

Indiana Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Research Fund Board Meeting Agenda

April 17, 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/89431834704>

Meeting ID: 894 3183 4704

Join by Telephone

One tap mobile (US): +13017158592,89431834704# or +13052241968,89431834704#

I. Attendees

Board Members

1. Henry Feuer – *Chair* – present*
2. Janeen Earwood - present
3. Michael Freeman - present
4. Kira Hudson
5. Bruce Lamb – present*
6. Wade Lange – present
7. Kyle Littell – present*
8. Sachin Mehta - present
9. Whitney Pratt – present*
10. Howard Zelaznik - present

Supporting Staff:

1. Brian Busching, IDoH - present
2. Murray Lawry, IDoH
3. Julie Driscoll, ICTSI – present*

*physically present

II. Agenda Topics

1. Approval of March Minutes – *All*
 - Wade Lange motioned that the minutes be approved and Whitney Pratt seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved
2. Review of Member Nomination Ross Nelson – *Hank Feuer*
(see attached CV)
 - Noted that Dr. Nelson was strongly recommended by both Kyle Littel and Whitney Pratt. The issue of his probably remote attendance, given his location, was discussed and deemed to not be a drawback.
 - Howard Zelaznik motioned that Dr. Nelson be put forth as a member and Bruce Lamb seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor of this motion.
 - **ACTION:** Brian will send the information to the Governor's office indicating that Dr. Nelson would fill the PT spot.
3. Update from ad hoc ABT RFA Committee – *Mike Freeman*
 - The ad hoc ABT RFA Committee met and were able to find several articles that defined ABT. Revisions to the RFA are underway to increase the understanding and ability to successfully complete an RFA by program administrators.
 - Noted that the language "ABT" must be kept in the RFA but could provide definitions of what that included.

- Could rename the RFA so that it was more comprehensible and achievable
- The Committee will also be recommending outreach methods to increase subscription and improve the number of high quality submissions.
- Members noted that the policy does not have research in it so the proposals do not have to be research oriented.
- Consider doing an information session on ABT pre RFA to assist prospective applicants learn what reviewers will be looking for.
- Noted that providing examples in the RFA of what would be considered a viable project would be advantageous.
- Consider asking Annette Seabrook (FL) to serve as a reviewer.
- Review criteria could include: does it have merit and indicate outcome measures; should show an increase in the quality of life
- The committee queried whether the funds could be used for new projects, whether they were required to be 501 (c) 3 organizations or not, and whether physical therapists were required to be employed by the organization.
 - **ACTION:** Brian will take these questions back to the IDOH legal team.

4. ABT Funding Discussion – *Hank Feuer*

- Must fund one TBI and one SCI application
- Howard Zelanik proposed not funding either application but after members’ discussion, and noting that the NIH scores were still within the “good” range, this motion was withdrawn.
- **AGREED** to fund the TBI application and provide ½ of the requested funding to each SCI application.
- Prior to funding, Hank Feuer will review the SCI reviewers’ comments and indicate to Julie which comments will be expected to be addressed during the next progress report.**
- **AGREED:** Members present unanimously voted to approve this motion.

5. Update on Bylaws – *Brian Busching*

- Brian noted that the timeline for membership renewal has been staggered. Those newly appointed will be renewed in 2026. Those appointed by institutions will end in the remaining odd years. Brian has made those changes to the bylaws already.
- Members requested that the “United Spinal Association” language be changed to “United Brain Association”
- Members requested clarification on the “paid per diem” policy
- Members noted that it would be advantageous and would put less attendance burden on local members if the rule requiring three members to attend physical could be changed. All meetings are publicized ahead and are open to the public, regardless of method of communication
 - **ACTION:** Brian will inquire about the requested language changes and the potential for changing the attendance policy.

6. Update on 2024 Conference Plans – *Brian Busching*

- Brian is exploring the use of IDOH conference event planner for a 2024 event.
- Noted that they will need to start early to acquire a facility and a keynote speaker
- Consider marketing the conference via billboards / signage on campus

7. Next Meeting? – *All*

- No RFAs posted in 2023 for 2024
- **TBD** when this meeting will be called. Will schedule when conference discussion is needed by the Board.

FYI:

- All FY23 NCEs approved for extension into FY24 and under contract construction

**Email language supplied by the IDOH, post meeting, is as follows:

- Renewed funding is contingent upon, listing those activities Dr. Feuer wants compliance with.

- The date to have them completed and date for reporting the compliance.
- If we don't receive compliance documentation by DATE we will notify you in a separate email that effective DATE the IDOH will begin the process to cancel the contract and will not fund the research from that point.