

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.