

Indiana Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Research Fund Board

Meeting Agenda

March 1, 2023 4:30 pm

Neurosciences NB Room 100 (next to Goodman Hall)

Parking Instructions: Park in the Neuroscience Center parking garage at 362 W 15th St. After parking, enter the IU Health Neuroscience Center from the 1st floor of the garage. Walk towards the east end of the building, pass the information desk, pass Sonny's Bistro, and enter the Neurosciences Research Building (NB) near the eating area just outside of Sonny's. Upon entering NB, the conference room is on your right.

Zoom Information

Join from computer or mobile:

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/82541568712>

Meeting ID: 825 4156 8712

Join by Telephone

One tap mobile (US): +13092053325,82541568712# or +13126266799,82541568712#

I. Attendees

Board Members

1. Henry Feuer – *Chair* - **present**
2. Janeen Earwood – **unable to attend**
3. Michael Freeman – **present**
4. Kira Hudson – **not present**
5. Bruce Lamb - **not present**
6. Wade Lange – **remote presence**
7. Kyle Littell -**present**
8. Sachin Mehta – **remote presence**
9. Whitney Pratt - **present**
10. Howard Zelaznik - **present**

Supporting Staff:

1. Brian Busching, IDoH - **present**
2. Murray Lawry, IDoH – **not present**
3. Julie Driscoll, ICTSI - **present**

Guests:

1. Andy Saykin, IUSM – **remote presence**

II. Agenda Topics

1. Introduction of Michael Freeman (PALS) – *Hank Feuer*
 - **Noted that this is a governor appointed position**
 - **Need new member to replace Annette Seabrook**
 - **This would be a governor appointed position. Whitney is looking for possible nominations. Members recommended looking for someone at CHI, including the staff member who replaced Annette. Members should send recommendations to Dr. Feuer for consideration.**
 - **Noted that all five members who were due to renew were renewed thanks to Brian's follow up.**
 2. Approval of October Meeting minutes – *Hank Feuer*
 - **Drs. Zelaznik and Freeman moved to approve the minutes and they were unanimously approved.**
 3. Financial Update – Brian Busching
 - **Note: CTSI contract adjusted to take into account the new RFA schedule**
 - **Note: NCE requests in process for ISCBIR and ABT awards**
 - **The IDOH is pleased to announce they have secured a new CFO**
 - **Brian presented the current financial outlook. Approximately \$800K is available for awards which could translate to 8 basic awards and 2 ABT (1 SCI and 1 TBI)**
 - **Brian reviewed the amounts of outstanding awards and their spend down as of year 2 (FY23).**
- ACTION:** Brian will work with the CTSI to determine any barriers the organizations that are not spending

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might have encountered.

4. ABT Review: Funding Approval – *Hank Feuer*

- Whitney Pratt attended as Board liaison
- Members discussed the goal for the ABT RFA: science vs benefits of employing ABT for TBI & SCI
- Based on the review scores, indicating that none of the applications were considered excellent (the typical range considered “fundable”) members proposed not funding any of the applications and escrowing \$150K for additional funding in another cycle. Members voted 8 – 1 on this motion. Mr. Freeman did not approve of this motion
- Members agreed that the RFA should be revised and an ad hoc committee (Mr. Freeman and Drs. Mehta and Littell) was formed

ACTION:

- Halt on ABT awards until guidance received from Brian.
- Brian will investigate whether funding is required, and if so, what is required.
- Julie will send the ABT RFA to Mr. Freeman and Drs. Mehta and Littell for revision
- Mr. Freeman and Drs. Mehta and Littell will present ABT RFA recommendations to the Board.

5. ISCBIR Review: Funding Approval – *Hank Feuer*

- Update on ISCBIR Review Process – *Andy Saykin*
- Wade Lange and Howard Zelaznik attended as Board Liaisons
- Members noted that the purpose of having Dr. Saykin present to the Board, post review, was to ensure that the RFA was well publicized and reviewed and that there was not a bias during the discussions that would have downgraded the clinical applications in favor of the the basic science ones. Based on his reports and that of Dr. Zelaznik and Mr. Lange, the Board is satisfied that the reviews are conducted in rigorous, unbiased and sound manner.
- Dr. Saykin discussed the succession plan for review chairs since all three current review chairs will be stepping down. Both Drs. Riyi Shi and Brenna McDonald have accepted and the invitation to Dr. Nicholas Port is pending. Members requested that a clinician also serve as co-chair and suggested approach Shelley Timmons’ replacement.
- After reviewing the ISCBIR Review Chairs’ funding recommendations the Board noted that the top recommendations:
 - Did not include a clinical application. However, clinical projects could use the feedback to apply to other sources of funding or to resubmit in 2024 so there is benefit to them, even if they are not funded this round
 - Did not include an early commercialization project. There was only one application in this round as there are probably not many working in this field. This project should be referred to the CTSI’s Device Think Tank Project Manager for assistance. The RFA should also be circulated to the this Project Manager to encourage applications.

AGREED: Members voted unanimously to fund the top 8 ISCBIR applications.

ACTION:

- Julie will work with the current review chairs to secure a clinician as chair as well
- Julie will begin the funding process for the top 8 applications

6. Bylaws Discussion: How are members re-elected and how often? – *Brian Busching*

- Consider moving the non governor appointments to a 4 year appointment but staggered so that not all renewals are on the same cycle
- Dr. Zelaznik recommended that the language in the bylaws should be revised from “reapply” to “reappoint”
- Noted that the bylaws should reflect a more formal process for nominating and inviting new members.

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Need to follow the bylaws for reinstating the chair, or electing a new one, as well.

ACTION: Brian will revise the bylaws to reflect the membership and nomination process, as well as the process for reinstating the chair or installing a new one.

7. Additional Discussion? – *All*

- Annual meeting?
- Brian noted that a conservative estimate of finance might allow for conference development next year (2024).
- Members agreed that hosting the conference in the summer of 2024 might generate interest in the RFA, traditionally posted in September.
- Consider focusing on ABT as the conference theme
- Noted that location is important. Goodman Hall would again serve as a cost effective, central location.

ACTION: The IDOH traditionally supplies the event planner and Brian will determine availability for a 2024 conference as well as the cost of the last conference.

8. Next Meeting? – *All*

- No RFAs posted in 2023 for 2024
- The next meeting will be based on Brian's recommendation after learning how the Board is required to proceed with ABT funding.
- If no funding decision is required then the next meeting will be scheduled based on conference planning needs.

ACTION: Julie will identify an April meeting from 4:30 – 5:30 and will cancel if no funding decision is required.

FYI:

- All progress reports were approved in November. One report required additional information but was approved after the final submission

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned at 6:51 PM and Wade Lange seconded. Members voted unanimously to approve.