicine  
Durham, NC  
*Subcommittee on Musculoskeletal Health &  
Function (RRD2)*

Brian T. David, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Neurosurgery  
The Graduate College  
Rush University Medical Center  
Chicago, IL  
*Subcommittee on Regenerative  
Rehabilitation (RRD0)*

Donald W. Marion, M.D.  
Senior Traumatic Brain Consultant  
Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence  
Defense Health Agency  
Silver Spring, MD  
*Subcommittee on Brain Health & Injury  
(RRD1)*

Ivy S. Samuels, Ph.D.  
Research Health Scientist  
Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center  
Research Service  
Cleveland, OH  
*Subcommittee on Sensory Systems &  
Communication Disorders (RRD3)*

Sydney Yoshie Schaefer, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Neural Engineering and  
Neurorehabilitation  
School of Biological and  
Health Systems Engineering  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ  
*Subcommittee on Career Development  
Program (RRD8/RRD9)*

Jonathan Kajzovar Wynn, Ph.D.  
Health Science Specialist  
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
Researcher, Semel Institute for  
Neuroscience and Human Behavior  
Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral  
Sciences  
University of California  
Los Angeles, CA  
*Subcommittee on Behavioral Health &  
Social Reintegration (RRD4)*

Karl E. Zelik, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Mechanical Professor, Mechanical  
Engineering and  
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN  
*Subcommittee on Rehabilitation  
Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics (RRD5)*

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Mark A. Supiano, M.D.  
Chief, Division of Geriatrics  
Executive Director, Center on Aging  
University of Utah School of Medicine  
Salt Lake City, UT  
*Subcommittee on Chronic Medical  
Conditions & Aging (RRD6)*

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:**

Bijan Najafi, Ph.D.  
Professor of Surgery  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, TX  
*Subcommittee on Chronic Medical  
Conditions & Aging (RRD6)*

**PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS:**

None.

**RR&D STAFF PRESENT:**

Janelle R. Altman, Alternate Designated  
Federal Officer  
Kristy Benton-Grover, Designated  
Federal Officer  
Timothy J. Brindle, Ph.D., PT,  
Musculoskeletal Health & Function  
Patricia A. Dorn, Ph.D., Director  
John J. Fraser, DPT, Ph.D., PT,  
Career Development Award Program  
Peter C. Hunt, Ph.D., Behavioral Health  
& Social Reintegration  
Lina R. Kubli, Ph.D., Sensory Systems  
& Communication Disorders  
Anthony M. Pacifico, Ph.D.,  
Brain Health & Injury  
Erin D. Spaniol, MS, OTR/L, MPH,  
Deputy Director

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
MINUTES OF THE WINTER 2025 MEETING OF THE  
REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE SCIENTIFIC MERIT REVIEW  
BOARD**

**PARTIALLY CLOSED MEETING**

The meeting of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D) Scientific Merit Review Board was convened via Webex on March 5, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. EST. Dr. Dennis J. Bourbeau, Ph.D., presided as Chair.

This meeting was partially closed to the public for the discussion and reference to the scientific evaluation of research applications by subcommittees between February 18-27, 2025. As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the meeting was in accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (6) and (9)(B).

Ms. Kristy Benton-Grover, Designated Federal Officer, conducted roll call and reaffirmed policies regarding the confidentiality of meeting materials, committee discussions and recommendations.

**Open Session:**

Dr. Patricia A. Dorn, Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development, welcomed all participants, expressed appreciation for the time and effort that each member has spent on the scientific review effort, gave a brief presentation of the Rehabilitation Research program and emphasized its on-going efforts to support highly meritorious research to advance scientific knowledge and foster innovations to maximize Veterans' functional independence, quality of life and participation in their lives and community.

**Closed Session:**

Subcommittee Chairs presented the results and subsequent recommendations of their respective subcommittee meeting. Dr. Bourbeau, Chair, provided the Subcommittee report when the Subcommittee Chair was not present. The Chair asked each member to vote on the recommendations of the subcommittees to advance all scored applications forward to the agency for further consideration.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Proposed by Dr. Bourbeau; Second by Dr. David

- V – 1 That the recommendations of the Subcommittees to advance all scored applications to the agency for further consideration be approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 P.M. EST.

The next meeting of the RR&D Scientific Merit Review Board will be scheduled for August 20, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. Eastern.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

**/s/Dennis J. Bourbeau, Ph.D.  
Chairperson  
Date : March 5, 2025**

**/s/Kristy Benton-Grover  
Designated Federal Officer  
Date : March 5, 2025**