



AMERICAN BRAIN FOUNDATION
 Research Advisory Committee Meeting
 February 5, 2021
 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/3682078427>

Committee Members	Robert Griggs, MD, Chair; Raymond Roos, MD, Vice Chair; Jose Biller, MD; Carsten Bonnemann, MD; Jose E. Cavazos, MD, PhD; Merit Cudkowicz, MD; Jacqueline French, MD; Na Tosha Gatson, MD, PhD; James Grotta, MD; Walter Koroshetz, MD; Mark Mehler, MD; John Morris, MD; Bruce Ovbiagele, MD, MSc, MAS; Ronald Petersen, MD, PhD; Ralph Sacco, MD; Eugene Scharf, MD; Ira Shoulson, MD; Gordon Smith, MD, PhD; Reisa Sperling, MD, MMSc; 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 November 20, 2020 minutes	Robert Griggs, MD
2. Welcome and Introduction of New RAC Members	Robert Griggs, MD
3. Next Special Research Initiative	Raymond Roos, MD John Morris, MD
4. Charge for 2021	Robert Griggs, MD
5. RAC Subcommittees	Robert Griggs, MD
6. 2020 Summary	Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD
Adjourn	

Meeting Materials:

- Minutes of November 20, 2020 (p. 2)
- CRTS/CSDA Status (p. 5)
- Research Advisory Committee Job Description (p. 7)
- Subcommittees of the Research Advisory Committee (p. 8)

**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**

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Robert Griggs, MD, Chair; Raymond Roos, MD, Vice Chair; Carsten Bonnemann, MD; Jose E. Cavazos, MD, PhD; Merit Cudkowicz, MD; James C. Grotta, MD; Mark Mehler, MD; Eugene Scarf, MD; Phyllis C. Zee, MD, PhD; David Dodick, MD, Christy Phelps

Staff: Jane Ransom; Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD

Excused: Walter Koroshetz, MD; John Morris, MD; Ralph Sacco, MD; Ira Shoulson, MD

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robert Griggs at 2:03 p.m. CT. The meeting minutes of July 24, 2020 were approved unanimously.

1. 2021 ABF Scientific Breakthrough Award:

Dr. Robert Griggs provided an update on the status of the 2021 Scientific Breakthrough Award. Five nominations were received and ranked by the Research Advisory Committee, and Dr. Peter Goadsby received 17 of 20 votes for his work on migraine. The more formal selection process implemented this year will be used going forward, and the Research Advisory Committee will review nominations in the future.

Dr. David Dodick shared that the ABF plans to use this year's award as an opportunity to fundraise from the pharmaceutical companies who have developed treatments for migraine from Dr. Goadsby's research. The ABF will ask these companies to support a headache research fund named in Dr. Goadsby's honor, which will support ongoing research in headache and areas comorbid with headache, including health disparities.

Jane Ransom noted that the Scientific Breakthrough Award will be presented at the ABF's virtual Commitment to Cures gala on April 21, 2021.

2. Research Strategy Report:

Dr. Robert Griggs outlined the meetings and discussions of the research strategy group, which was tasked with discussing the role of the Research Advisory Committee. The Research Advisory Committee was established to advise the ABF on its grant making program, but in practice has also advised on fundraising. Going forward, the Research

Advisory Committee will refocus its efforts on providing advice to the Board, specifically on the ABF's research program, including the CRTS program, the ABF's next big initiative, and health disparities in neurology. For the ABF's next large scale research project in the mode of the LBD Biomarker project, potential areas of research include glioblastoma and neuroinflammation.

Dr. Merit Cudkowicz noted that there is a need for funding in neurooncology because there are few companies working in that space.

Dr. Phyllis Zee recommended exploring REM behavior disorder as a potential large scale project given its connections to neurodegeneration.

3. Health Disparities and IDE:

Jane Ransom described the ABF's initial conversations with the AAN about work to address health disparities in neurology through the ABF and AAN research programs, and drew the committee's attention to the memo on page 5 of the meeting materials. Initial possibilities include establishing a CRTS in healthcare disparities, positioning the Robert Katzman CRTS in Alzheimer's to address care disparities in Alzheimer's or to prioritize funding a researcher from a community that is underrepresented in neurology, establishing awards to cultivate mentorship relationships to support early career neurologists from underrepresented communities, and research initiatives to address the neurological impacts of COVID-19 on communities of color. The ABF has already begun to fundraise for the COVID-19 initiative.

Dr. Jose Cavazos emphasized that building a diverse pipeline of neurologists takes significant work and time to come to fruition. About 65 universities account for more than 90% of neurologists, and only 1-2% of neurologists are African American. While the NINDS is doing some work in this area, they do not directly fund health disparities efforts, so the ABF has an opportunity to help bridge this gap.

Dr. Mark Mehler also emphasized the need to support a diverse pipeline of neurologists and suggested that the ABF and AAN integrate IDE efforts into all of the research program awards rather than creating specific awards that focus on underrepresented minorities. He suggested that the ABF consider evolutionary neurology as a candidate for its next big research initiative given that this topic overlaps with nearly every neurologic disease.

Christy Phelps provided an update on the AAN's Special Commission on Racism, Inequity, and Social Justice work, and noted that more information and an action plan to address some of these issues would be forthcoming.

4. CRTS Status Update:

Julia Miglets-Nelson provided an update to the committee on the status of the 2021 and 2022 Next Generation CRTS and CSDA awards, noting that the ABF would be offering 11 awards in 2021, and that 15 awards are confirmed or pending for 2022, including a new awards in migraine and FTD.

Dr. Raymond Roos asked whether there is still a challenge with getting enough applicants for all of the awards.

Jane Ransom noted that applicant numbers are still a challenge for some awards, but that the ABF has been working closely with the AAN to streamline the application process with the goal of increasing application numbers. The ABF has also budgeted funds to help market the 2022 research awards.

Dr. David Dodick recommended contacting all neurology department chairs, program chairs, and subspecialty societies to inform them of the relevant award opportunities.

Dr. Phyllis Zee encouraged efforts to expand the Next Generation program to include awards that are not directed at specific disease areas, and noted that most applicants say that they learn about the award opportunities through the AAN website.

Adjourned 3:00 p.m. CT.

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
Katzman CRTS in Alzheimer's	Alzheimer's Association
(NEW) CRTS in Migraine	Amgen
Pending	
Lawrence Brass Stroke CRTS	American Heart Association
(NEW) CRTS in Frontotemporal Degeneration	Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
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

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Purpose

The Research Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding research priorities of the American Brain Foundation, including which research projects should be funded by the Foundation. Collaborating and aligning with the research program of the American Academy of Neurology is a priority

Activities

- 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

Membership and Terms

The Chair of ABF shall appoint a Research Advisory Committee that includes no fewer than nine voting members and is comprised of members of the AAN and other researchers, scientists or clinicians in the field of neurology. The Chair shall appoint a chair of the Research Advisory Committee. The chair of the Research Advisory Committee may recommend candidates for service as members of the Research Advisory Committee. Members of the Research Advisory Committee serve for a two-year term, which may be renewed twice by the Board of Directors.

Subcommittees of the Research Advisory Committee

Next Generation (CRTS) Subcommittee

Chair: Jacqueline French, MD
Co-Chair: Gordon Smith, MD, PhD
Jose Biller, MD
Carsten Bonnemann, MD
Ira Shoulson, MD
Reisa Sperling, MD, MMSc

Special Initiatives Subcommittee

Chair: Ron Petersen, MD, PhD
Co-Chair: Raymond Roos, MD
Na Tosha Gatson, MD, PhD
Walter Koroshetz, MD
Ralph Sacco, MD
Phyllis C. Zee, MD

Health Disparities Subcommittee

Chair: Bruce Ovbiagele, MD, MSc, MAS
Co-Chair: Jose E. Cavazos, MD, PhD
Merit Cudkowicz, MD
James Grotta, MD
Mark Mehler, MD
Eugene Scharf, MD

Rev. February 2021