

MINUTES

Health, Medical & Research Committee (HMRC) Meeting
11 February 2025 (7.30 am-9 am EST)
Virtual meeting – Review Research Grants

Participants:

Prof. Lars Engebretsen, Chair
Prof. Takao Akama
Prof. Francesco Botré
Dr. Matthew Fedoruk
Dr. Audrey Kinahan
Prof. Yannis Pitsiladis
Dr. Malav Shroff
Dr. Olaf Schumacher (ex-officio member)

Observers:

Dr. Yuhan Tan (Athlete Council member)
Mr. Cyrille Tchatchet II (Athlete Council member)

Apologies

Prof. Xavier Bigard
Prof. Wayne Derman (recommendations sent by email, on 10 February 2025)
Dr. Bruno Le Bizec (ex-officio member)
Prof. Andrew McLachlan (recommendations sent by email, on 7 February 2025)
Dr. Katja Mjøsund (recommendations sent by email, on 6 February 2025)

Absences

Prof. Carl Johan Sundberg (ex-officio member)
Dr. Susan White (ex-officio member)

WADA staff:

Dr. Léonie Egli
Dr. Irene Mazzoni
Dr. Luciana Meirotti
Prof. Olivier Rabin

Meeting summary:

Item 1: Disclosure of conflict of interest

Prof. Francesco Botré (FB) declared being a main or co-applicant in two of the proposed applications and will therefore leave the meeting for the review of these applications (251B06FG and 251E02FB). Because the topic of his application is on the detection of blood transfusion, FB offered to also leave the meeting for the review of another application on the same topic (25T242B04CM).

The other members had no conflict of interest to declare.

Item 2: Update on financial situation

Prof. Olivier Rabin updated the HMRC on the financial austerity measures taken by WADA and explained that the 2025 research budget had to be decreased.

Item 3: Recommendations on 8 full applications received during the 2025 cycle 1 call for scientific research grants

Dr. Léonie Egli and Dr. Luciana Meirotti presented the full applications (FAs) received during the 2025 cycle 1 call for scientific research grants.

- Six FAs, selected out of the 28 expressions of interest (EOI) received were discussed.
- In addition, two research teams were invited to submit a revised FA, following an initial review during the 2024 cycle 2 call for grants.
- Each FA was reviewed by three external experts. All FAs and the respective reviews were shared with the HMRC members ahead of the meeting.
- Details of the FAs, HMRC recommendations and main comments are shown in Annex A.

Item 4: Recommendation on one targeted application on glucocorticoid intravenous administration

Dr. Irene Mazzoni explained that a targeted research proposal was received on the study of glucocorticoids after intravenous administration, following a recommendation made by the Glucocorticoids Working Group (GCWG). The FA was already reviewed by the GCWG and shared by circulation with the HMRC members prior to the meeting. 13 HMRC members had already recommended the funding of that targeted project by circulation and the proposal was formally approved during the meeting.

Item 5: Next meetings

- HMRC in-person meeting in Montreal (TBC) 21 & 22 August 2025: Review and recommendations for 2025 Cycle 2 full applications
- Virtual meeting early November 2025: Review and recommendations for 2025 Cycle 3 full applications

Closing of meeting.

Annex A

| AdminCode | Applicant | Project title | Duration | Funding Recommendation | Recommended budget (USD) | Comments |
|-------------|-------------------|---|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 25T242D01CW | Chao Wen | Investigation of the Metabolic Profiling of Endogenous Anabolic Androgenic Steroids in the Chinese Population | 3 years | Fund | 122,560.00 | |
| 251B06FG | flaminia Garribba | Assessment of the stability of erythropoietins in dried blood spots | 1 year | Fund | 108,000.00 | Should replace the use of doping control samples by samples from volunteers. Should provide a detailed plan of the number of samples for each condition tested. |
| 251E02FB | Francesco Botre | Characterization of red blood cell changes during storage by atomic force microscopy: morphological and biomarker analysis to detect blood transfusions | 1 year | Fund | 78,000.00 | Should move quickly to larger scale in-vivo study |
| 25T242B04CM | Christer Malm | Cryo-RBC blood doping: Enhanced biomarker detectability by AI-driven cell sorting and Biofiltration | 2 years | Fund conditional | 131,000.00 | Reduce budget and project duration; add refrigerated blood |
| | | 4 (Four) Ful Applications | | Do not Fund | | |