



AMERICAN BRAIN FOUNDATION
 Research Advisory Committee Meeting
 November 20, 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, PhD; Merit Cudkowicz, MD; James Grotta, MD; Walter Koroshetz, MD; Mark Mehler, MD; John Morris, MD; Ralph Sacco, MD; Eugene Scharf, MD; Ira Shoulson, MD; Phyllis C. Zee, MD; David Dodick, MD; Natalia Rost, MD; Christy Phelps; Mary Post, MBA, CAE
Staff	Jane Ransom, ED; Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTED BY
1. Call to Order Approval of the July 24, 2020 minutes	Robert Griggs, MD
2. 2021 ABF Scientific Breakthrough Award	Jane Ransom
3. Research Strategy Report	David Dodick, MD; Robert Griggs, MD
4. Health Disparities and IDE	Jane Ransom
5. CRTS Status Update	Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD
Adjourn	

Meeting Materials:

- Minutes of July 24, 2020 (p. 2)
- Health Disparities and IDE Memo to AAN (p. 5)
- Next Generation Research Grants status (p. 7)

**American Brain Foundation
Research Advisory Committee Meeting
July 24, 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; Ira Shoulson, MD; MD; Phyllis C. Zee, MD, PhD; David Dodick, MD; Mary Post, MBA, CAE

Staff: Jane Ransom; Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD

Excused: Merit Cudkowicz, MD; Eugene Scharf, MD

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robert Griggs at 2:01 p.m. CT. The meeting minutes of May 15, 2020 were approved unanimously.

- 1. Update on Industry Fundraising:** Jane Ransom reported on the ABF's progress in fundraising from Industry since the committee's meeting in May and thanked Mary Post and the AAN for giving the ABF the go-ahead to pursue funding from Industry. The ABF has developed an LOI that outlines all of the possible research funding opportunities available at the ABF. Jane Ransom and Julia Miglets-Nelson are currently in the process of sending the LOI to Industry through the contacts that members of the ABF Board and RAC have identified, including Eisai, Teva, Eli Lilly, and Acadia. Julia Miglets-Nelson shared that the ABF has been invited to submit a grant proposal to AveXis for a CRTS in gene therapy.

Dr. Ira Shoulson asked if the CRTFs funded by Industry would include an opportunity for the successful applicant to spend some time with the Industry sponsor. Such an opportunity would be appealing for potential trainees and the funder.

Dr. Mark Mehler suggested approaching companies that would be interested in funding research on the blood/brain barrier, the peripheral roots of neurologic disease especially with regard to neurodegenerative diseases, and the microbiome.

Dr. Griggs asked Dr. Mehler to send suggestions for those companies who might fund those initiatives to Jane and Julia.

Dr. Phyllis Zee suggested that Eisai is interested in research on Alzheimer's and sleep, and has a sleep medication in development for treatment of Alzheimer's. Dr. John Morris noted that he, Jane Ransom, and Julia Miglets-Nelson met with representatives from Eisai, including Dr. Margaret Moline, on July 22, 2020 to discuss the LBD Fund project and a CRTS in sleep, and that Eisai seemed interested in both opportunities.

Dr. James Grotta proposed enlisting former recipients of the ABF's Research Program fellowships, some of who may have ties to Industry. Dr. Grotta also noted that some training grants that are similar to the ABF's fellowships include an internship with Industry as part of their training.

Dr. Ralph Sacco noted that many of the former research program recipients and neurologists working in Industry are members of the AAN, and inquired whether the ABF could use the AAN's member database to build contacts within Industry.

Mary Post noted that Dr. Sacco's suggestion would require some discussion at the AAN in order to navigate potential conflicts of interest and ensure that neurologists working in Industry feel like they have a home at the AAN.

2. Addressing Neurological Healthcare Disparities:

Dr. Robert Griggs outlined the need for research on healthcare disparities in neurological care, which is a topic that currently engages far too few researchers. Dr. Griggs suggested that the ABF should take a leadership role on this topic, potentially by funding early career researchers to encourage them to start careers in this area, and noted that there is already interest from Industry in supporting this kind of work.

K-24 grants NINDS have been discontinued. Mentoring award; mid-level career, funded to develop a systematic mentoring program for early career scholars. Specifically underrepresented minorities in research careers.

Dr. Ralph Sacco also noted the interest from Industry in diversity and inclusion initiatives and reported that he was recently approached by EMD Serono about developing a program do address disparities and foster diversity and inclusion.

Dr. Raymond Roos asked whether the AAN already has a program to engage minority individuals, especially at the medical school level, to try to recruit neurologists.

Dr. Ralph Sacco confirmed that the AAN already has a robust and successful program to engage high school students and medical students, and noted that Dr. Richard Benson, who now leads diversity research at the NINDS, participated in this program and could be good spokesperson for promoting it. Dr. Sacco inquired whether the AAN has tracked the outcomes of this program.

Dr. John Morris outlined the AAN's commitment to diversity and inclusion, led by a committee headed by Dr. Jeffrey McClean, and suggested talking with Dr. McClean and the committee about how the AAN and ABF might be able to work together on these efforts.

Mary Post noted that the AAN's CESC division has a strong system for following up with program participants, and suggested that there likely strong contacts and opportunities to engage with the program's alumni. Mary shared that the AAN's special commission on inequity will be bringing their report to the AAN's leadership the week of July 27, 2020, and to the Board on August 20, 2020. Mary suggested that Jane and Julia reach out to Christy Phelps to share the ABF's interest in supporting these initiatives.

Jane Ransom proposed that Dr. McClean and Christy Phelps bring the special commission's report to the Research Advisory Committee at its next meeting to help the group understand the efforts already underway.

Dr. Phyllis Zee called out the AAN's Transcends program as another opportunity that could be attractive to funders. The program focuses on diversity in junior faculty and sponsors programing at the AAN's annual meeting.

3. 2021 ABF Scientific Breakthrough Award:

Dr. Robert Griggs gave a brief overview of the history of the award as recognition for research that exemplifies the ABF's "Cure One, Cure Many" mantra.

Jane Ransom outlined how the recipients of the 2019 and 2020 awards have been chosen, noting that the process to-date has been informal, and asked for input from the committee on the selection process for 2021 and beyond.

Dr. Raymond Roos suggested that Dr. Tim Miller and Dr. Don Cleveland as potential candidates for the 2021 award for their research on ALS.

Dr. Ralph Sacco encouraged a more systematic process in order to foster transparency about the selection process and avoid accusations of "insider trading."

Dr. Robert Griggs emphasized the importance of gathering lots of input on the nomination in order to capture all of neurology, and suggested engaging the AAN's Science Committee in collaboration with the Research Advisory Committee to select awardees going forward.

Adjourned 2:43 p.m. CT.



TO: Christy Phelps, Deputy Executive Director, AANI
FROM: Jane Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: Nov. 14, 2020
SUBJECT: **Potential for Research Collaboration:** Health Disparities and IDE
CC: Mary Post, CEO

Thank you for initiating a discussion on potential collaboration between AAN and ABF to address health disparities and Inclusion, Diversity and Equity through research. The Board, Research Advisory Committee (RAC), and staff of ABF welcome this conversation. To further this effort, I have outlined the potential opportunities that ABF has been discussing internally.

Clinical Research Training Scholarships

- **CRTS in Neuro Health Disparities:** ABF would welcome collaboration on a CRTS in Neuro Health Disparities. We are ready to begin fundraising for this as soon as possible, including from a source with a Dec. 2, 2020 deadline. As soon as the award is further defined and approved by your Science Committee, we want to begin.
- **Katzman CRTS in Alzheimer's Disease:** The Alzheimer's Association (AA) has mentioned interest in transforming the Katzman scholarship into a CRTS focused on under-represented communities and/or for a recipient from an under-represented community.¹ We would love to work with AAN and AA to bring about this transformation. If we want this for 2022, we need to come together around this soon.
- **Mentorship Awards:** Our RAC has also discussed establishing separate awards to encourage the development of mentors with a commitment to either or both (1) mentoring trainees from marginalized communities during career development awards, e.g., CRTSs, K awards and others; (2) mentoring investigators who pursue research to address and improve the disparities in neurologic care which disadvantage marginalized communities.

¹ Currently ABF is using NIH's definition of under-represented communities.

Neurologic Impact of COVID-19 on Communities of Color

- **Practice Research Training Scholarship:** ABF is circulating a proposal to donors who could potentially fund a PRTS concerning the neurologic impact of COVID-19 upon communities of color. There is some interest, but no funding yet. ABF would like to discuss this award with you, to better understand the kinds of projects that could be undertaken by recipients, so that we can more effectively present it to funders.
- **Seed Money for Research on COVID-19 and Communities of Color:** ABF is also circulating a proposal for funding a COVID-19 pool at the foundation from which seed money can be provided for innovative research on the neurologic implications of COVID-19 for communities of color. There is some interest, but no funding yet.

Pipeline Program

We are interested in discussing AAN's pipeline program with you because there may be potential to find philanthropic dollars for IDE/health disparities element of the program. Many of the largest foundation funders are especially interested in systemic change. What if the ABF, in consultation with AAN, wrote a \$10 M proposal for a cradle-to-grave, complete IDE makeover for the field of neurology, demonstrating that AAN already has many crucial elements to bring about this transformation in place, and also has a roadmap in the form of its Special Commission recommendations?

Fundraising Idea

While the source of most of the fundraising we are doing for research is institutions—i.e., non-profit associations, foundations, or corporations—we do have a fundraising idea that could be aimed at individuals, and especially AAN members. It would require collaboration across marketing, fundraising, and research between AAN and ABF. The idea is to raise enough money for the Calvin L. Calhoun, Sr., MD Diversity Research Permanent Endowment Fund² to have a sizeable impact. The size of the fund today is about \$100,000. If a major campaign could transform it into a \$1.5 M fund, it would generate enough to support a CRTS every other year in perpetuity.

* * * * *

Thank you for considering these ideas. We will look forward to discussing them, as well as yours, soon so that we can become aligned and pursue the best of them.

² This fund, which is under the ABF umbrella, is dedicated to funding “minority scholars” through the AAN.

2021 Awards	
Award	Partner
CRTS in ALS	ALS Association
Richard Olney CSDA in ALS	ALS Association
Susan Spencer, MD CRTS in Epilepsy	American Epilepsy Society & Epilepsy Foundation
Lawrence Brass Stroke CRTS	American Heart Association (outbound)
CRTS in ALS and Related Disorders	CReATe Consortium
CTRS in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss (x2)	McKnight Brain Research Foundation
CRTS in Neuromuscular Disease	Muscle Study Group
CSDA in MS	National MS Society (outbound)
CRTS in Parkinson's Disease	Parkinson's Foundation
CRTS in Tourette Syndrome	Tourette Association of America (outbound)

2022 Awards	
Confirmed	
Award	Partner
CRTS in ALS	ALS Association
Richard Olney CSDA in ALS	ALS Association
CRTS in Lewy Body Disease	Alzheimer's Association & Mary Groff Charitable Trust
Susan Spencer, MD CRTS in Epilepsy	American Epilepsy Society & Epilepsy Foundation
CTRS in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss (x2)	McKnight Brain Research Foundation
CRTS in Parkinson's Disease	Parkinson's Foundation
Pending	
Katzman CRTS in Alzheimer's	Alzheimer's Association
Lawrence Brass Stroke CRTS	American Heart Association
(NEW) CRTS in Migraine	Amgen
(NEW) CRTS in Frontotemporal Degeneration	Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
(NEW) CRTS in Gene Therapy	AveXis
CRTS in Neuromuscular Disease	Muscle Study Group
CSDA in Myasthenia Gravis	Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
CSDA in MS	National MS Society
CRTS in Tourette Syndrome	Tourette Association of America

2023 Awards	
Confirmed	
Award	Partner
CRTS in ALS and Related Disorders	CReATe Consortium
CTRS in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss (x2)	McKnight Brain Research Foundation
Planned	
CRTS in ALS	ALS Association
Richard Olney CSDA in ALS	ALS Association
Susan Spencer, MD CRTS in Epilepsy	American Epilepsy Society & Epilepsy Foundation
Lawrence Brass Stroke CRTS	American Heart Association
CRTS in Migraine	Amgen
CRTS in Frontotemporal Degeneration	Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
CRTS in Gene Therapy	AveXis
CRTS in Neuromuscular Disease	Muscle Study Group
CSDA in MS	National MS Society
CRTS in Tourette Syndrome	Tourette Association of America