

MEETING MINUTES

Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research: BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 20th, 2022 at 12:00 pm

Live at CCORC, Orlando & Remote Connection via Zoom

Board Members Present:

William Anderson, Chair (via Zoom)
Jacqueline Sagen
Ximena Levy
Charles Weatherford
Max Orezzaoli
Dinender Singla

Board Members Absent:

Martha Rosenthal, Vice-Chair
Eric Holmes
Roger Fillingim

Attendees:

Almut Winterstein, Consortium Director
Robert Cook, Consortium Associate Director
Amie Goodin
Yan Wang
Jeevan Jyot
Sebastian Jugl
Brianna Costales
Alicia Koshevoy
Hannah Fechtel
Samuel McKee
Gabriel Spandau
Nicole Smolinski

Opening Remarks

Dr. William Anderson opened the meeting with a welcome to the board members. He introduced Dr. Dinender Singla as the new board member from University of Central Florida, and thanked Dr. Timothy Gilbertson for his leadership in the Consortium since 2019.

CCORC 2022

Dr. Amie Goodin, Program chair for CCORC thanked everyone for participating and making CCORC successful. Dr. Goodin summarized the highlights of CCORC program content. Total conference registration was 125, with 25 virtual attendees and prevalent student representation. There were 6 oral presentations, 32 poster presentations, and 15 consortium funded research presentations at CCORC. Dr. Goodin shared that CE accreditation was expanded this year to include CME & CPE for attendees. An online survey would be distributed along with a gallery of photos from the event in the coming weeks.

Dr. Winterstein invited feedback on CCORC from the board members. Dr. Orezzaoli congratulated the team on the success of CCORC and noted the good retention and engagement from participants, likely due to the good speakers presenting. Dr. Orezzaoli suggested capitalizing and building on these strengths to be more successful with increased participation, as organizational developments could lead to more speakers. Dr. Ximena Levy reflected that the conference content quality was great. Dr. Orezzaoli agreed and pointed that CCORC served to develop the networking relationships between industry, researchers, students, and clinicians.

Dr. Jacqueline Sagen remarked that the conference was fascinating but suggested adding more pre-clinical perspective and work towards building a reverse translational research focus. Dr. Dinender Singla, agreed commenting that implementing more basic science could be an asset in the “bench to bedside” approach. Dr. Singla also suggested more speakers conducting basic research and including a 15 minute “sub-speaker” presentation during sessions. Dr. Orezzaoli drew attention to the fact that the State government has charged the Consortium to be more translational, so adding a basic science focus may not be productive. If state funding were to be increased, Dr. Singla also proposed a 10-20% increase in budget for grant awardees each year and adding funding for students conducting research for their Masters or PhD programs.

Dr. Almut Winterstein reminded the board that the statute is focused on producing evidence on clinical outcomes and that state representatives want to know if marijuana is safe and effective in treatment of diseases. Dr. Orezzaoli asked if CCORC 2022 can be used as an outcome to satisfy these obligations and Dr. Winterstein responded that there has been no specific feedback on

Consortium outreach activities but that positive recognition of the Consortium work by various stakeholders (e.g., more representation from MMTCs and physicians), communicated to governmental agencies could provide additional support for the Consortium. Dr. Anderson encouraged maintaining our clinical outputs and directing clinical partners to talk to the state.

Dr. Winterstein brought up the conference panel on the IND process that Dr. Cook had organized. There was feedback by one other dispensary that there is great interest to work with the Consortium to establish INDs for their products. She asked what role the Consortium could play in the process and Dr. Cook and Dr. Winterstein will follow up.

Dr. Singla suggested reporting the consortium outputs in terms of funding, publications etc. to the state and Dr. Winterstein explained that as per statute the Consortium submits an annual report with detailed outputs.

Consortium Status Updates

Dr. Winterstein highlighted the Consortium outputs reported in the 2021-22 Annual Report. The agreement with the Consortium's journal "Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids" is up for renewal soon. The journal is PMC indexed now, and has offered a 50% discount on publishing open access. The journal has been the publication venue of the conference abstracts and has assured continued support to the Evidence in Context Series. Board members agreed to renew the open-ended contract. Dr. Goodin added that the current agreement stands for Consortium-funded researchers but may include Consortium-affiliated researchers in a future revision.

Dr. Winterstein provided a summary of the Grants program funding to priority areas and the status of the 2022 Grants review process. Grant awards for the 2022 cycle will be finalized at the June board meeting.

Medical Marijuana and Me (M3): Now enrolling:

Dr. Robert Cook reported that M³ is currently enrolling participants, collecting data, and working on providing access, as well as supporting research. Dr. Cook shared the strategic goals of M³ and the domains assessed. The study design is a combined cohort/cross-sectional study of 500 new and 500 current users. Dr. Cook hoped a good representative sample will be obtained within 6 months and there are plans to link survey data to other health datasets, including OMMU, FDOH etc. An application process for affiliated researchers who request M³ de-identified data will be finalized soon. Dr. Cook acknowledged his collaborations with the Florida Medical Marijuana Clinics helping with patient recruitment.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Anderson invited additional comments. Dr. Winterstein stated that good feedback was received on CannWatch, an adverse event reporting session held at CCORC, and plans for this will be presented to the board at a future meeting. Dr. Cook suggested inviting dispensaries to discuss plans for collaborating on clinical trials and understand potential concerns and roadblocks before reaching out to state legislatures to make changes to allow research. Dr. Anderson supported this and suggested that the Consortium take a lead in reaching out to the dispensaries.

Adjournment

Members were thanked for their time and all agreed to meet in late June for the next meeting.