

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS****Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research
and Development and Clinical Science
Research and Development Services
Scientific Merit Review Board; Notice
of Meetings**

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under the Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that subcommittees of the Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. as indicated below.

Gulf War Research A—September 16,
2005, State Plaza Hotel, 2117 E Street,
NW., Washington, DC

Gulf War Research B—September 30,
2005, Churchill Hotel, 1914
Connecticut Avenue, NW.,
Washington, DC

The purpose of the Board is to
provide expert review on the scientific

quality, budget, safety and mission
relevance of investigator-initiated
research proposals submitted for merit
review consideration and to provide
advice on research program priorities
and policies. Proposals submitted for
review by the Board involve a wide
range of medical specialties within the
general areas of biomedical, behavioral
and clinic science research. The meeting
noted above will focus on proposals
submitted in response to Request for
Proposals Directed to Understanding
Illnesses Affecting Gulf War Veterans.

The meetings will be open to the
public for approximately thirty minutes
at the start of each meeting to discuss
the general status of the program. The
remaining portion of each 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 staff and consultant
critiques of research protocols. During
this portion of the 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 92-463, as amended, closing
portions of these 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 meetings should contact William
J. Goldberg, Ph.D., Department of
Veterans Affairs (121E), 810 Vermont
Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 at
(202) 254-0294.

Dated: September 9, 2005.

By direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggins,

Committee Management Officer.

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