

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Pilcher-Cook at 8:30am on Thursday, April 30, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Laura Kelly – Absent
Senator David Haley – Absent

Committee staff present:

Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Douglas A. Girod, M.D., Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Kansas Medical Center
David A. Prentice, Ph.D., Vice President and Research Director, Charlotte Lozier Institute;
Adjunct Professor of Molecular Genetics, John Paul II Institute, Catholic University of
America; Founding Member, Do No Harm: The Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics
Dana Winegarner, D.O., Rowe Neurology Institute (RNI)
Buddhadeb Dawn, M.D., Maureen and Marvin Dunn Professor; Director, Division of
Cardiovascular Diseases; Director, Cardiovascular Research Institute; Director, Midwest Stem
Cell Therapy Center; Vice Chairman for Research, Department of Medicine University of
Kansas Medical Center

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Joint Meeting with Ways and Means Committee

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook opened the update on the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center for the joint meeting of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.

Update on:

Dr. Douglas Girod, KUMC, presented background on the creation of the Kansas Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center (MSCTC). Dr. Girod provided some introductory information on the three conferees stating that they would provide a progress report on the field of adult stem cell therapy and also an update on the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center.

Dr. David Prentice, Charlotte Lozier Institute, presented information on the current state of development for adult stem cell treatments and some examples of their applications. Dr. Prentice briefly described a number of different areas where adult stem cells are showing initial success such as regenerative medicine, chronic myelogenous leukemia, graft-versus-host disease, Type I diabetes, neurological and autoimmune conditions, sickle cell anemia, treating some conditions on unborn children in the womb, growing new corneas, and treatments for orthopedic surgeries. Dr. Prentice

CONTINUATION SHEET

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highlighted some areas of potential growth for the MSCTC stating that the Center is a unique, comprehensive center that is focused on patients and is involved in education, research, training, is a resource for clinical-grade stem cells, and is a global resource for patients and physicians. ([Attachment 1](#))

Dr. Dana Winegarner, RNI, stated that most physicians, nurses, and patients lack knowledge about stem cell research and therapies. Dr. Winegarner indicated that doctors do not have enough time to become more educated about stem cells on their own. He stated that one of the things that the MSCTC needs to do is to have a website and an educational program that allows doctors and patients to find out what they need to know. Dr. Winegarner stated that if the MSCTC provides a website, it will raise the reputation of the MSCTC and the reputation of Kansas as being the place where this information can be found. Dr. Winegarner indicated that it will make it more likely that if someone wanted to get a therapy that's available here, they would select here because that's where they are finding out all of their information. ([Attachment 2](#))

Dr. Buddhadeb Dawn, MSCTC, provided an update on the MSCTC. He indicated that the MSCTC was started to act as a hub between many area institutions including several University of Kansas facilities, regional hospitals, and national centers. Dr. Dawn stated that the MSCTC has achieved several objectives and presented a brief update on some of those objectives including recruitment of staff, infrastructure, registering the GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) facility with the FDA. Dr. Dawn highlighted four focus areas for adult stem cell therapy. Dr. Dawn next provided an update on current clinical trials and preclinical projects. Dr. Dawn provided an update on the objective of informing the public by disseminating information through the website, email, and conferences. Dr. Dawn presented information on MSCTC funding, support from KUMC, and expense report. Dr. Dawn concluded with the MSCTC vision for growth. ([Attachment 3](#)) Dr. Dawn also submitted a detailed annual report to committee members. ([Attachment 4](#))

After all questions by the Committee were addressed, Chairperson Pilcher-Cook adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.