



## AMERICAN BRAIN FOUNDATION

Governance Committee

November 14, 2022

2:30pm CST

Virtual Meeting

Attendees	James Grotta, MD, Chair; Frances Jensen, MD; Alyx Porter, MD; David Dodick, MD; Mary Post
Staff	Jane Ransom, Executive Director; Kim Howard, Samantha Ross
Guest	Robert Griggs, MD

	AGENDA ITEM <i>*Indicates Board Action Needed</i>	PRESENTED BY
10:00 am CT	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of the April 28<sup>th</sup> &amp; October 27<sup>th</sup> 2022 Minutes</li> </ul>	Jim Grotta, MD
10:05	<b>Recommend Research Advisory Committee (RAC) members for first terms beginning 1/1/23</b> <p><i>We need to add three people and are recommending the top three on this list which is ranked from highest to lowest:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa M. Shulman, MD, FAAN</li> <li>Beth Stevens, PhD</li> <li>Benjamin Tolchin, MD, MS, FAAN</li> <li>Richard M. Ransohoff, MD</li> <li>Mathula Thangarajh, MD, PhD, FAAN</li> <li>Michael A. Yassa, PhD</li> <li>Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, PhD</li> <li>Eyal Kimchi, MD, PhD</li> <li>Audrey C. Brumback, MD, PhD</li> </ul> <p><u>Please refer to attached memo for complete list of nominees.</u></p>	Robert Griggs, MD, Chair, Research Advisory Committee
10:20	<b>Recommend Renewed Terms for sitting RAC Members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jose Biller, MD, for 2<sup>nd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>Jaqueline French, MD, for 2<sup>nd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>Na Tosha Gatson, MD, for 2<sup>nd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>James Grotta, MD, for 3<sup>rd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>Walter Koroshetz, MD for 2<sup>nd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>Bruce Ovbiagele, MD, for 2<sup>nd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>Ronald Petersen, MD, for 2<sup>nd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>Gordon Smith, MD, for 2<sup>nd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>Reisa Spearling, MD, for 2<sup>nd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> <li>Phyllis Zee, MD, for 3<sup>rd</sup> term beginning 1/1/23</li> </ul>	Robert Griggs, MD

10:30	<b>Approve Vice Chair of RAC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jose Cavazos, MD</li> </ul>	Robert Griggs, MD
10:40	<b>Approve Initial Invitations for ABF Advisory Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lenora Higginbotham, MD</li> <li>• Anna Goodheart</li> <li>• Laura Miller Rogen</li> <li>• Susannah Cahalan</li> <li>• Ben Utecht</li> <li>• Susan Williams</li> <li>• Jeff Lurie</li> <li>• Jim Cramer</li> <li>• Emilia Clark</li> <li>• Demaurice Smith</li> <li>• Sanjay Gupta</li> <li>• Michael Hill</li> <li>• Peter Goadsby</li> <li>• Kevin Goodno</li> <li>• Jeffrey Rosenfeld, MD</li> <li>• Lisa Shulman, MD</li> <li>• Ralph Jozefowicz, MD</li> <li>• Jim Stevens, MD</li> <li>• Gordon Smith, MD</li> <li>• Martin Shenkman</li> <li>• Dan Gasby</li> </ul>	David Dodick, MD
11:00	<b>Meeting adjourns</b>	

**Other Materials:**

- Draft Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2022 (page 3)
- Draft Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2022 (page 5)
- Recommendation from Research Advisory Committee for additional members (page 7)
- Revised Charter for Research Advisory Committee (page 10)



**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

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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

Dr. Grotta and Sean Sansiveri are working as a subcommittee to revise ABF's conflict of interest policy. Their draft will be presented for a vote at the May Board meeting. The policy will be sent to the Governance Committee for review prior to the Board meeting.

Board Recruitment Needs

Jane Ransom reviewed the current Board on a chart showing when their final terms will expire. Currently ABF has 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 the ideal, so we need to recruit more non-neurologists.

Because of some resignations earlier this year, we've lost significant finance and fundraising skills on the board. There is plenty of room to diversify the board much further, in terms of age, gender, geography, race, and ethnicity.

Dr. Jensen commented that 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 brain diseases and 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

Dr. Grotta reported that we have had five responses to our board 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. (An additional Walmart connection is with Melani Lowman-Walton, also on the long-list.)

On the neurologic side, Dr. Leslie-Mazwi would be a wonderful addition, and was supported by four votes on our survey. Dr. Hauser, who just received the Scientific Breakthrough 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.

The committee agreed 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, the committee would like us to approach 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.

DRAFT



**American Brain Foundation  
Governance Committee Meeting  
October 27, 2022  
10:00 a.m. CST  
Video Conference Call**

**In attendance:** Frances Jensen, MD; Alyx Porter, MD; David Dodick, MD

**Excused:** James Grotta, MD, Chair; Mary Post

**Staff:** Jane Ransom, Executive Director; Emily Christian; Samantha Ross

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The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. CST by Jane Ransom. The July 28, 2022 minutes were approved unanimously.

**Recommend Board Members for first terms beginning 1/1/2023 – Presented by Jane Ransom**

- Kelley Lubanko (previously approved prior to the cancelled September board meeting)
- Stephen Hauser, MD (previously approved prior to the cancelled September board meeting)
- Bay Leslie-Mazwi, MD
- Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, MD
  - o *Due to a recent appointment as Dean of Research at Mayo Clinic, he is concerned about not being able to devote enough time to the Board, but his contributions would still be welcome and valuable.*
- This slate of members does meet our expectation for geographical diversity, but Dr. Jensen did raise a concern that we've got a lot of Mayo Clinic representation, and we should make an effort to diversify our affiliations in the future.
- Motion made by Dr. Porter to approve and recommend this group to the Board. Seconded by Dr. Jensen.

**Recommend Renewed Terms for sitting Board Members – Presented by Jane Ransom**

- Ron Petersen, MD, for 3rd term beginning 1/1/23
- Alyx Porter, MD, for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Ben Lenail, 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Jane recommended speaking with each board member to confirm their interest in another term. Dr. Jensen made a motion to confirm, Dodick seconded, confirmed unanimously.

**Recommend Research Advisory Committee (RAC) members for first terms beginning 1/1/23 – Presented by Jane Ransom**

- Lisa Shulman, MD
- Benjamin Tolchin, MD
- Mathula Thangarajah, MD
- These three names were highlighted by Dr. Griggs from a larger list created by RAC nominations. The Governance committee suggested further oversight by the RAC as a whole. ABF staff will survey the RAC for their thoughts.

**Recommend Renewed Terms for sitting RAC Members – Presented by Jane Ransom**

- Jose Biller, MD, for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Jaqueline French, MD, for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Na Tosha Gatson, MD, for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- James Grotta, MD, for 3rd term beginning 1/1/23
- Walter Koroshetz, MD for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Bruce Ovbiagele, MD, for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Ronald Petersen, MD, for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Gordon Smith, MD, for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Reisa Spearling, MD, for 2nd term beginning 1/1/23
- Phyllis Zee, MD, for 3rd term beginning 1/1/23
- Jane recommended speaking with each RAC member to confirm their interest in another term. Dr. Porter moved to approve, approved unanimously.

#### Approve Vice Chair of RAC – Presented by Jane Ransom

- Dr. Jose Cavazos, MD, for 1st term beginning 1/1/23
- Our bylaws currently call for a RAC Chair (currently Dr. Griggs), but we don't stipulate for a Vice-Chair. He would like to appoint Dr. Cavazos for the role and has already spoken to him about it. The Governance Committee counter-suggested Dr. Grotta, Dr. Sperling, Dr. French, or another member with more organizational background and stature in the field (Dr. Zee has already declined). Adding a second Vice Chair or stipulating in the by-laws that the Vice Chair position isn't automatically the next Chair, but simply assisting the Chair, would be welcome.
- More defined steps on this process should be created. ABF and Governance Committee will draw up a process, which will be presented to the RAC before the slate of potential new RAC members, confirmation of term renewals and the selection of Vice Chair(s).
- Having Dr. Griggs present for meetings such as this would also smooth the process.

A new Governance meeting will be set up prior to the next Board meeting (11/18/22) to review the RAC charter changes.

Jane adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.



To: Governance Committee

From: Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD

Date: October 21, 2022

Subject: Proposed Research Advisory Committee Members

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the American Brain Foundation seeks to appoint up to six new members to expand the breadth of the committee's expertise and experience.

The RAC currently has 14 members, including the Chair; the committee roster is included below for reference. The committee members' areas of expertise include ALS, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, epilepsy, genetics, neurodegeneration, neuromuscular disease, neurooncology, sleep, and stroke.

Members of the committee serve 2-year terms, which may be renewed up to three times. Extension of these terms requires approval from the ABF Board of Directors. Newly appointed members of the RAC would serve their first term from January 2023 to December 2025.

ABF seeks to add the following areas of expertise to the RAC: autism, behavioral neurology and neuropsychology, clinical trials, health disparities, and movement disorders. ABF also seeks to ensure that the RAC represents diverse experiences, points of view, and careers, and that committee members are committed to the ABF's Cure One, Cure Many approach to research.

The following candidates have been put forward by current members of the RAC, Board, and ABF staff:

**Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, PhD** is Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences in the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute at Columbia University, and a 2022 recipient of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Science Diversity Leadership Award. Dr. Abdus-Saboor's research aims to increase the fundamental understanding of inflammatory pain by mapping behavior, modifying peripheral genes, and constructing longitudinal brain-wide activity networks.

**Audrey C. Brumback, MD, PhD** is Assistant Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, where she leads the Brumback Lab. Her research focuses on developing novel therapies for brain dysfunction based on modulation of neurophysiology. Brumback's goal is to develop brain-circuit-based therapies for the developmental neuropsychiatric disorders she treats in her clinical practice. She was a recipient of the 2022 Seed Grant for DEI in Autism Research, funded by the ABF.

**Eyal Kimchi, MD, PhD** is Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, where he leads the Kimchi Lab. Dr. Kimchi leads translational research on the brain networks and dynamic rhythms that support clear thinking with a focus on treating delirium through AI development of biomarkers. Dr. Kimchi was a 2014 recipient of a Clinical Research Training Scholarship, funded by ABF.

**Richard M. Ransohoff, MD** is Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer at Abata Therapeutics, and Venture Partner at Third Rock Ventures. His research focuses on the role of inflammation across the spectrum of neurological diseases, and he has extensive experience with pharmaceutical clinical trials. Dr. Ransohoff served on the ABF's Neuroinflammation Scientific Committee, which met in August 2022.

**Lisa M. Shulman, MD, FAAN** is Eugenia Brin Endowed Professor of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. In addition to neurology, her diverse background includes training in health policy, nursing and education, and her major research interest is the impact of chronic neurologic diseases such as Parkinson disease on daily function and quality of life. Dr. Shulman previously served on the Board of Directors of both the ABF and AAN.

**Beth Stevens, PhD** is Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and at the F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Stevens's research seeks to understand how neuron-glia communication facilitates the formation, elimination and plasticity of synapses during both healthy development and disease. Dr. Stevens served on the ABF's Neuroinflammation Scientific Committee, which met in August 2022. She is a 2015 MacArthur "Genius Grant" fellow.

**Mathula Thangarajh, MD, PhD, FAAN** is Assistant Professor of Neurology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Thangarajh's research studies brain development in muscular dystrophy and technology-enabled developmental tools for cognitive surveillance. She previously served on the AAN Science Committee, and was a 2015 recipient of a Clinical Research Training Scholarship, funded by the ABF.

**Benjamin Tolchin, MD, MS, FAAN** is Director of the Center for Bioethics at Yale New Haven Health, and Assistant Professor of Neurology at Yale School of Medicine. His research focuses on the impact of crisis standards of care and triage protocols on racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic health disparities, and he has a clinical and research focus on functional neurological disorders and epilepsy. Dr. Tolchin was a 2015 recipient of a Practice Research Training Scholarship, funded by the ABF.

**Michael A. Yassa, PhD** is the James L. McGaugh Endowed Chair and Director of the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, Director of the UCI Brain Initiative, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Professor in the departments of Neurobiology and Behavior, Neurology, Psychiatry and Human Behavior, and Psychological Science at the University of California Irvine. His research focuses on how our brains encode and store information into memories and how memories are used to guide everyday decisions.



## Research Advisory Committee Terms

Research Advisory Committee Members		Member Terms			
		End 1 <sup>st</sup> Term	End 2 <sup>nd</sup>	End 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Extension
1.	Robert Griggs, Chair	12/31/2017	12/31/2019	12/31/2021	
2.	Jose Biller	12/31/2022			
3.	Jose E. Cavazos	12/31/2020	12/31/2022		
4.	Jackie French	12/31/2022			
5.	Na Tosha N. Gatson	12/31/2022			
6.	James Grotta	12/31/2020	12/31/2022		
7.	Walter Koroshetz	12/31/2022			
8.	Bruce Ovbiagele	12/31/2022			
9.	Ron Peterson	12/31/2022			
10.	Mark Mehler	12/31/2019	12/31/2021	12/31/2023	
11.	Eugene Scharf	12/31/2019	12/31/2021	12/31/2023	
12.	Gordon Smith	12/31/2022			
13.	Reisa Spearling	12/31/2022			
14.	Phyllis Zee	12/31/2020	12/31/2022		

\*updated 2.1.2022



## 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 with 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 research~~ Recommend -interdisciplinary and disease-specific funding for research in alignment with ABF's strategic plan ~~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

Upon receiving recommendations from the Research Advisory Committee, approved by the Governance Committee and Board of Directors, ~~¶~~ 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.

Upon receiving recommendation from the Research Advisory Committee, approved by the Governance Committee and Board of Directors, ~~¶~~ the Chair of ABF shall appoint a chair of the Research Advisory Committee. A vice chair of the committee may be appointed upon recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee, approved by the Governance Committee and Board of Directors. The Vice Chair does not automatically succeed the current chair. 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.