



**Research Advisory Committee
Meeting of March 20, 2017
10:00-11:00 am CT
By conference call**

Attendance: Robert Griggs, MD; Ralph Sacco, MD; Eugene Scharf, MD; Lisa De Angelis, MD; Ira Shoulson, MD; Jane Ransom, Suzi Sherman

Excused: Ray Roos, MD; Shafali Jeste, MD

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Dr. Griggs. The committee approved minutes of the meeting of Feb. 21, 2017.

ABF Major Giving

Jane Ransom provided a report on recent major gifts including:

- \$200,000 donor advised fund for MS research
- \$5,000 donor advised fund for pediatric neurology
- \$100,000 fund for humanitarian award to a neurologist working with the under-served

Update on Crowdfunding Beta Testing

The committee discussed the first beta test. The mechanics of the system worked well, but committee members would like to know why certain reviewers voted no on some LOIs.

The second beta test is scheduled to begin on March 22. Committee members expressed concern that the time between the approval of the LOI and the deadline for the full Application was too short. Staff assured that this timeline only applied to the beta test and would not be applicable once the site goes live.

The committee would like projects to have funding benchmarks showing what could be accomplished on the project with minimum, mid, and maximum funding levels.

Promotion of the Crowdfunding Site to Neurologists

The new initiative will be highlighted in several on-site publications and speeches at the AAN meeting. Committee members suggested also publicizing it at the Brain Health Fair, stressing that word must go out to the public to attract donors.

Upcoming Live Tour of the ABF Crowdfunding Platform

Jane Ransom said that a live tour of the beta site via webinar for members of the ABF Board and Research Advisory Committee would be announced soon. Members will be invited to provide feedback.

Increase Clinical Research Training Scholarship Award

The committee discussed a letter from Dr. Videnovic to Dr. Griggs informing the American Brain Foundation that the AAN has decided to increase CRTS awards from \$130,000 to \$150,000. The amount has not changed in many years and is becoming uncompetitive. There was agreement that the change is appropriate and overdue. But this change was not budgeted by the American Brain Foundation. Further discussion will be needed about how to persuade current partners to take on most, if not all, of the increase.

Adjournment

Dr. Griggs adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. CDT. The next meeting will take place in-person at the Boston Convention Center, room 103, on Tuesday, April 25 at 7:45 a.m.