

**Committee on Anatomical Dissection  
Biennial Report  
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2012**

**This report is being submitted pursuant to NRS 451.370.5**

5. A report of the activities of the Committee must be made before September 1 of each even-numbered year covering the biennium ending June 30 of such year to:

- (a) The Presidents of the Nevada System of Higher Education;
- (b) The State Board of Health;
- (c) The Governor; and
- (d) The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the appropriate committee or committees of the Legislature.

(Added to NRS by 1963, 531; A 1969, 1443, 1458; 1993, 405; [2005, 602](#), [1414](#))

**Membership and Attachments**

Appendix A: Committee on Anatomical Dissection membership as of July 1, 2012

Appendix B: May 4, 2012 Letter to Lorne J. Malkiewich, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau

**Report of Meetings**

**August 23, 2010 - Election of Committee Secretary:** Dr. Zoller requested nominations for the position of CAD Secretary. Dr. Sievert nominated Dr. Roger Ritzlin, member appointed by the Nevada State Society of Pathologists. Dr. Zoller asked Dr. Ritzlin if he would be willing to accept this position wherein he answered in the affirmative. Dr. Ritzlin was unanimously elected Secretary of the CAD.

**February 16, 2011-** Dr. Zoller introduced and welcomed Ms. Susan Carrasco-O'Brien, UNLV Assistant General Counsel who replaced Ms. Elda Sidhu who recently resigned as general counsel for the CAD.

**Election of Committee Chairman:** Dr. Zoller requested nominations for the position of CAD Chairman. Dr. Carl Sievert, member appointed by the President of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) responded that he would be willing to accept the position of Chairman of the CAD. Dr. Zoller requested a motion to approve the nomination of Dr. Sievert to the position of Chairman of the CAD. Dr. Sievert was unanimously elected Chairman of the CAD.

Dr. Sievert requested that Dr. Zoller continue to chair the meeting as he felt he was unprepared to do so at this time.

**New Business Discussion:** Dr. Zoller asked if there was any new business for the committee to discuss. Dr. Sievert stated that he recently attended a meeting for the Consortium of California Donor Programs and one of the things that came up at this meeting was something that we

probably should all be doing for all our donor programs; that is serological testing on all incoming cadavers. He was not sure that this was being done in Las Vegas but reported that we are not doing it in Reno but we are going to start.

Dr. Zoller commented that he did not believe that this falls within the purview of this committee (CAD) to enforce any consistent serological testing. Dr. Zoller asked Dr. Ma if he has been involved with this type of testing. Dr. Ma replied that 1) he personally agrees with the idea that there should be standardized serological tests; however, 2) the purview of the CAD is only on unclaimed cadavers as per Nevada Revised Statutes. Perhaps legal counsel could advise us on this; however, this means that it seems that serological standards would not be within the purview of this committee.

Ms. Carrasco-O'Brien commented that she would be happy to take a look at this matter but it is her understanding that the CAD's purview is regarding unclaimed cadavers.

Dr. Zoller stated that per NRS the CAD is only concerned with unclaimed cadavers; he also would agree that establishing standards for serology does not fall within the purview of the CAD.

Dr. Sievert commented that he felt that the CAD should at least continue to look into the matter because it has been denoted as best practices in cadaver handling and it has been done now by pretty much every school in the California consortium. He further commented that he felt it is a test which is the nationally accepted standard for cadaver handling.

Dr. Ma reported that he is an active member of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists and that Dan Bollard from Touro is current on these practices. He stated further that he would agree that although serology testing is standard practice, he did not know if it is being done at Touro. Furthermore, Touro has suspended their body donation program. He believed they are receiving serological reports of cadavers used in Touro's programs. He asked Dan Bollard if this was true.

Mr. Bollard replied, no, Touro receives cadavers from University of Texas Southwestern and they do not require serological testing of their cadavers.

Dr. Sievert commented that he wanted to bring this matter up because he was going to start serological testing in Reno and he wanted to make a note in the record that this was going to be done at UNSoM donor program.

Ms. Oddo, MERIN, commented that her organization does require that serological testing be done on every specimen and donated cadaver used in her lab. (Excellent; Dr. Zoller)

Dr. Sievert asked Ms. Oddo what test she runs. Ms. Oddo replied: HIV 1 and 2; Hepatitis B & C are standard, and they have other panels as requested. Dr. Sievert asked if she sent the tests to Viral Med in Minnesota. Ms. Oddo replied, "Yes." Dr. Sievert commented that is where UNSoM is planning to send their tests as well. He further asked if MERIN did TB and TSE tests. Ms. Oddo replied, "Not on our standard panel."

**October 12, 2011** – Dr. Carl Sievert welcomed Dr. Emmett Findlay, member appointed by the president of Touro University Nevada, replacing Dr. Terence Ma, who resigned in June 2011 and Dr. Amy Llewellyn, from the University of Nevada School of Medicine, member appointed by the Nevada Society of Pathologists, replacing Dr. Roger S. Ritzlin, who retired June 30, 2011.

**Election of Committee Secretary:** Dr. Carl Sievert, committee chairman, called for nominations from the membership for the position of committee secretary. New member Dr. Amy Llewellyn responded that she would be willing to accept the nomination for the position of Secretary. Dr. Sievert requested a motion to approve Dr. Llewellyn to the position of Secretary of the CAD. Dr. Llewellyn was unanimously elected Secretary of the CAD.

**June 20, 2012** – **NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE PENDING APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CAD MEETING WHICH WILL OCCUR LATER THIS YEAR.**

**Election of Committee Chairman** – Dr. Sievert called for nominations for the position of Committee Chairman. Dr. Zoller proposed that Dr. Sievert serve another term as CAD Chairman due to his role in current legislative matters regarding the CAD. Dr. Sievert asked for a motion to approve the nomination of himself to a second term as Chairman of the CAD. Dr. Sievert was unanimously elected Chairman of the CAD.

**New Business Discussion:** Dr. Sievert asked if members had a chance to review the letter he sent to them addressed to Lorne J. Malkiewich, Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (Reference B attached). All members replied “yes” they received and reviewed the letter. Dr. Sievert provided some background on the letter indicating that he was solicited to speak at the Sunset Committee in Carson City regarding the Committee on Anatomical Dissection (CAD). It was not clear to him at that time that the Sunset Committee understood the significance of the CAD and how important it is to actually retain a committee that handles this type of information. Dr. Sievert explained that he wrote this letter as a response to that hearing and potentially opened up a Pandora’s Box but he thinks it is a necessary evil. He explained that at this time he wanted to put this letter out to all members for their review and information and then open this topic for discussion at the next CAD meeting because he thinks what is going to happen is that there will be some charge from the legislature to create a committee to handle anatomical dissection in the state of Nevada. “This is something that has been coming on for some time; we need to have a committee that has some authority.” He would like CAD members to start thinking about how they would like this to progress because he believes we will ultimately have the most say in what we are in charge of and how we do these things. He would really like everybody to give it some serious thought so that during our next meeting we can have a discussion about this topic.

Dr. Findley stated that he absolutely agrees with Dr. Sievert in the sense that this is an important part of what we do and that we need to have some control over it but one thing that stuck out to him in the letter, in the last paragraph, for a sense of accuracy the statement: “the committee in its current form is comprised of members from all the institutions involved in procurement and use of cadaveric material.” He does not think that is at all true and knows that there are certainly

other private body donation organizations that are operating in Nevada so that is something we should also recognize and think about.

Dr. Sievert agreed that is a very good point. He was actually not aware of those private institutions until just a little while ago when he was doing research. At that time he noticed at least two other institutions in Las Vegas that handle cadaveric material and do surgical training.

Dr. Findley replied that he knew of a few and indicated that he would chat with Dr. Sievert in the future about this information.

Dr. Azzam stated that for public health purposes his agency denied their activities because they wanted to do cadaveric dissection during the night and during the day they wanted to do out-patient procedures. He stated that his agency continues to get a lot of these requests and the last one was from a hospital in Lake Tahoe. “We had to use coercive authority stating those procedures cannot be done unless you sue us and nobody has yet to sue them.” He agrees that this is something for the committee to deal with because it will not just go away. Dr. Sievert agreed that this is exactly the reason this needs to be addressed now before we have a huge public issue because it has the potential for abuse.

Dr. Wachs wanted to know who would be spearheading the legislation to make such changes. Dr. Sievert reported that he is currently in contact with Ms. Crystal Abba, Interim Vice Chancellor NSHE and also Ms. Margie Thomas, Legislative Counsel Bureau has been in contact with him to figure out how to move forward with this matter. Those are the only two people I know are involved. To my knowledge nothing has been done yet and I would request from them that anything that is done go through this committee (CAD) so that we all discuss it and have input.

I also want to point out that at this point we shouldn't discuss this topic further because our bylaws state that new business cannot be discussed at this time. I just wanted to introduce the matter for all members to think about it and if we need to have another meeting before our next scheduled meeting, approximately 6 months from now, we can call one before then and I think we may need to do that, we will arrange a meeting in a timely fashion.

### **Anatomical Donation Programs**

The University of Nevada School of Medicine continued their Anatomical Donation Program and Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine Nevada continued their program in conjunction with the Medical Education Institute of Nevada (MERIN) during this reporting period.