



**American Brain Foundation
Governance Committee Meeting
June 28, 2021
9:00 a.m. CT
Video Conference Call**

In attendance: Kevin Goodno; Frances Jensen, MD; Susan Schneider Williams, BFA; Alyx Porter, MD; Mary Post; David Dodick, MD

Excused: Shafali Jeste, MD, Chair

Staff: Jane Ransom, ED; Kim Howard

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. CT by Jane Ransom who was filling in for the committee chair Dr. Shafali Jeste.

The Governance Committee meeting minutes of March 8, 2021 were approved unanimously.

Officer Slate 1/1/22-12/31/23 (Jane Ransom)

Dr. Dodick recused himself from the discussion of the Board Chair position for 1/1/22-12/31/23.

Dr. Jensen recused herself from the discussion of Board officers for 1/1/22-12/31/23.

The importance of a diverse and balanced Executive Committee was discussed. In recent years, the goal to keep the right balance on the Executive Committee has been defined as two neurologists and two public members as officers, which mirrors the balance we strive for on the Board. We also strive for diversity on the Executive Committee.

After some very positive discussion, the committee highly recommended that Dr. Dodick remain the Board Chair for two more years. *A motion was made to recommend that Dr. David Dodick remain the Board Chair for the next term 1/1/22-12/31/23, the motion passed unanimously.*

Ms. Ransom announced that Dr. Dodick has already thought about this opportunity, and he wants to continue as Board Chair for another term. Dr. Dodick was asked to return to the meeting to discuss the other positions.

The committee discussed the importance of a succession plan and who would succeed Dr. Dodick at the end of his next term. Jim Essey's name was mentioned as a good public person for that Chair position. The committee would like for him to remain in the Treasurer role for now. He has provided excellent financial leadership and our bylaws do not assume that the Vice Chair automatically becomes the Chair. The other public member mentioned that could be a future Chair is Ben Lenail. The committee reached consensus to recommend him for the Vice Chair position. The committee identified Frances Jensen for Secretary position.

A motion was made to recommend the following candidates as officers for the 1/1/22-12/31/23 term: Vice Chair – Ben Lenail, Treasurer – Jim Essey, and Secretary – Frances Jensen, the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Dodick will reach out to the above candidates to confirm their interest in these officer positions.

Board Recruitment (Jane Ransom)

Public (Non-Neurologist) Candidate Update

Updates on Public candidates we have reached out to:

- Ralph Leslie is very interested in joining our board, Dr. Dodick and Jane Ransom have met with Mr. Leslie. Mary Post highly recommends Mr. Leslie. Mr. Leslie is former CFO of the Obama Foundation and current CFO of Northwestern University.
- JoAnne Burger-Sweeny has some interest but not right away due to her current commitments. Frances Jensen and Jane Ransom met with her a year ago. Dr. Burger-Sweeny is a neuroscientist and President of Trinity College.
- Alan Tisch reached out to Dr. Dodick expressing his interest in the ABF Board. Mr. Tisch is incredibly dynamic, very successful, a true visionary and is extremely connected to wealth. Mr. Tisch's mother is affected by MS and they have the Tisch MS Clinic at NYU in New York.
- Keith Black has not responded to Dr. Dodick's outreach.
- Dr. Porter encouraged the committee to consider Dr. Quionenes for the board either now or in the future. He is a celebrated neurosurgeon whose roots are in the LatinX community and has an incredible story.

A motion was made to confirm Ralph Leslie as a nominee to be approved by the board for 1/1/22-12/31/23 term, the motion was approved unanimously.

Next steps in prioritized outreach:

1. Alan Tisch - Dr. Dodick and Jane Ransom will meet with Alan Tisch to discuss his interest further and share more about the ABF and what is required as a board member. This is a good process to follow with each candidate so they can learn more about the ABF and we can learn more about the candidate to make the right decision.
2. Mayim Bialik – If we determine that Alan Tisch is not interested or appropriate for our board, we will ask David Eagleman to ask Mayim Bialik if she would have any interest in joining our board. Ms. Bialik is a neuroscientist and is appealing because she reaches a different demographic.

If the meeting goes well with Alan Tisch that will fill the other open public position. Jane will continue to reach out to the people listed to start building relationships with them but for being on the board at a later date.

Asking Cindy McCain to see if Condoleezza Rice would be interested in joining the board could also be a possibility, if the committee agreed they would make a place for her on the board if she expressed interest. This idea is on hold since we are trying to fill the open positions with Ralph Leslie and Alan Tisch.

Neurologists Candidate Update

Updates on neurologist candidates we have reached out to:

- Dr. Jensen spoken Dr. Merit Cudkowicz who has expressed interest in joining the board.

Committee members expressed interest in Dr. Merit Cudkowicz, Dr. John Noseworthy, Dr. Mitzi Williams, Dr. John Morris and Dr. Martin Samuels. Demographics should be considered as well.

Dr. Dodick and Jane Ransom will schedule meetings with Drs. Merit Cudkowicz and John Noseworthy, the committees first two choices. Mitzi Williams would be a good candidate if either of those two does not work out.

Meeting Adjourned 10:03 a.m. CT