

**COMMITTEE ON ANATOMICAL DISSECTION  
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

University of Nevada School of Medicine  
Savitt Medical Building 124  
Jones Conference Room  
Reno, Nevada

Touro University – Nevada  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Conference Room  
874 American Pacific Drive  
Henderson, Nevada

11:00 a.m, Thursday, November 29, 2007

**Members Present:** Dr. Robert France  
Dr. Weldon Havins  
Dr. Terence Ma  
Dr. Carol A. Ort  
Dr. Roger S. Ritzlin  
Dr. Jeff Wachs

**Members Absent:** Mr. Alex Haartz  
Mrs. Sharon Shaffer  
Dr. Lawrence Zoller

**Also Present:** Mrs. Joyce King, Administrator for the Committee on Anatomical Dissection (CAD); Mrs. Amy Oddo, Executive Director for Medical Education and Research Institute of Nevada (MERIN); and Dr. Carl Sievert, Course Director for Gross Anatomy, Nevada School of Medicine (UNSoM).

Dr. Terence Ma called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. with all members present except Dr. Zoller and Mrs. Shaffer. Dr. Ma explained that due to an unexpected personal commitment Dr. Zoller is not able to attend this meeting and asked him to chair this meeting. Noting a quorum present, Dr. Ma continued the meeting.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS** - Dr. Ma thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Since Mr. Haartz was not able to attend this meeting, Dr. Ma requested comments regarding the appointment of Mr. Alex Haartz, Administrator, State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Health Division, as temporary representative from the State Health Office. This position has been vacant since June 2007 due to the retirement of Dr. Bradford Lee, State Health Officer.

Dr. Ort reported that, based on what Mr. Haartz had said at a previous CAD Subcommittee meeting, it was her understanding that Mr. Haartz would like to fill-in on a temporary basis because he felt it was appropriate to have representation on the CAD until the position of Director is filled through a new hire, which should occur sometime

after January 2008. Dr. Ort recommended that the committee take action on this item at this time. Dr. Ma requested a motion for approval of Mr. Haartz to serve as temporary member from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Havins moved to appoint Mr. Alex Haartz as temporary member representing the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Ort seconded. Motion carried.

Mrs. King will contact the State Health Office in 2008 after the new hire is made and request a nomination for appointment of a permanent member to this committee. Once a recommendation is received it will be placed on the CAD agenda for approval.

2. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN** – Dr. Ma called for nominations for the position of CAD Chairman pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 451.360 (2)(b). Dr. Ma reminded all members that by statute only Dr. Ort, the member appointed by the President of the University of Nevada, Reno or Dr. Zoller, the member appointed by the President of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas are eligible to be elected chairman of this committee.

Dr. Ort reported that on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 she spoke with Dr. Zoller at which time he stated that if it was the desire of the committee to re-elect him, he would be willing to stay on as chairman for a second term based on past conversations of the CAD members expressing their desire to have a two-year term for the chairman in order to provide leadership continuity to the committee.

Dr. Ort further reported that she found nothing in the NRS 451.360 (2) (b) which stated that an individual cannot be elected to the chairman position for a second term. Noting Dr. Ort's comments, Dr. Ma requested further nominations for the position of chairman; none were received. Dr. Ma requested a motion for approval of Dr. Zoller to the position of chairman of the CAD.

Dr. Ort moved approval of Dr. Lawrence Zoller as chairman of the Committee on Anatomical Dissection for a second term. Dr. Ritzlin second. Motion carried.

3. **APPROVED MINUTES** – Dr. Ma asked for comments or correction to the minutes of the June 15, 2007 meeting. There being no comments or corrections to the minutes, Dr. Ma requested a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Dr. Havins moved approval of the minutes of the June 15, 2007 meeting. Dr. Wachs seconded. Motion carried.

4. **APPROVED THE CAD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT-** Dr. Ma requested that Dr. Ort present the final report of the issues discussed by the CAD subcommittee and their recommendations to the CAD board members for their consideration. Dr. Ort reported that the CAD Subcommittee was established by the CAD at its June 15, 2007 meeting. At that time it was agreed that the subcommittee's scope of responsibility would be broad-based, the subcommittee should look at the entire Nevada Revised Statute and

report back to the full committee regarding suggestions for possible amendments or revisions.

The subcommittee had three meetings and invited Dr. David Lupan from the School of Medicine and Mr. Alex Haartz from the Department of Health and Human Services who provided valuable comments, suggestions and insight into the issues at hand.

Dr. Ort explained that the CAD, as it is currently set up, is organized under the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) rather than reporting to a state-wide organization. Now that the use of cadavers has grown in the state to include both Touro University and MERIN it seemed like it may not be appropriate to keep the CAD under NSHE. Dr. Lupan and the Subcommittee discussed with Mr. Haartz whether or not the State Health Division would be an appropriate placement for this committee. Mr. Haartz consulted with his organization and reported that the aspect of possible transmission of disease related to transport and use of cadavers would be within the purview of the State Health Division, but other aspects of the CAD's responsibilities might not be a good fit with his agency.

Another issue that the Subcommittee discussed was the responsibilities of the CAD. In the past few years the CAD had expanded its role and reviewed the use of cadavers, either donated or unclaimed bodies, and the subcommittee wanted to clarify whether or not that was within the purview of the CAD, and whether a recommendation for changes should be made.

Dr. Ort reported that she also talked with Mr. Thomas Ray, UNSoM legal counsel, so that the subcommittee would have a better understanding of the NRS. Mr. Ray explained that the CAD has a relatively narrow charge, confirming that the CAD has responsibility for only unclaimed bodies and how those unclaimed bodies are released to various agents and how they are used by those agents. Mr. Ray indicated that it appears that the CAD does not have oversight for bodies donated either through the School of Medicine or Touro's donation program.

The subcommittee discussed whether it would be appropriate or desirable to expand the responsibilities of the CAD, and if that occurred, whether or not it might want a different reporting structure, i.e. to another state agency instead of to NSHE.

The subcommittee members were very helpful in gathering information regarding other state's donation programs, looking at how those states provided oversight for the cadavers used for medical research and education (donated or unclaimed bodies). The Subcommittee concluded that there is a wide diversity in the method used by various states regarding body donation programs. Some states had a very inclusive committee that was responsible for policy and procedures (unclaimed and donated bodies), while many other states did not have a single state-run organization that was responsible for all donated or unclaimed bodies.

After reviewing all the information and discussing the use of unclaimed bodies by the NSHE, Touro University and MERIN the Subcommittee developed our recommendations for the CAD. The subcommittee recommends that at this time no proposed legislative

changes to the CAD be made. The overall feeling is that the donated body programs are working well and it seems appropriate that UNSoM, Touro University and MERIN each continue oversight of their own programs. Dr. Ma briefly discussed the National Commission of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) upcoming report most likely available in 2009 at which time the CAD would consider making recommendations for legislative changes with that type of national model in mind.

The subcommittee determined that if unclaimed bodies are not going to be used by Touro University or MERIN or the UNSoM then under current NRS the CAD has no obvious role, but still has the NRS specified responsibilities of meeting twice a year and preparing a biennial report.

At the June 15, 2007 meeting there was discussion about the budget. The NRS provides that the CAD receives money only when unclaimed bodies are used, which has produced only a very small amount of money. If we are not going to be using any unclaimed bodies in the future, we have no budget at all. That is another impediment to the CAD having any major role over the next few years. The UNSoM has agreed to “donate” Mrs. King’s time to do the minimal administrative work that CAD needs regarding scheduling meeting, preparing agendas, transcribing minutes, preparing reports, etc.

Dr. Ort requested input from those CAD members who were not on the subcommittee – any questions regarding deliberations, the recommendations made, whether other members agreed with the Subcommittee that this is the direction the CAD should be going, or if the recommendations of the Subcommittee were not what other CAD members were anticipating.

Dr. Ritzlin commented that he read the report and appreciated the thoughtfulness of the subcommittee in their review of the issues at hand – he noted that the future role of the CAD appears to be minimal.

Dr. Ort noted that when the current legislation was written there was concern that there was use of bodies in the state that was unregulated and that potentially this could lead to public relation problems. It appears that the NRS does not give the CAD any authority to police the use of cadavers. The Subcommittee recommends that once the national standards for how donation/unclaimed body programs should be overseen by state organizations is developed by the National Commission of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL), then it would be appropriate to consider requesting new legislation regarding the CAD.

Dr. Wachs moved to accept all the recommendations of the CAD subcommittee. Dr. Ritzlin seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Ma requested that all institutions that have been approved as agents allowed to accept unclaimed bodies prepare a letter notifying the CAD chairman that they no longer wish to accept unclaimed bodies. Upon receipt of these letters the chairman will prepare an official statement to notify local funeral homes and coroner’s that unclaimed bodies will not be accepted.

Mrs. Oddo reported that MERIN accepted its last two unclaimed bodies in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2007 and will submit a report and funds soon.

Dr. Ma congratulated Dr. Ort for her excellent leadership in chairing the subcommittee. (The complete report is attached to the minutes.)

5. **SCHEDULE SPRING 2008 MEETING DATE** – Dr. Wach’s suggested that members be permitted to attend future committee meeting by conference call. Mrs. King will discuss this request with Dr. Zoller and Mrs. Sidhu to determine whether it meets with the State of Nevada Open Meeting laws and notify members of their decision. Dr. Ma requested that Mrs. King contact Dr. Zoller to work out possible dates for the spring 2008 meeting and notify CAD members by e-mail.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.
7. **NEW BUSINESS** – Dr. Ma requested comments for new business; none were received. Dr. Ma requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dr. Havins moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Wachs seconded.  
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Joyce A. King, Administrator  
Committee on Anatomical Dissection