

American Brain Foundation
Summary of Research Advisory Committee Meeting of Dec. 7, 2015

Attendees: Robert Griggs, MD; Raymond Roos, MD; John Morris, MD; Ralph Sacco, MD; Jane Ransom (staff), Suzi Sherman (staff)

Excused: Merit Cudkowicz, MD, Carsten Bonnemann, MD; Ira Shoulson, MD; Shafali Jeste, MD

Dr. Griggs welcomed participants and led discussions on the following:

Status of ABF Strategic Planning

- ABF Program/Funding Focus
 - Determining the future research funding focus of the ABF is the work of the Research Advisory Committee in progress.
- Philanthropic Assessment
 - The ABF has hired a firm to conduct a feasibility study and recommend a fundraising strategy aligned with our vision and direction.
- Business Model
 - Henrichs & Associates has interviews underway in order to make recommendations for the ABF's future, self-sustaining business model. The interviewees include:
 - AAN/ABF leadership & stakeholders
 - Medical Research Foundations
 - Voluntary Health Organizations

Research Funding Hypothetical Scenarios

A menu of ABF research funding opportunities emerged from the last meeting:

- Supporting young investigators
 - Clinical Research Training Fellowships
- Prevention of specific diseases
 - Grants promoting the development of preventive measures for people at high risk
- High risk, patient-centered discovery of new treatments
 - Ground work for phase 1 Clinical Trials
- Brain as a whole
 - Grants to study common mechanisms of neurodegeneration and neurodevelopment

The committee discussed how to work with the above menu as a template when working with a high-wealth donor. Staff wonders whether we can have some proposed research projects "on the shelf" and ready for funding to discuss with donors. Committee members felt we must first understand a donor's interests and giving capacity and then convene experts to frame research projects with those factors in mind.

The committee also discussed:

- Challenges and opportunities in partnering with other organizations
- Whether or not we should be in the business of funding awards which are administratively challenging for the AAN
- Whether we should focus less on endowed funds for research in favor of pass-through funding

Presentation at the Science Committee

Dr. Griggs will meet with the Science Committee in January to share the thinking of the ABF Research Advisory Committee. The committee hopes to have clarified:

- The purposes of some of the future fellowships being considered by the AAN
- Whether the ABF's role will be to purely fund the AANI and the implications if that is not the case