



**American Brain Foundation  
Executive Committee Meeting  
May 5, 2022  
10:00 a.m. CT  
Video Conference Call**

**In Attendance:** David Dodick, MD, Chair; Ben Lenail, Vice Chair; Jacqueline French, MD, Secretary

**Excused:** James Essey, Treasurer;

**Staff:** Jane Ransom, ED; Kim Howard

**Call to Order – David Dodick**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CT by David Dodick. The members approved the minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting unanimously.

**Board Chair Remarks – David Dodick**

Following the success of our recent initiative on Lewy Body Dementia, the American Brain Foundation (ABF) is launching a new major funding initiative to support research to understand neuroinflammation as an underlying mechanism of brain disease and brain health. Dr. Stephen Hauser will be chairing the initiative, and a meeting was held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 that included representatives from the following organizations:

- ALS Association
- Alzheimer's Association
- Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Fund
- Alzheimer's Research UK
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Epilepsy Society
- American Heart Association
- Bristol Myers Squibb
- CURE Epilepsy
- The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy
- Genentech
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Parkinson's Foundation

The participants in the meeting had a general sense of enthusiasm to participate and co-create an RFP. Dr. Dodick is confident that we'll be able to synthesize ideas from all of the participating parties and raise significant funds for this worthwhile cause. Dr. French suggests that each organization (or group of organizations, if there's a shared focus) could create a document outlining their current perception of how neuroinflammation affects their focus condition, including biomarkers and directions of treatment. This would give us a better idea on how to approach research in a way that reflects the spirit of "Cure One, Cure Many". The suggestion should ideally come from Dr. Hauser.

The Governance Committee met to discuss potential new Board Members (both from within the neurological community and beyond it). This is even more pressing considering the recent departure of Suzanne Miller from the Board. After examining our current Board survey, outreach has begun with new

candidates, ideally adding 2-3 public board members, and 2 neurologists. We'd like to prioritize candidates with finance experience and diverse backgrounds.

### **Conflict of Interest Policies and Procedures – David Dodick**

Jim Grotta and Sean Sansiveri have been working on this policy. A draft of the proposed Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure will be circulated for comment to the Governance and Executive Committees prior to the May 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting where we hope to approve the new policy.

### **Discussion of Agenda for May 13, 2022 Board Meeting – David Dodick/Jane Ransom**

*(Specific running order is subject to change, but this is the current draft of the agenda:)*

Following the Call to Order, Jane will provide an Executive Director Report focusing on the ongoing Strategic Planning process. Orly Avitzur will give the AAN Report regarding the Annual Meeting, followed by the Financial Report from Jim Essey and Ralph Leslie. Sean Sansiveri and Emily Christian will then give a summary of the Commitment to Cures 2022 event. Following a break, the Board will regroup to discuss Strategic Planning (the ABF's Vision and Mission), followed by the Conflict of Interest Policies and Procedures (which could be turned into a consent agenda item).

Jane may cede some of her time to Dr. Griggs to discuss the Neuroinflammation Initiative. Ben Lenail also mentioned the idea of bringing in an outside speaker to the meeting, as well. Dr. Dodick was speaking with Genentech the day of the Executive Committee meeting, and will gauge their interest in giving a ten minute talk and brief Q&A.

An updated agenda will be sent to attendees prior to the meeting.

### **Strategic Planning Timeline and Assignments – Jane Ransom**

Jane shared a general timeline for Strategic Planning:

- 13 May: Board of Directors Meeting: Launch process with review of vision and mission.
- 1 August: Deliver recommendations to Executive Committee.
- 4 August: Executive Committee: Receive strategy recommendations from work groups and provide feedback.
- 1 September: Deliver revised recommendations to Board of Directors.
- 11-12 September: Board of Directors Meeting: Review draft strategic plan update and provide feedback.
- 3 November: Recommend final strategic plan update:
- 18 November: Board of Directors Meeting: Approve final document. Deliver financial forecast to Board.

Research Strategy (created in tandem with the Research Advisory Committee):

- By 2030, what will be the ABF's impact on brain disease research?
- How will our impact be achieved and measured?
- What investments must we make to get there?

Fundraising Strategy (with a Board/Staff Committee including Emily Christian, Kim Howard, Lisa Dahlberg, Julia Miglets-Nelson, Dr. Porter, and Dr. Jensen)

- What fundraising model will be supporting the Foundation as we envision it in 2030?
- What is the glide path to a 2030 where the ABF has steady and stable operating revenue?
- What investments are needed to get there?

Public Awareness Strategy (with a Board/Staff Committee including Emily Christian, Liam Moore, Dr. Dodick, Dan Gasby, and Dr. French)

- Who will be our primary/secondary audiences in 2030, and how will we measure awareness?
- What will the foundation be known and valued for in 2030?

- What investments are needed to get there?

Aligned Partnership Strategy (AAN/ABF Joint Leadership Committee including Orly Avitzur, Mary Post, Natalia Rost, David Dodick, Jane Ransom, Berch Griggs)

- By 2030, through what partnerships will the ABF have an impact on brain disease research?
- How will our impact be achieved and measured?
- What investments are needed to get there?

Financial Strategy (created in tandem with the Finance Committee)

- How can we accelerate growth with our unrestricted net assets?
- At what pace can we expect to grow?
- What ROI should key investors expect?

Jane suggests making sure to add interested parties from the AAN to these strategic committees and keeping them involved in the conversation. Dr. Dodick also recommends bringing in former Board members who might have been around during the creation of the previous Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m. CT.