



**American Brain Foundation  
Research Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 4, 2021  
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; Jose Biller, MD; Carsten Bonnemann, MD; Jose E. Cavazos, MD; Jacqueline French, MD; Na Tosha N. Gatson, MD, PhD; Walter Koroshetz, MD; Mark Mehler, MD; Bruce Ovbiagele, MD; Ron Petersen, MD, PhD; Ira Shoulson, MD; Gordon Smith, MD; Reisa Sperling; Phyllis C. Zee, MD, PhD; Mary Post, MBA, CAE; Christy Phelps; Natalia Rost, MD

**Staff:** Jane Ransom; Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD; Liam Moore; Andrea Nargan

**Excused:** Merit Cudkowicz, MD; James Grotta, MD; Ralph Sacco, MD; Eugene Scharf, MD; David Dodick, MD

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robert Griggs at 2:03 p.m. CT. The meeting minutes of April 2, 2021 were approved.

1. **Cure One, Cure Many Award in LBD:** Jane Ransom provided an update on the status of the Cure One, Cure Many Award in LBD. The project is up and running and the RFA has been released. The RFA and application information are listed on the ABF and AAN websites, and are being circulated to the ABF's funding partners – the Alzheimer's Association and the Michael J. Fox Foundation. John Morris, MD, is leading the selection committee. Pre-proposals will be accepted from July 1 to July 30, 2021, and invited proposals will be due on October 1. The awardee will be selected in December 2021, and announced in January 2022. The ABF is seeking to raise an additional \$2M towards the award.

Dr. Robert Griggs noted that the Cure One, Cure Many Award in LBD will be a model for future special initiatives of the ABF, including the planned neuroinflammation initiative. Partnerships with other organizations and funders will be crucial for initiatives like these.

2. **Subcommittee Breakouts:** The Health Disparities, Next Generation Research Grants, and Special Initiatives subcommittees met in Zoom breakout rooms. A summary of each subcommittee's discussion follows below.

**Health Disparities Subcommittee:** The subcommittee considered the questions below:

**Among the proposed funding mechanisms (pilot grant awards, career development award, fellow-to-faculty award, clinical research training fellowship, administrative supplements to existing awards):**

1. Which should be the priorities?
2. Which should focus on disparities vs. diversity?
3. If disparities, which one(s) should we focus on?
4. If diversity, which one(s) should we focus on?
5. Do we currently have existing mechanisms that could be adapted to serve the purpose?
6. How do we adapt such mechanisms to serve the purpose?
7. How much money should come with each mechanism?
8. How do we attract applicants?
9. How do we attract funders?

**Among the proposed funding sources (foundations, pharmaceutical companies, individual donors, federal institutions, CTSIs, governments from LMICs, international organizations):**

1. Which should be the priorities?
2. Which would be more likely to focus on disparities vs. diversity?
3. If disparities, which one(s) should we focus on?
4. If disparities, which one(s) should we focus on?
5. Do we currently have existing funding partnerships that could be adapted to serve the purpose?
6. How do we adapt such mechanisms to serve the purpose?
7. How do we attract new funders?
8. Who are potential ABF point people or connectors?
9. What networks can we tap into?
10. How much money could/should be asked for?

**Next Generation Subcommittee:** The Next Generation Subcommittee reviewed opportunities for ABF input into program changes, particularly around application gaps and applicant diversity. The scope of awards funded through the AAN was determined to be outside the commission of the subcommittee, which will focus on identifying and filling gaps in current programming.

The subcommittee noted significant gaps between the number of applicants for some awards, and the deficit of awards in some areas with a great number of applicants, particularly general awards that are not restricted to a specific disease area.

**Special Initiatives Subcommittee:** The Special Initiatives Subcommittee reviewed a white paper on neuroinflammation and AI drafted by Na Tosha N. Gatson, MD, PhD and discussed next steps for developing a special initiative around neuroinflammation, including a literature review of neuroinflammation research.

3. **2022 Scientific Breakthrough Award:** Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD provided an overview of the history and aims of the annual Scientific Breakthrough Award and asked the Committee members to submit nominations for the 2022 award. The award recognizes an individual or group whose research has led to meaningful advances for the care of patients living with neurological disease.

Dr. Robert Griggs noted that the award also offers an opportunity to catalyze research funds for the field represented by the awarded researcher.

**Adjourned 2:59 p.m. CT.**