

MEETING MINUTES

Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research: BOARD MEETING

Thursday, July 23rd, 2020 at 11 AM EST

Zoom Online Meeting

Board Members Present:

Roger Fillingim, Chair
Dalton Dietrich
Martha Rosenthal
William Anderson
Daniel Flynn
Cynthia Hughes-Harris
Timothy Gilbertson

Board Members Absent:

Max Orezza
Eric Holmes

Attendees:

Almut Winterstein, Consortium Director
Robert Cook, Consortium Associate Director
Yan Wang
Joshua Brown
Juan Hincapie-Castillo
Amie Goodin
Sebastian Jugl
Anna Shavers
Jeevan Jyot
Brianna Costales

Opening Remarks

Dr. Roger Fillingim of the University of Florida (UF) called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. He welcomed all the Board Members and thanked everyone for attending.

Budget Updates and Overview of Research Plan

Dr. Almut Winterstein provided an update on the funding received by the state for FY 2020-21. Though the Consortium was funded for \$1.5M there exists the possibility of future cuts because the funding was made available as direct state appropriation to the University of Florida. Dr. Winterstein was advised internally to expect up to 15% reduction. Additionally, as state appropriation, the funds are not subject to IDC but rather RCM. The current FY 21 budget was planned based on anticipated budget retroactive adjustments and the RCM deduction. Dr. Dietrich commented that considering the state budget cuts it was good news that the consortium continues to be funded and a testament to the value the state places to the Consortium.

Dr. Winterstein informed the board that the consortium had received approval from BOG to carry residual forward until Dec 2020 and that this allows for extension of the 2019 grants and allows for the use of residual funds originally allocated to MEMORY.

Dr. Winterstein provided a recap of the 2020 Research Agenda organized into the originally established 5 Consortium pillars, which was approved by the board in January. In the previous budget year, the Grants program award cycle has been completed. The infrastructure & architecture for MEMORY is completed and data is awaited from DoH. The Clinical core is conducting a provider survey and a web-based patient recruitment platform has been approved and implemented. The Outreach activities involved publishing 3 newsletters and hosting a website, along with an AMMPA conference exhibit. The Expert group developed the research priorities.

The Research plan for 2020 will involve continuing the grants program with the addition of research priorities, a patient registry pilot study, publishing emerging evidence reviews in the Consortium's journal Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids and developing patient/provider web resources (modeled on MotherToBaby site), as well as holding a MMJ Clinical Outcomes Research symposium. Dr. Joshua Brown was introduced as the new Faculty Lead for MEMORY, who will also collaborate with Dr. Goodin on evidence dissemination.

Planning Committee for Prospective Cohort Recruitment

Dr. Cook presented plans for a patient registry pilot that will supplement information in MEMORY. This registry will provide a platform for consortium researchers to access patients and medical practices, as well as an opportunity to build collaborations amongst researchers, providers, and community. This will involve creating a Medical Marijuana Registry Planning Group of researchers from participating universities and Medical marijuana physicians. The group will develop an initial questionnaire to collect baseline information, obtain IRB approval to enroll at least 100 participants for the pilot. The registry de-identified data will be available to all consortium researchers and lead to development of the Infrastructure for a larger ongoing registry enabling longitudinal studies. Dr. Rosenthal suggested exploring collaborations with marijuana tracking apps as they could be potential data resources for linkages. Dr. Cook agreed that there is potential in working with these companies and we could explore merging these datasets in the future.

Consortium Symposium

Discussion was invited by Dr. Winterstein on ideas for holding the symposium in February 2021. Several alternatives in light of the COVID-19 situation were presented. All board members were in favor of holding a virtual conference which could either be limited to researchers in participating universities or something more widespread involving providers, clinicians and exhibitors. Dr. Goodin will oversee the Symposium organization and will put together and share a plan later with the board.

Proposal of Budget for FY21

Dr. Winterstein presented the FY 21 budget breakdown for the Consortium by activities such as coordination, grants program, repository development, registry development, consortium board meetings, communications, evidence dissemination, office supplies, travel, IRB, publication costs. There were no questions asked.

Vote on Budget Approval

Dr. Fillingim proposed to start the voting process. The following were in attendance: Dr. Hughes-Harris, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Dietrich, Dr. Flynn, Dr. Rosenthal, and Dr. Gilbertson. Dr. Rosenthal motioned to vote, and Dr. Flynn seconded the motion. All Board Members present voted in favor of approving the presented budget. No Board Members opposed the decision, and no Board Members abstained from voting. The consortium budget for FY21 was unanimously approved by the board.

Dr. Fillingim suggested promoting the symposium and generating materials related to the symposium for publication in our Journal. Dr. Winterstein stated that the Journal had agreed to do so and also agreed to print handouts etc. Dr. Dietrich inquired about the next steps for assembling the registry planning group. Dr. Cook proposed sending an email template to the board members for circulation within their institutions and inviting representation for the registry planning committee.

Dr. Winterstein announced plans for the next board meeting in late September/early October, where the symposium plans would be discussed and results from the provider survey would be shared.

Public Comments

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

Closing Remarks

Dr. Fillingim thanked Dr. Winterstein and the Team for the organization and presentation, as well all the board Members for their participation and inputs.

Adjournment

Dr. Fillingim adjourned the meeting at 12:11 PM.