



**American Brain Foundation
Research Advisory Committee Meeting**

October 14, 2022

3:00 p.m. ET / 2:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. PT

Zoom Call

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Robert Griggs, MD, Chair; Jose Biller, MD; Jose E. Cavazos, MD, PhD; David Dodick, MD; Jacqueline French, MD; Na Tosha Gatson, MD, PhD; James Grotta, MD; Walter Koroshetz, MD; Mark Mehler, MD; Ronald Petersen, MD, PhD;

Staff: Jane Ransom, ED; Julia Miglets-Nelson, PhD; Samantha Ross; Michelle Maxwell; Kelly Ricker

Excused: Paul George, MD, PhD; Bruce Ovbiagele, MD, MSc, MAS; Mary Post, MBA, CAE; Eugene Scharf, MD; Gordon Smith, MD; Reisa Sperling, MD, MMSc; Phyllis C. Zee, MD;

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Dr. Robert Griggs at 2:02 p.m. CT. The meeting minutes of July 15, 2022, were approved. Jane introduces Kelly Ricker, Chief Learning Officer at the AAN.

Research Advisory Committee Terms and Nominations – presented by Julia Miglets-Nelson

- Survey will go out asking for nominations for new RAC members. What gaps do we need to fill? Members serve 2-year terms, renewable up to three terms. This year, we are not anticipating any members “termining out”.
- Dr. Cavazos will be our new Vice Chair.
- RAC Meeting Dates for 2023 will be going out soon.
 - o If you are unable to continue your participation on the 2023 RAC roster, please contact Julia or Samantha.

Neuroinflammation Initiative Update – Presented by Jacqueline French

- Ten member scientific committee (including Dr. Hauser) convened this summer, honing in on which aspect of this broad topic to focus on. We plan to put out a more general RFP, asking applicants to identify relevant areas of interest, also considering DEI, cross-disciplinary research.
- \$10 million initiative
 - o Some organizations are on the fence about financing the project, as there is no guarantee that “their” condition will be covered. Many nibbles, but few definite bites.
- AAN has agreed to administer the award and process

Neuroinflammation Initiative Fundraising – Presented by Jane Ransom

- ABF Staff is currently meeting with potential funding partners
- 40+ prospective donors, with conversations ongoing (list included in meeting materials). Each funding call is attended by a neurologist as well as the ABF staff.
 - o Nonprofit, industry/pharma, and institutional prospects, many of whom we already have existing relationships with through previous projects.

- Dr. French mentions that some industry/pharma companies may request right of first refusal on any developed research.
 - If you are aware of other organizations with which you have connections, or think of other opportunities, please reach out to Jane or Julia.
 - Dr. Grotta mentions: “The major focus of inflammation [in stroke] is reperfusion injury so would engage companies like Medtronic and Stryker and others who make endovascular catheters”
 - Dr. Mehler suggests tapping into the DoD, which may have a vested interest in TBIs. (Dr. French mentions that CURE Epilepsy has previously gotten financing from the DoD, so there may be a pathway.)
 - Meta and Microsoft seem to be dipping their toes into the water of neurological fundraising, and there may also be an opportunity to work with the American Heart Association.
 - Dr. Cavazos mentioned the NIH and HHMI (Howard Hughes Medical Institute).
- ABF needs to secure at least \$5 million by 2/2023 to “green light” a 7/2023 RFP. Jane is realistic, but optimistic, that organizations are interested in helping us reach that goal.

2023 Scientific Breakthrough Award – presented by Berch Griggs

- Awarded at C2C 2023, pending the approval of the RAC and Board.
- Proposed co-recipients are Vanda Lennon (Mayo) and Josep Dalmau (University of Barcelona).
- 2 recusals for conflict of interest (Dodick & Petersen), but otherwise unanimously approved.
- All applications that were not chosen this year will be considered for next year’s award.

Health Disparities Seed Grants – presented by Jose Cavazos

- What kinds of disparities projects would we like to see be funded by \$100k seed grants to clinical researchers? How do we emphasize projects aimed not only at understanding disparities, but addressing them and moving towards equity?
- Are there gaps in the neurology career pipeline that these proposed grants could fill?
 - Many institutions are concerned about the lack of BIPOC representation among their ranks. How can these organizations and academic institutions increase their DEI?
- How can we ensure that researchers involve community partners in their funded projects?
- What other organizations might be interested in partnering to offer similar seed funding in the future?
 - Jane mentioned that the Alzheimer's Association would be willing to match \$250k in funding.
 - Dr Koroshetz: “NIH a good source for grants aimed at improving health equity in dementia. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-23-001.html>”
- If you have suggestions on how to optimize the wording in the Draft RFA (pages 8-10 in the meeting materials), please contact Dr. Cavazos.

Meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.