

**WADA Health, Medical & Research Committee Meeting
6 November 2001 – WADA Offices, Lausanne**

Final Minutes (29 November 2001)

Members present:

Arne Ljungqvist – **Chair**
Barbara Drinkwater
Bengt Saltin
Christiane Ayotte
Eduardo de Rose

Ken Fitch
Ted Friedmann
Alain Garnier
Klaus Mueller
Gary Wadler

Johann Koss – by phone

Observers:

Don Vereen
George Van Dugteren

WADA Staff:

Nicki Vance

Apologies:

Minoru Irie
Jean-Claude Mbanya

1. Meeting Commencement, Review of Agenda

Arne Ljungqvist welcomed the group and acknowledged the change of date and venue due to the New York terrorist attack.

Apologies were acknowledged from Prof. Irie and Dr Mbanya.
Johann Koss would be joining the group for most of the meeting by phone.

Arne welcomed members from the Banned List Subcommittee, Don Vereen and George Dugteren, who were able to attend the meeting.

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Minutes accepted.

3. Report by Chair

Board meeting

Arne Ljungqvist reported on the Foundation Board process regarding the permanent location of the WADA Headquarters and the final decision, which was Montreal.

He reported that the governments had confirmed their funding support.
The next Executive Committee meeting will be on 2 December and the Board meeting on 3 December in Lausanne.

4. Research Grants – Update Report

a. 2001 Report – status of approved grants, revised application from SIAB

Bengt Saltin presented a general update on the Research projects.

Grant Overheads

There was an issue in Australia, and possibly other countries, where the government institutions require 40% overheads of the grant.

The Committee felt that this was excessive, and that WADA needs to have an overall policy relating to overhead costs.

ACTION: Arne Ljungqvist will discuss this issue with Dick Pound, to ask him to take up this issue with the Australian representative on the Board.

Ethical Review

Don Vereen outlined the involvement of the WADA Ethical Review Panel (Don Vereen, Tom Murray, Angela Schneider), their review of the research projects and their requirements for finalising the ethical approval process for the proposed research.

This included seeking evidence of national ethical approval, informed consent of participants, special consent on behalf of participants under the age of 18 years and fair and ethical handling of animals (one study).

The Ethical Review Panel is preparing a set of guidelines for WADA to use in the future in relation to its Research Program.

In a discussion about the WADA requirement for determining ethical approval in addition to national approvals, it was acknowledged that even if national ethical approval is given, that WADA may have its own ethical issues that over-ride this national approval, eg giving elite athletes banned substances may not be a problem for a national body but is not accepted by WADA.

Bengt Saltin expected that for the projects that involved no human subjects that it was expected that these research grants will be completed by December 2001. The projects that include humans may take a little longer. For some that have two phases, those not involving humans may receive partial funding to allow them to commence the projects.

It is expected that grant negotiations for fifteen (15) of the projects will be completed by December. This would involve approximately US\$3million of the funding.

Revised Application from SIAB

On recommendation from Bengt Saltin, the Committee supported the application from SIAB for some additional funding.

General Feedback of the WADA research process

Bengt acknowledged that the process and the timing will be improved in the future with the lessons learnt from this year's process.

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A number of the issues included:

- appropriate WADA staff needed to support the future process
- lack of response from a number of applicants (European summer),
- the different processes involved including ethical review panel, contract development
- an application form has now been developed by Bengt for future grants rounds that will be required to be submitted electronically that includes ethical aspects

Arne Ljungqvist acknowledged the enormous contribution of Bengt Saltin in managing the research grant process.

b. Current aspects re: GH detection and relevant applications (Sonksen, van Breda, Cuneo; WADA workshop)

Sonksen Research revised application

The application was recognised as having good aspects but in the current form as presented was not supported by the Committee.

It is recommended that the project application needs to have a sharper focus and reduce its costs.

ACTION: Bengt Saltin to prepare a letter of response

Van Breda revised application

The Ethical Review Panel needs more time to consider this application. Don Vereen will follow up with Bengt Saltin with the Panel's recommendation.

ACTION: Don Vereen to report back to Bengt Saltin regarding the application

Cuneo application

Bengt explained that the Cuneo application would be re-reviewed due to a request by Johann Koss to reconsider it.

The application had good aspects but in total was not well defined or well presented. The Committee re-confirmed that it did not support funding in its current form.

However, there was support for the Mass Spectrometry aspects of the research application.

It was felt that further discussion should be held with Dr Cuneo to see if there could be further work made in this area.

ACTION: Ted Friedmann to draft a response

Growth Factors Workshop

There was support for a workshop, as proposed by Peter Sonksen, to be convened by WADA to investigate and review the status of growth factors research. It is proposed that this be considered for September 2002.

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There was also support to consider for the future, workshops in each of the priority areas of research to provide an opportunity for WADA and the researchers receiving funds to be informed, to discuss and to review status of different doping issues.

ACTION: Christiane Ayotte would prepare the initial planning for this workshop proposal – consulting with Peter Sonksen, identifying possible invitees, scope of the workshop, draft program etc.

c. EPO and other oxygen-carrying substances (FIS/IBU study proposal)

FIS/IBU Study proposal

Bengt Saltin presented a proposal to conduct a research project during the early winter of 2001/2002 involving comparison of blood parameters and seeking WADA's support.

The Committee fully supported the proposal.

ACTION: Bengt Saltin to report back to the Committee with the outcomes of this research

d. 2002 Planning

i) Expected Research funds

The Committee agreed that it was desirable that the research budget be increased by at least \$500,000 each year to enable funding of new, as well as existing projects.

The Executive Committee is expected to approve the 2002 WADA budget at the December meeting.

ii) Priorities for research

Two additional areas will be added to the three existing priority areas:

- Gene technology and performance enhancement
- Miscellaneous projects relating to the list of prohibited substances

The priority areas will be listed in alphabetical order with bullet points.

iii) Research subgroup

The proposal for 2002 is to establish the Research subgroup composed by committee members Bengt Saltin (Chair), Ted Friedmann, and Christiane Ayotte.

A panel of ad-hoc research consultants would be established for use by the subgroup. It was proposed that the consultants would receive a token compensation of US\$50 per review. H, M& R Committee members could be used as research consultants but would not receive payment.

ACTION: Any proposals for the ad-hoc consultants to be forwarded to Nicki Vance or members of the subcommittee.

iv) Next steps – advertisement, etc.

It is planned that the 2002 advertisement would be posted by the end of December 2001, with applications closing on 1 April 2002.

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In addition to the *Science* and *Nature* journals the advertisement would be placed as widely as reasonably possible.

ACTIONS:

Bengt Saltin to finalise the advertisement

Members to send any ideas of where to advertise to Nicki Vance.

Proposed Timeline

Advertisement posted – 31 December 2001

Close of Applications – 1 April 2002

Review of applications – May 2002

H,M&R Committee to review applications – 18 June 2002 meeting

Approval by WADA Executive – To be determined

5. Banbury Centre Genetic Workshop update

It was acknowledged that although the meeting had to be postponed due to the terrorist attacks in New York, that the postponement may now enable some key people, including the IOC President, to attend.

The new dates for the workshop are 17-20 March 2002.

The list of invitees has been revised back to the original listing, with a number of reserves already identified due to the great interest in the issue and workshop.

The program needs to be slightly revised to provide some additional time for the WADA Chairman.

Gary Wadler proposed the following definition of “Gene Doping”:

“Use of genes, genetic elements and genetically modified cells or drugs to induce or alter the expression of genes to enhance athletic performance.”

ACTION: Nicki Vance to advise Jan Witkowski, Banbury, re: revised program

6. 2002 List of Prohibited Substances

a) Update re 5 November meeting

Arne Ljungqvist briefly outlined the proposals that the Banned List subcommittee identified in the 5 November meeting.

While there was support for the overall approach, there were some reservations expressed by some members regarding some of the proposals.

It is recognised that as significant changes are being proposed, it will be important to increase people’s understanding of the issues to enable them to support or reject the proposals in an informed way.

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The ad-hoc Working Group and the Banned List subcommittee are expected to present a detailed proposal to the next Health, Medical and Research Committee meeting (planned for June 2002)

Arne Ljungqvist plans to inform the Executive Committee and the Board re: the proposed overall approach at the December meetings.

7. World Anti-Doping Code

a. Update re process and progress

Casey Wade and Svein-Erik Figved presented the draft Framework of the World Anti-Doping Code updating the Committee on the project plan for the development of the Code, and key areas planned for the Code. It is intended that the Code be completed and adopted by December 2003 with the aim of being implemented in 2004.

The members provided some feedback during the presentation, including issues relating to the placement of the definition of doping, the placement of the banned list within the Code and the need to recognise prevention as well as detection.

Action: All members were asked to provide any further feedback, particularly on the main issues that should be covered by the Code. Any input should be provided directly to Casey Wade by email: casey.wade@wada-ama.org.

Arne Ljungqvist, backed up by Gary Wadler, would work with the sub-group set up to develop the definition of doping.

Action: Nicki Vance will advise the Code Project Team of this decision.

Issue re: the timing of the 2003 List. Arne Ljungqvist asked that with the proposed timing of the Code, should the 2003 List be valid for two years, as planned, or should the 2003 list only be valid for one year with a 2004 list then being adopted with the new World Anti-Doping Code. This needs to be determined.

It was identified that the key areas of the Code that the Health, Medical and Research Committee would give specific feedback on are:

- Definition of Doping
- Banned List/s
- Timing of List/s
- Research
- Education/prevention

Issues relating to prevention, health, medical malpractice and communication with stakeholders were identified as areas of the Code that may need further development.

8. EPO Test Update

Bengt Saltin updated the Committee on the meetings and work that has been done on the EPO test.

Bengt will attend a meeting convened by the IOC on 7 November to review the status of the EPO urine test.

After significant attempt to receive the necessary material prior to the meeting, he had just received them. He has, however, already been able to get some additional independent comment on the material and they share his concern about its quality.

He was concerned with the use of this study to make any decisions on an appropriate EPO test.

Bengt suggested that his position in the meeting would be to propose that the test that should be used at this point in time would be the modified Sydney blood analysis and the urine test.

It was agreed by the Committee that Bengt Saltin would communicate the following views at the EPO meeting:

Recommendations:

- 1. The Committee rejects the IOC Interlaboratory study as presented.**
- 2. The Committee supports the combination EPO blood analysis and urine test.**
- 3. The Committee intends making its own review of the validation of the EPO test**

9. IV Fluid Replacement

a) outstanding action item

Ken Fitch briefed the Committee on a problem with the use of intravenous fluid replacement prior to and during a game of Australian Rules Football. He sought support from WADA re: the principle that athletes should not be able to continue in the game/event if they require intravenous fluid replacement.

ACTION: The Committee would consider this issue at its next meeting and also ask the Banned List subcommittee to consider the issue as a “medical /health” issue.

10. Laboratory Accreditation – report from WADA subcommittee

Christiane Ayotte provided a brief report on the work of the subcommittee, which had only met once with the second meeting to be held on Thursday and Friday this week.

Christiane confirmed that as part of the WADA Accreditation process, the laboratories would be asked to send positive test results to WADA, in addition to the IOC.

11. Proposals from Finnish Olympic Committee re Intravenous infusions, Hyperoxia, Altitude Houses.

The letter from the Finnish Olympic Committee was tabled and the issues considered:

1. Intravenous Infusions

Response – will be considered by the “Banned List” subcommittee

2. Hyperoxia

Response – Matter was discussed. Bengt Saltin stated that this practice would not actually physiologically assist the athlete. The Committee is concerned with the adverse effects that this practice may have.

3. Altitude House

Response – WADA does not support the ethics of this practice.

ACTION: Alain Garnier to draft a response, in consultation with Bengt Saltin and/or Arne, to send to the Finnish Olympic Committee.

12. Budget for 2002

Arne updated the Committee on the proposed budget that will be considered by the Executive Committee, which is primarily composed of the research funds.

13. Any other business

Johann Koss expressed concern that one of the grant applications indicated that the researchers were aware that a large number of athletes were using growth hormone.

ACTION: Johann Koss to discuss further with Arne Ljungqvist and if there is sufficient proof, Arne may address this issue at the WADA Executive Committee or Board meeting.

14. Next meeting

The next meeting is proposed for 18 June 2002, most probably in Montreal.

Minutes Record

First draft sent to Chair -12 November.

Second draft circulated to members - 14 November

Third draft circulated to members – 21 November

Final minutes prepared for website – 29 November 2001