

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Heyward Bannister,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) as amended, by section 5(c) of Pub. L. 94-409, that a meeting of the Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee will be held at the Marriott Residence Inn, 500 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202, May 11-13, 1999. The session on May 11 will begin at 7:30 a.m. until 5:45 p.m., on May 12 from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on May 13 from 7:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The meeting will be for the purpose of reviewing the following six new proposals: treatment of knee osteoarthritis, Type II Diabetes, statins in reducing the risk of stroke, Pallidal

procedure for Parkinson's disease, homocysteinemia in kidney and end stage renal disease, and genetic tissue banking in clinical research. The Committee will also review the progress of four on going studies on Antiarrhythmic Therapy, group treatment of PTSD, computer-assisted neuropsychological screening battery and Naltrexone treatment of alcoholism.

The Committee advises the Chief Research and Development Officer through the Chief 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.

The meeting will be open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on all three days to discuss the general status of the program. Those who plan to attend should contact Dr. Ping Huang, Coordinator, Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC, (202-273-8295).

The meeting will be closed during the following portions: on May 11, from

8:15 a.m. until 5:45 p.m., on May 12, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on May 13 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. These portions of the meeting involve consideration of specific proposals in accordance with provisions set forth in section 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B). During the closed sessions of the meeting, discussions 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 staff and consultant critiques of research protocols, and similar documents, and the medical records of patients who are study subjects (the premature disclosure of which would significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects).

Dated: May 3, 1999.

By Direction of the Secretary.

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*Committee Management Officer.*

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