



AMERICAN BRAIN FOUNDATION
 Research Advisory Committee Meeting
 May 15, 2020
 3:00 p.m. ET/ 2:00 p.m. CT/ 1:00 p.m. MT/ 12:00 p.m. PT
 Conference Call

Zoom link: <https://aan.zoom.us/j/3757402880>

Committee Members	Robert Griggs, MD, Chair; Raymond Roos, MD, Vice Chair; Carsten Bonnemann, MD; Jose E. Cavazos, MD; Merit Cudkowicz, MD; James Grotta, MD; Mark Mehler, MD; John Morris, MD; Ralph Sacco, MD; Eugene Scharf, MD; Ira Shoulson, MD; Phyllis C. Zee, MD
Staff	Jane Ransom, ED; Julia Miglets-Nelson

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTED BY
1. Call to Order Approval of the March 27, 2020 minutes	Robert Griggs, MD
2. 2022 CRTF Fundraising	Robert Griggs, MD
3. Crowdfunding Update	Julia Miglets-Nelson
4. COVID-19 Research Fund	James Grotta, MD
Adjourn	

Meeting Materials:

- Minutes of March 27, 2020 (p. 2)
- Lapsed CRTF Research Partners (p. 4)
- COVID-19 Research Fund Proposal (p. 6)



**American Brain Foundation
Research Advisory Committee Meeting
March 27, 2020**

**3:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. PT
Conference Call**

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Robert Griggs, MD, Chair; Raymond Roos, MD, Vice Chair; Carsten Bonnemann, MD; Jose E. Cavazos, MD; James Grotta, MD; Mark Mehler, MD; John Morris, MD; Ralph Sacco, MD; Eugene Scharf, MD; Phyllis C. Zee, MD, PhD

Staff: Jane Ransom; Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD

Excused: Merit Cudkowicz, MD; Ira Shoulson, MD

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robert Griggs at 2:02 p.m. CT. The meeting minutes of January 24, 2020 were approved unanimously.

- 1. Annual Meeting Updates: CRTF Awardee Presentations and Commitment to Cures:** Julia Miglets-Nelson reported that the ABF is working closely with the AAN and in consultation with Dr. Robert Griggs and Dr. Paul George to develop a plan to honor the 2020 CRTF awardees in light of the cancellation of the AAN's annual meeting. The new format will be digital, and will ensure that the awardees are honored for their achievement, and that the ABF's funding partners are thanked for their financial support. Members of the Research Advisory Committee will be invited to join the digital event. Dr. Griggs and Dr. George will meet on Monday, March 30, 2020 to flesh out these plans, and Julia Miglets-Nelson will share details with the Research Advisory Committee.

Jane Ransom updated the committee on the status of the ABF's conversations with the Alzheimer's Association concerning the Alzheimer's Association's proposed changes to the RFA for the Robert Katzman CRTS, which have been resolved. The Alzheimer's Association has also committed \$1.5M to the ABF's LBD project. Jane thanked Dr. John Morris for his help with the ABF's conversations with the Alzheimer's Association.

Jane Ransom shared the ABF's new plans for the annual Commitment to Cures event, which is being converted to a digital event in light of the cancellation of the AAN's annual meeting. Commitment to Cures will now be a weeklong digital event, culminating in a Facebook livestreamed event on April 29. The time of the event is TBD. The ABF will be sending emails to ticketholders, sponsors, and the public throughout the week that will highlight the award winners, including the Potamkin Award and the Cure One, Cure

Many Award. Jim Cramer has agreed to emcee the livestreamed event, and the ABF is hoping that Emilia Clarke and Sidney Crosby will be able to join.

- 2. 2020 RAC Meeting Dates:** Julia Miglets-Nelson called attention to the remaining RAC meeting dates for 2020 and asked committee members to email her if they have conflicts so that new meeting dates can be scheduled if needed.

Adjourned 2:18 p.m. CT.



Current and Lapsed Research Grants

2021 Confirmed Awards		
Award	Partner	Notes
Lawrence Brass Stroke Award	American Heart Association	Not funded through AAN
McKnight CRTS (2)	McKnight	
CSDA in MS	National MS Society	Not funded through AAN
CRTS in Parkinson's	Parkinson's Foundation	
Richard Olney CSDA in ALS	ALS Association	
CRTS in ALS	ALS Association	
Susan Spencer CRTS in Epilepsy	American Epilepsy Society / Epilepsy Foundation	
CRTS in Neuromuscular Disease	Muscle Study Group	
CRTS in Tourette Syndrome	Tourette Association	Not funded through AAN

Outstanding 2021 Awards (not confirmed)		
Award	Partner	
Robert Katzman CRTS in Alz	Alzheimer's Association	Pending contract
CRTS in ALS and Related Disorders	CRaATe Consortium	Pending contract

2022 Confirmed Awards		
Award	Partner	Notes
CRTS in Lewy Body Disease	Alzheimer's Association / Mary Groff	
McKnight CRTS (2)	McKnight	
CRTS in Parkinson's	Parkinson's Foundation	
CSDA in MS	National MS Society	Not funded through AAN
Richard Olney CSDA in ALS	ALS Association	
CRTS in ALS	ALS Association	

Previous (Lapsed) CRTF Awards and Partners

Award	Partner	Notes
CRTS in Parkinson's	AbbVie & Parkinson's Foundation	2019
CRTS in MS	Biogen & Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers	2019
CSDA in Interventional Neurology	Society for Vascular and Interventional Neurology (SVIN)	2019, 2018
CRTS in Headache	International Headache Society	2019
CSDA in Myasthenia Gravis	Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America	2019
CRTS in Ataxia	National Ataxia Foundation	2017
CRTS in Muscular Dystrophy	Muscular Dystrophy Association	2017

**CHAIR:**

David W. Dodick, MD, FAAN

VICE CHAIR:

Susan Schneider Williams, BFA

SECRETARY:

Shafali Jeste, MD, FAAN

TREASURER:

James A. Essey

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR:

Kevin Goodno

HONORARY CHAIR:

Walter F. Mondale

DIRECTORS:

David Eagleman, PhD

Jimmy Erwin

Jacqueline French, MD

Dan Gasby

Robert C. Griggs, MD, FAAN

James C. Grotta, MD, FAAN

Frances Jensen, MD, FACP,
FAAN

Sharon L. Klein

Cindy McCain

Suzanne Miller

Ronald C. Petersen, PhD, MD,
FAAN

Sean Sansiveri

Martin Shenkman, CPA, MBA,
PFS, AEP, JD

Joseph I. Sirven, MD, FAAN

Ben Utecht

EX OFFICIO DIRECTORS:

James C. Stevens, MD, FAAN

**EX OFFICIO,
NON-VOTING DIRECTORS:**

Jane Ransom

Mary E. Post, MBA, CAE

HONORARY DIRECTORS:

Rich Clifford

Richard Essey

Leeza Gibbons

Billy McLaughlin

COVID-19 Research Fund: Understanding the Immediate and Long-Term Neurological Effects of COVID-19

The American Brain Foundation will establish a COVID-19 fund to support research on the virus's effects on the brain and nervous system. The fund will provide grants to researchers at universities and academic institutions who are studying the neurological effects of COVID-19. These grants will catalyze research in order to meet the urgent need to understand the acute and chronic neurological manifestations of COVID-19, and will foster collaboration between researchers through shared data and research.

There is emerging evidence that neurological symptoms and signs manifest in over one-third of patients with COVID-19. The myriad of neurological symptoms, including anosmia (loss of smell), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), myelitis (inflammation of the spinal cord), stroke, and Guillain-Barré syndrome (inflammation of the nerves), suggest widespread involvement of the nervous system. In addition, there is emerging evidence that COVID-19 may also exacerbate underlying neurological diseases, and may have long-term effects on the brain and nervous system, including cognitive dysfunction and other chronic neurological diseases.

It is currently not clear whether patients who have had mild cases of COVID-19 have been affected by neurological symptoms, nor do we yet know what types of neurological symptoms may emerge in COVID-19 patients well after they are no longer acutely sick. It is also unclear whether and by which mechanisms the virus directly invades the nervous system, whether the virus has a predilection for certain brain regions, and what pathological changes occur after direct viral invasion and infection. It is unknown whether the immune response to the virus may lead to neurological injury, nor what the optimal treatments are to manage the neurological symptoms and diseases that occur as a result of COVID-19. Researchers expect that, like the 1918 influenza pandemic and subsequent influenza outbreaks, we may see long-lasting neurological sequelae emerge in patients affected by COVID-19.

866-770-7570

201 CHICAGO AVENUE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55415

AMERICANBRAINFUNDATION.ORG

INFO@AMERICANBRAINFUNDATION.ORG

The ABF's COVID-19 research fund will accelerate research on COVID-19-related neurological symptoms, signs, and diseases. The aims of this fund will include:

1. Understanding how COVID-19 affects the brain and nervous system;
2. Understanding whether there is a predilection for COVID-19-related neurological sequelae in communities of color;
3. Identifying and tracking the long-term effects of COVID-19 and its treatments on the brain and nervous system.

The ABF will solicit research projects from researchers who have already begun or are in preparation to begin to investigate these questions. The ABF also hopes this opportunity will inspire creative and impactful research that arises as more epidemiological, descriptive, and pathological data becomes available. Projects may be undertaken at individual institutions or across consortia of institutions. Proposals will be solicited through a short RFA process. Proposals will be reviewed and selected by members of the ABF's COVID-19 Research Task Force, the American Academy of Neurology's Science Committee, and other renowned domain-related experts.