

Indiana Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Research Fund Board

Meeting Agenda

June 27, 2024 4:30 pm EDT

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/84542218445>

Meeting ID: 845 4221 8445

Join by Telephone

One tap mobile (US): +13052241968,84542218445# or +13092053325,84542218445#

I. Attendees

Board Members

1. Henry Feuer – *Chair- present**
2. Janeen Earwood (excused)
3. Michael Freeman - *present**
4. Kira Hudson
5. Sheryl Katta-Charles – *present*
6. Bruce Lamb - *present**
7. Wade Lange (excused)
8. Sachin Mehta – *present*
9. Ross Nelson – *present*
10. Whitney Pratt - *present**
11. Howard Zelaznik - *present**

*physically present

Supporting Staff:

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

II. Agenda Topics

1. Introduction of New Members – *Henry Feuer*

- New members, Sheryl Katta-Charles & Ross Nelson were welcomed and introduced. Their participation marks the time in many years that the Board had a full complement of members.
- Dr. Zelaznik alerted the IDOH that his title had changed and the IDOH website should be adjusted to reflect “Professor”.

ACTION: Brian to amend IDOH website

2. Approval of April 2023 Minutes – *All*

- Dr. Zelaznik made the motion for approval and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. ISCBIRF Chair Nominations/Voting - *All*

- Brian reminded members that, per the ISCBIR Bylaws, nominations for the Board chair should be made at the Spring meeting with voting via handwritten notes at the Fall Board meeting. Votes would then be counted by Brian and his staff. Noted that chair position must be filled by an active Board member.
- Dr. Zelaznik noted that since meetings are now hybrid the Bylaws should be amended to allow online members the opportunity to vote.
- Dr. Pratt nominated Dr. Feuer and members agreed unanimously.
- Additional nominations before the next meeting should be submitted to Brian.

ACTION: Brian to make recommendations on revised Bylaws at next meeting.

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4. Decision on Posting ISCBIR RFA – *Henry Feuer*

- Members agreed that the current RFA still embodies research activities and creates accessibility to funding. RFA responses continue to be reflective of the kind of research that the Board wants to support. Language may need updating, however.
- Dr. Feuer recommended that the ISCBIR RFA be sent back around for comment. RFA will be finalized at the next meeting.
- Brian indicated that the IDOH still approved a two year contract award

ACTION: Julie will distribute the RFA for wordsmithing and approval at the August meeting.

5. Update from ad hoc ABT RFA Committee – *Mike Freeman*

- Mr. Freeman reviewed the recommended changes from his committee. Goal was to simplify the RFA and clarify what was needed for submitters.
- Recommended that examples of the types of organizations that would qualify for submission should be added to the RFA.

ACTION: Julie will distribute the draft for wordsmithing and approval at the August meeting.

6. Reporting on Active Grants Discussion – *Henry Feuer*

- Brian opened the discussion by asking what board members would consider ‘value add’ and would want to know about their funded projects.
- Dr. Feuer currently reviews all May and November progress reports and could send summary to the Board. Noted, however, that this is only for active projects. Historically, the Board lengthened the number of progress reports in order to capture outcomes but that is no longer possible.
- The Indiana CTSI is hiring a new staff member who could add the identification of external funding and publications potentially associated with funded projects to his/her job responsibilities.
- Recommended that funded researchers present brief summaries of their project outcomes at Board meetings. IDOH could add this requirement to contractual language to ensure that expectations are communicated.

ACTIONS: Brian will explore adding the additional language re: Board meeting participation to contracts and will work with Dr. Feuer to determine the most appropriate next step

7. IDOH Update – *Brian Busching*

- Brian indicated that since the IDOH is working to complete year end accounting, a financial update will be provided when able. Projections indicate that there may be an increase in the amount of funding available for next round.
- Brian discussed the Bylaws clarification requested at the April 2023 meeting.
 - Per diem information was sent out via email by Tami Barrett indicating that all Board members are entitled to per diem and mileage reimbursement. Hotel accommodations can also be expensed if overnight stays are necessary. Noted that this funding would come from the same budget line as the funding of research applications.
 - Confirmed that all meetings must be physically attended by three Board members as required by the State’s open door policy.
 - Confirmed that the ABT applicants must be a tax exempt 501 organization and must employ a physical therapist.
 - Dr. Zelaznik inquired about the nomination / voting process for the Board chair if there is no second nomination. Per Bylaws the second nomination for Chair will succeed as Chair if the current Chair is no longer available. How will this be enacted? Brian indicated that the Board would need to act appropriately and nominate / procure a successor.

ACTION: Brian to consider adjusting bylaws to outline a succession plan in the event there is not a clear

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line of succession for the Chair position.

- The IDOH works with [Blank Page Marketing](#). Plan to continue the discussion at the next meeting to possibly propose a committee to assist in planning for a 2024-2025 conference. Last event was pre COVID. Committee will assist in mapping out location, timeline, etc.
 - Members recommended giving a long runway to allow ample time for planning.
 - Dr. Lamb indicated that Stark has an event planner who would be happy to assist with coordination.
 - Dr. Mehta suggested working in tandem with the Brain Injury Association's plans to host a 2025 conference. Goal of the BIA of Indiana's conference is to present cutting edge research and increase awareness of resources available for survivors and care givers. A joint conference would foster collaborations, break down silos between research and communities and would not divide the audience. Could consider different conference tracks for attendees.
 - Mr. Freeman recommended that first the Board or planning committee should identify the purpose of the ISCBIR conference. Members agreed that part of the goal is to get the word out about the research program and thus the target audience is researchers and therapy providers with the goal of improving patient care.

AGREED: Goal is to have a joint conference in the future but not in the immediate future. Recommend BIA consider developing a track for researchers at their conference.

8. Next Meeting – All

AGREED: Next meeting is in August

ACTION: Julie will send out meeting poll