



**American Brain Foundation  
Governance Committee Meeting  
December 21, 2020  
9:00 a.m. CT  
Video Conference Call**

**In attendance:** Kevin Goodno, Chair; Susan Schneider Williams, BFA; Frances Jensen, MD  
**Staff:** Jane Ransom, ED; Kim Howard

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The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. CT by Kevin Goodno, Chair.

The minutes of September 21, 2020 were approved unanimously.

**Board Recruitment Update (Jane Ransom)**

**Public Candidate List**

- **JoAnne Berger Sweeney** - Dr. Jensen and Jane Ransom have spoken with Ms. Sweeney. She is interested in the foundation, but she is over-committed right now. She would consider joining the board in a year or two. She would be happy to come to a future board meeting to discuss her experiences as a neuroscientist and college president, and the needs she sees around diversity and advocacy. She is an interested prospect that we will continue to nurture.
- **Sanjay Gupta** - We plan to give him his award first at Commitment to Cures and then reach out to him.
- **Mayim Bialik** – Waiting to hear back from Mr. Eagleman, he was going to reach out to Ms. Bialik and we have not had an update.
- **Susan Sarofim** – She is still very interested but not until 2022.
- **Dr. Keith Black** – Dr. Dock has sent multiple messages and has still not heard back from him.

New people mentioned for consideration include Jeff Bezos ex-wife MacKenzie Scott and Mark Zuckerberg's wife Priscilla Chan.

**Neurologist Candidate List**

- **Dr. Merit Cudkowicz & Dr. John Morris** - We are not actively recruiting them but wanted to note they will be coming off the Research Advisory Committee at the end of this year. They have been top contributors to the RAC so rather than lose them we might want to consider one or both joining the Board.
  
- **Alyx Porter** – Dr. Porter was the first African American female neuro-oncologist in the US. She is a former student of Dr. Dodick's and she works at the Mayo Clinic. Ms. Porter

also directs a non-profit, called Elevate MD, that medical students of color with scholarships. She would be a great addition to the board and has already agreed to be on the board on a recent call with Dr. Dodick. Dr. Jensen mentioned Dr. Porter's background fits perfectly with our efforts and pursuits around glioblastoma.

**MOTION: Recommendation be made to the Board to add Dr. Alyx Porter effective January 1, 2021 via email vote to replace Sharon Klein. Motion approved unanimously.**

Mr. Goodno noted that when Dr. Sirven departs in April we will want to replace him with a public candidate since Dr. Porter was a neurologist candidate. We do not have to fill them right away; we can take our time and make sure we get the right candidates.

**Research Advisory Committee Update (David Dodick, MD)** As a result of two special Research Strategy meetings, there is agreement on the following:

The Research Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the Board regarding research priorities of the ABF, including which research projects that should be funded by the Foundation. Collaborating and aligning with the research program of the AAN is a priority. Focused activities will include the following:

- Expand ABF's portfolio of training scholarships for early career researchers
- Recommend special research funding initiatives related to specific diseases or disease areas
- Develop programs that advance research in health disparities
- Collaborate with AAN's Science Committee

Nothing has changed related to membership and terms. Mr. Goodno confirmed that the Board Chair has the authority to appoint the Chair and members of the RAC.

**Research Advisory Committee Appointments (Jane Ransom)** Three members of the RAC have agreed to renew for a second term beginning January 1, 2021:

- Phyllis Zee, MD
- Jose Cavazos, MD
- James Grotta, MD

Six of our RAC members are term limiting out at the end of 2021. The committee discussed adding six people to the RAC for terms beginning 1/1/21 to prepare for those departures. It was suggested to have more members of the Board be on the RAC. There was some concern about such a large group until Ms. Ransom suggested creating sub-committees to address each area of the focused activities defined above. We need diversity in expertise (specialty) and we also need more women. To achieve more diversity, we can consider future candidates that are more mid-career.

The Governance Committee recommended seven appointments to the RAC to Board Chair David Dodick, to begin their terms on 1/1/21:

- Bruce Ovbiagele, MD, MAS

- Na Tosha N. Gatson, MD, PhD
- Gordon Smith, MD, PhD
- Jacqueline French, MD
- Jose Biller, MD
- Ronald Petersen, PhD, MD
- Reisa Sperling, MD

**2021 Governance Committee Chair, Shafali Jeste (David Dodick, MD)** Dr. Shafali Jeste has agreed to become the Governance Chair for 2021.

The Governance Committee thanked Kevin Goodno for his leadership of the Governance Committee for the last six years, crediting him with building up the great board we have now.

Meeting Adjourned 9:42 a.m. CT

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