



**American Brain Foundation
Governance Committee Meeting
April 28, 2022
10:00 a.m. CST
Video Conference Call**

In attendance: James Grotta, MD, Chair; Frances Jensen, MD; Alyx Porter, MD; Mary Post;

Excused: David Dodick, MD

Staff: Jane Ransom, ED; Kim Howard, Samantha Ross

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. CST by Dr. James Grotta.

The Governance Committee meeting minutes of February 2, 2022 were approved unanimously.

Ad Hoc Committee on Conflict of Interest – Presented by James Grotta

- We're still looking at wording for our Conflict of Interest statement, needing to include financial, goal orientation, and diversity issues. Are board members taking part in activities that are in conflict with the ABF's goals?
- Jim and Sean Sansiveri are working on a subcommittee covering this. A meeting to discuss the drafted policy will take place prior to the upcoming Board Meeting in May.
- Procedure will be part of the discussion.
- Policy can be sent to the Governance committee via email for approval prior to the Board Meeting.

2022 Board Recruitment Needs – Presented by Jane Ransom

- Review of "Graduating Classes", showing when board members are expected to have their terms expire. We're currently sitting with 15 voting board members, which is between the minimum (5) and maximum (21) numbers stipulated by our bylaws.
- Currently, we have 9 neurologists and 6 non-neurologist voting members. A 50/50 split is ideal.
- By 1/1/24, we'd have 11 voting board members, with 8 neurologists and 3 non-neurologists.
- We've had three resignations this year (two from conflict of interest, and one from general resignation). With those three losses, we've lost significant finance and fundraising skills on the board.
- We can absolutely work towards greater diversity on the board, in terms of age, gender, and ethnic background.
- We'd like to gain board members from across the country, especially in "centers of wealth".
- Ideally, we'd like to add people to the board this year ("class of 2027"), who'd be able to give input as we work towards honing our mission and strategic planning.
- Dr. Jensen comments on the diversity of viewpoints on the Governance Committee. Focusing on academic neurologists could be a richer resource for increasing our diversity, as opposed to the non-neurological group. We also need to make sure that we have a diversity of conditions that are the focus of board members, as opposed to a

majority being focused on only a few diseases. We don't currently have anyone working on neuroinfectious disease, for example, and only one focused on headache.

Board Short List Results Discussion – Presented by James Grotta

- We had five responses to our survey, which helped highlight several potential candidates to approach.
- Looking at the public candidates, Dr. Grotta was concerned about the lack of finance-focused candidates, but Dr. Berger-Sweeney, Kevin Systrom, and William Fisher could be potential options.
- Dr. Cheryl Pegus, Dr. Joanne Berger-Sweeney, and Dr. Quinones-Hinojosa would bring diversity. Dr. Pegus's work with Walmart and Atria do merit further discussion. (Additional Walmart connections with Melani Lowman-Walton, also on the long-list.)
- On the Neurological side, Dr. Leslie-Mazwi would be a wonderful addition, and was supported by four votes on our survey.
- Dr. Hauser, who's just received an award from the ABF, could be a great fit, as well. He's currently chairing our Neuroinflammation initiative.
- Dr. Jensen mentioned Dr. Pennell as a potential replacement for her or Dr. French in the future.
- Suggestion was put forward to add 1-2 neurologists to the board as of 1/1/2023, approaching Dr. Thabele Leslie-Mazwi and Dr. Stephen Hauser.
- For the Public Candidates, approaching Dr. Berger-Sweeney, Kevin Systrom, William Fisher, Dr. Cheryl Pegus, Dr. Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, and Jeff Lurie.
- Jane will start to organize calls with potential members, including the members of the Governance Committee as personal connections.

Dr. Grotta adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.