

MEETING MINUTES

Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research: BOARD MEETING (GRANT REVIEW)

Monday, November 25, 2019 at Noon

1225 Center Drive, HPNP 2309, Gainesville, FL 32610 or Remote Connection via Zoom

Board Members Present:

Roger Fillingim, Chair
Dalton Dietrich
Martha Rosenthal
Eric Holmes
Bill Anderson
Cynthia Hughes-Harris
Max Orezza

Board Members Absent:

Daniel Flynn
Timothy Gilberston

Attendees:

Almut Winterstein, Consortium Director
Bob Cook, Consortium Associate Director
Yan Wang
Juan Hincapie-Castillo
Amie Goodin
Sebastian Jugl
Anna Shavers
Jeevan Jyot

Opening Remarks

Dr. Roger Fillingim of the University of Florida (UF) called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. He welcomed all Board Members and requested Dr. Bill Anderson of Florida International University (FIU) to introduce himself as the newest board member.

Discussion of Grants Program Scoring Method for Awards

The Consortium received 41 applications for the grants program. These proposals were reviewed by ad-hoc out-of-state faculty reviewers with demonstrated expertise in the respective research area. Based on the overall reviewer scores, Dr. Fillingim recommended triaging any application that received a score of 5 or higher (NIH rating scale). All Board Members agreed, and 24 applications remained for review.

Dr. Fillingim proposed retaining only the top application for each principal investigator (PI) applicant. All Board Members agreed, and 20 applications remained for review. Board Members provided feedback and expressed interest in funding proposals that were scientifically meritorious as well as focused on diversity in both research topics and institutional representation. Dr. Fillingim reminded Board Members to keep in mind the research mission defined by State of Florida statute for the Consortium throughout the discussions of funding decisions during the meeting.

Review Grants Program Applicants and Reviewer Scores

The top 20 proposals and their reviewer comments were discussed in detail by the attending board members. Dr. Fillingim briefly described each proposal to the Board and requested comments. Board Members then discussed and agreed to either “*fund*”, “*not fund*” or “*maybe fund*” the proposal. The Board had initially agreed to allocate \$600,000 to the Grants Program. Dr. Winterstein informed the board that the Consortium is waiting for data from the Department of Health (DoH) which has caused delays in hiring additional Consortium support staff. The Board would have to vote to add an additional \$75,000 for the Grants Program. If approved the Board could have \$675,000 to award research proposals. The Board discussed and agreed the new budget for awarding proposals would be \$675,000. At the end of first round of discussions the “*maybe fund*” category of proposals was revisited for final consideration before final funding decisions could be made.

Dr. Fillingim read the names of the PIs and their Institutions whose proposals were selected for funding based on detailed discussions: Dr. Sagen at University of Miami, Dr. Bramlett at University of Miami, Dr. Vaddiparti at University of Florida, Dr. Wilkerson at University of Florida, Dr. Borsa at University of Florida, Dr. Brown at University of Florida, Dr. Sachdeva at Florida A&M University, Dr. Yurasek at University of Florida, Dr. McManus at Florida Gulf Coast University, and Dr. Cippitelli at Florida Atlantic University.

The Board discussed final budgets for each awardee and the total award amount for funding selected proposals was \$648,622.

Vote on Grants Program Applicants

Dr. Fillingim completed a roll call of all voting board members of the Board. The following were in attendance: Dr. Hughes-Harris, Dr. Holmes, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Dietrich, Dr. Rosenthal, and Dr. Orezzaoli. Dr. Fillingim proposed to start the voting process. Dr. Orezzaoli motioned to vote, and Dr. Dietrich seconded the motion. All Board Members present voted in favor of funding the 10 applications discussed. No Board Members opposed the decision, and no Board Members abstained from voting.

Remaining Business

Dr. Fillingim discussed the need to have another face-to-face meeting of the Board in January 2020 and requested a discussion about where and when the meeting will take place. Discussions at prior board meetings included meeting in Orlando at a UCF or UF facility to assist Board Members travelling from southern Florida. All Board Members agreed using Doodle to finalize a date and time.

Dr. Fillingim listed major tasks at the January meeting would be to:

- Discuss and finalize the next Request for Applications (RFA) for the Grants Program.
- Limit the number of applications received by the Consortium. All Board Members agreed to limit only one application per PI. Dr. Fillingim encouraged Board Members to provide further inputs.
- Discussions about priority topics to be included in the RFA

Dr. Fillingim concluded the discussion and thanked Dr. Hincapie-Castillo for all his hard work finding application reviewers and coordinating the grant process this year. Dr. Winterstein introduced 2 new additions to the Consortium’s team: Anna Shavers, Communications Specialist, and Jeevan Jyot, Program Coordinator.

Dr. Winterstein stated that a letter would go out for both awarded and non-awarded applications. The Consortium will include the application reviews and encourage applicants to reapply next year.

Public Comments

The Chair invited comments from the public and none were submitted.

Closing Remarks

Board members thanked the Consortium leadership team for the organization, productivity, and discussion at the meeting.

Adjournment

Dr. Fillingim adjourned the meeting at 2:22 pm.