

# MEETING MINUTES

## Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research: BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 12:00 pm (EDT)

*Remote Connection via Zoom*

### Board Members Present (none absent):

Martha S. Rosenthal  
Roger B. Fillingim  
Eric H. Holmes  
Jacqueline Sagen  
William Anderson  
Dinender K. Singla  
Charles A. Weatherford  
Max C. E. Orezzaoli  
Peter Holland  
Max. C. E. Orezzaoli

### Team Members Present:

Robert L. Cook  
Almut G. Winterstein  
Jeevan Jyot  
Sam McKee  
Ruba Sajdeya

### Opening Remarks

Dr. William Anderson, Chair of the Consortium board called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM EDT and welcomed all board members and requested Dr. Almut Winterstein to provide the consortium funding update.

### Consortium Funding Update

Dr. Almut Winterstein, Director of the Consortium welcomed everyone and informed the board that the consortium will receive \$1.5 million funding as in previous years. With this being a flat budget, it translates to a flat Grants budget. A budget request will be submitted this year requesting an increase via the Consortium's government relations representative. Dr. Almut Winterstein handed the meeting over to Dr. William Anderson, to discuss the grant proposal scoring method.

### Discussion of Grants Proposals Scoring Method

The consortium received 18 Letters of Intent (LOIs) and after review full proposal were invited from all 18. However only 15 applications for the grant program were received. Those proposals were reviewed by out of state ad-hoc reviewers with demonstrated expertise in the respective research area, using NIH scoring guidelines.

Drs. Almut Winterstein and Jeevan Jyot provided an overview of the scoring method. The Board began discussion on funding the renewal of the two level 2 awards from the 2022 grants cycle. Based on the evaluation of the year 1 progress reports, Dr. Almut Winterstein recommended the continuation of their funding into a second year, Dr. William Anderson seconded this recommendation. Dr. William Anderson recommended the board triage proposals submitted in this cycle that had an overall impact score of 4.5 or higher, as the board has done previously. All members agreed and the remaining proposals were discussed in order, starting from those with the best overall impact scores. None of the board members or consortium faculty in attendance were in conflict with reviewed proposals, therefore recusals were not necessary.

### **Review of Grant Proposals Based on Reviewer Scores**

Based upon the suggested approach, the individual proposal together with the reviewer comments were discussed in detail. Dr. Jeevan Jyot briefly described each proposal to the board, highlighted reviewer concerns and initiated discussion. The board members also assessed each proposal's relevance to the Consortium's research mission, immediate clinical and/or demonstrable translational relevance to inform medical use of marijuana and outcomes of its use, as well as responsiveness to the Consortium research priorities. Based upon the eligible funding, the board agreed to fund three proposals for the two-year cycle, and three applications for the one-year period. The board also agreed to grant second year funding for two 2022 Level-2 proposals.

### **Vote on Grants Program**

Dr. William Anderson asked for a final vote from board members regarding the discussed funding approach. Dr. Roger Fillingim motioned to vote, and Dr. Max Orezza seconded the motion. All board members present voted in favor of funding the 6 proposals and continuing the second year funding for the two 2022 Level-2 proposals. No board member opposed the decision, and no board members abstained from voting.

### **Public Comments**

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

### **Closing Remarks and Farewell to Retiring Board Members**

The board presented Dr. Roger Fillingim with a certificate of service in recognition of his time spent serving on the board. Members shared their appreciation for his contributions.

Dr. Robert L. Cook expressed his appreciation for Dr. Jeevan Jyot's contributions to the Annual Grants Program process.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. William Anderson adjourned the meeting at 1:25 PM.