

MEETING MINUTES

Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research:

BOARD MEETING

Monday, Oct 9th, 2023 at 10:00 am

Remote Connection via Zoom & Live

Board Members Present:

William Anderson, Chair
Martha Rosenthal, Vice- Chair
Jacqueline Sagen
Charles Weatherford
Eric Holmes
Chris McCurdy
Peter Holland

Board Members Absent:

Dinender Singla
Max Orezza

Attendees:

Almut Winterstein, Consortium Director
Robert Cook, Consortium Associate Director
Yan Wang
Mahmud Hasan
Jeevan Jyot
Catalina Lopez-Quintero

Students:

Priyanka Kulkarni
Matthew Muschett
Sebastian Jugl
Alicia Koshevoy
Ruba Sajdeya
Juan Perez

Welcome to Board Members

Dr. William Anderson opened the meeting with a welcome to the board members. Dr. Anderson and Dr. Rosenthal will continue as the Board Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, for one more year. Dr. Holmes and Dr. Orezza will also continue as board members for another term. Dr. Christopher McCurdy from UF was introduced as the new board member replacing Dr. Roger Fillingim. Dr. Anderson reminded the Board members to complete and submit their significant financial conflict forms, which are an annual requirement.

Consortium Leadership Updates

Dr. Winterstein introduced Dr. Mahmud Hasan as the new lead for the MEMORY core of the Consortium. All the team and Board members were introduced.

Overview of Consortium Research Plan 2023-24

Dr. Winterstein provided an overview of the Consortium's research program consisting of five pillars. The grants program, now in its fifth cycle, has thus far received 115 proposals, 46 of which were awarded to researchers from 7 of its member institutions (award amount >\$3M). For the upcoming year, the research focus will continue to be on clinical outcomes, particularly on route and dose of administration, in line with the state health department's interest. Dr. Winterstein shared that the MEMORY database creation and finalization of IRBs and data use agreements has taken 4 years, and data analysis is set to begin this year. The first set of studies for MEMORY will include characterization of medical marijuana users and patterns of use, and safety and effectiveness studies. Dr. Winterstein provided updates on the Medical Marijuana and Me (M³) studies. The cohort and cross-sectional studies each have >600 participants. The cross-sectional study surveys have been completed and the follow-up

surveys of ~200 participants amongst the new MMJ users in the M³ study will be completed in early February 2024. The protocol for M³ is published in the Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids Journal. Deidentified M³ data for the cross-sectional group is now available and data requests could be made using the online form. Dr. Sagen requested the Consortium to provide a blurb for member institutions to send out via email to researchers interested in using the M³ data.

Dr. Winterstein shared that the evidence core of the Consortium organizes the scientific program for Cannabis Clinical Outcomes and Research Conference (CCORC), updates research priorities, publishes articles. The FDA study has now been completed, providing a review of existing medical literature and data on cannabis use, including a comprehensive update on the efficacy of medical marijuana for FDA's preselected conditions. The Florida Department of Health has reached out for collaboration with the Consortium to create evidence based informational materials for patients and providers. This is an exciting development allowing the Consortium to expand its mission to disseminate research in clinical outcomes in the state. The FMA has sought collaboration as well on providing CME for its providers. The Evidence-in-context series continues to publish articles in Medical Cannabis and cannabinoids journal with wide usage and citations.

The Consortium will continue its Researcher Spotlight Series as a facet of its Outreach core. Press releases, continued participation in conferences to increase the Consortium's presence, monthly MEDICAMENT newsletters, and hosting an annual conference (CCORC) are additional outreach efforts which the Consortium will continue to implement.

Dr. Winterstein summarized the outcomes of CCORC 2023, sharing its success in increasing participation and diversifying and enriching program content. Attendee feedback suggested inclusion of more community-engaged cannabis research, emphasis on clinical guidelines, and expert opinions for cannabis dosing as well as more biochemical and biological research. The proposed dates for CCORC 2024 are May 30-31, 2024 at Lake Nona, Orlando. The scientific program committee is soon to launch its kick-off meeting and institutional nominations were invited to serve on the committee.

[Consortium's Funding Update & Budget Proposal FY24](#)

Dr. Winterstein shared that the state has funded the Consortium for \$1.5M for this fiscal year and presented the proposed budget for FY24 for a total of \$1,698,514 with plans to use residual carry forward funds from FY23, to cover all the expenses associated with the proposed research plan. The Jackson A. Sidman Fellowship also granted \$50,000 to UF for graduate student funding on MMJ research. The Consortium is currently seeking additional avenues to augment research funding support. The Consortium member institutions were encouraged to seek funding for MMJ research directly through their institutions to support their researchers, and that links to their universities' foundation giving pages could be listed on the Consortium website.

[FY24 Budget Approval Vote](#)

Dr. Holland put forth a motion to accept the proposed budget, which was seconded by Dr. McCurdy and all board members gave their ayes. No board member opposed/abstained from the voting. The FY24 budget was approved with a unanimous vote.

[Public Remarks](#)

There were no public remarks.

[Closing Remarks](#)

Dr. Anderson thanked Dr. Winterstein and the team. The RFP for the next grants cycle will be shared for approval via email soon. Dr. Winterstein encouraged the board members to reach out to their faculty to increase applications for the grants program. Members were thanked for attending and the meeting was adjourned.