



**American Brain Foundation
Governance Committee Meeting
March 8, 2021
9:00 a.m. CT
Video Conference Call**

In attendance: Shafali Jeste, MD, Chair; Susan Schneider Williams, BFA; Kevin Goodno; Mary Post; David Dodick, MD

Excused: Frances Jensen, MD, Alyx Porter, MD

Staff: Jane Ransom, ED; Kim Howard

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. CT by Dr. Shafali Jeste, Chair.

The minutes of December 21, 2000 and notes from January 25, 2021 were approved unanimously.

Dr. Jeste discussed the Board Composition Survey results that were collected from 22 Board responses. Jane Ransom walked the committee through the results of the survey provided in the materials, highlights and discussion points are included:

1. **Board member's skills/experience/expertise we need represented.** We need to focus on legal, financial planning and long-range planning. We need to find people with multiple talents.
2. **Groups that Board members are associated with and willing to introduce to the Foundation.** Our Board members connections are good but could be better with Foundations, affluent individuals and businesses and corporations. The groups we do not have much connection to include religious communities and grassroots constituents.
3. **Brain diseases our Board members identify with most, either as a neurologist with expertise or as an affected layperson and advocate.** We have Board members in almost every disease specialty listed. We may be a little heavy in Dementia/Alzheimer's and Stroke/Vascular. We have nobody in Neuroinfectious Diseases. Dr. Dodick mentioned that we do not have an MS or Movement Disorders specialist on our Board so we should pay close attention to those two diseases that are high profile and well-funded.
4. **Metropolitan areas represented by our Board members.** The cities listed are the areas with the highest concentrations of wealthy people in the US. We have Board members represented in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Houston. It was suggested to look at the percentage of "givers" in these areas as well. Chicago and Atlanta might be other areas we want to focus on having representation. We do need to have better geographical representation across the country. We should pay attention to cities with a high proportion of wealthy people, as well as having centers for excellence for neurology, such as Boston, Chicago, and Atlanta.

5. **Neurologist/Non-Neurologist balance of Board members.** We are striving for a 50/50 balance between neurologists and non-neurologists and this survey shows we are very close to that percentage. The number are slightly skewed because Jane Ransom & Mary Post are included.
6. **Gender balance of Board members.** We have 54% men and 40% women which is a great improvement over the last few years.
7. **Racial or Ethnic heritage of Board members.** The majority of our board is white, we are aware of this and we need to keep it top of mind when recruiting.
8. **Age of Board members.** We have a lot of 60-69 year old's, it would be nice to get more in the earlier age ranges. Dr. Jeste thought we should be recruiting earlier career people for the Board. The way they practice medicine and the way they communicate from the standpoint of gaps in marketing and getting the word out and networking are all skills that this early career group has down. They bring a different skill set and energy level. Mr. Goodno reminded everyone that from the public perspective that we want people that are connected and have wealth you will likely be at the higher end of the age scale. There is a balance that we need to figure out.

Board Recruitment – Next Steps (Jane Ransom)

Because the meeting ran long Ms. Ransom will create an email regarding next steps after she has a follow-up meeting with Dr. Jeste. We need to put together a proposed plan to present to the Board.

Meeting Adjourned 9:29 a.m. CT