

MEETING MINUTES

Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research:

BOARD MEETING

May 31st, 2024 at 12:00 P.M. (EST)

Live and Remote Connection via Zoom

Attendees (in-person):

Charles Weatherford
Jacqueline Sagen
William Anderson
Max Orezzaoli
Dinender Singla
Christopher McCurdy

Almut Winterstein
Jeevan Jyot
Yan Wang
Amie Goodin
Md Mahmudul Hasan
Allison Veliz

Welcome

Dr. Anderson welcomed the board members and thanked everyone for attending.

CCORC 2024 Post Hoc

Dr. Goodin provided an overview on CCORC 2024, highlighting a total of 110 registrants including an increase in student registrants, accounting for 40% of all registrants. The conference offered a total of 54 abstracts for oral and poster presentations and all 9 Consortium member institutions were represented. This year's program included an increase in oral presentations of top abstracts in keeping with the feedback from 2023 attendees. CME and CPE credits were offered for the three keynote lectures, with plans next year to offer more CE credits for the program. Feedback survey will be sent out and all feedback received will be taken into consideration. The Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids Journal will publish this year's conference abstracts.

Dr. Winterstein requested feedback from the board members regarding the conference. This year CCORC was pushed two weeks back from its usual dates, and Dr. Winterstein suggested this may discourage 9-month faculty members to attend. Dr. Orezzaoli suggested efforts for increasing attendance next year. He suggested collaborating with other conferences and holding a joint Keynote address. Dr. Winterstein mentioned concerns that other conferences have more of a commercial focus, which did not align with CCORC's purpose. Dr. Singla suggested focusing on attracting pharmacists, clinicians, and community members involved in medical marijuana (MMJ) to CCORC and Dr. Anderson agreed, and encouraged having a panel discussion featuring these stakeholders at CCORC. Dr. Winterstein suggested collaborating with FAMU MMERI to increase exposure. Dr. Weatherford, director of FAMU MMERI, expressed interest in working collaboratively to promote CCORC. The board members expressed concern that the recreational marijuana vote in November may change the circumstances. Dr. Singla suggested bringing legislators into the scientific committee to get them involved and interested and increasing media visibility of CCORC.

Consortium Progress Updates and Upcoming Activities

Dr. Winterstein presented the Consortium outputs included in the Annual Report submitted to the Governor and legislative members in Feb 2024. Dr. Winterstein reported presenting to the FL House Subcommittee on December 13th, 2023, which was well received. Dr. Winterstein met with the director of OMMU, who expressed interest in collaboration, especially with the informational resources being created for patients and clinicians.

Dr. Winterstein provided updates on the five Consortium pillars. The Grants Program has now allocated over \$3 million through 46 awards and is gearing up to finalize the awards for the sixth cycle in early July. MEMORY has now successfully linked DoH MMUR data to Medicaid and Florida Vital Statistics data and deidentification of the data is in progress before it will be available to researchers from Consortium member universities. Linkages that have been established can be requested using instructions on our website. Medical Marijuana and Me (M³) had a total of 632 MMJ users enrolled in the cross-sectional survey and 602 users enrolled in the longitudinal survey. Data from the survey is available for researchers upon request. The Clinical Core has provided clinical trial support to several member institutions including UF, UCF, FAMU, FIU, and UM which has resulted in 5 successful INDs for CBD-based protocols. The CARMMA database will soon be publicly available for viewing and collaborating. Outreach activities include the quarterly Newsletter MEDICAMENT, website and research spotlight series. Dr. Winterstein invited suggestions for researchers from non-UF member institutions to be featured in the researcher spotlight series, which helps illustrate to consumers and providers how research is conducted. The Evidence in Context series continues to be published through the Consortium's official journal, Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids. Patient informational resources are available on the website and a clinician series is in progress. Dr. Winterstein highlighted the ongoing Consortium and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) collaboration to synthesize evidence on clinical risk benefit of cannabis use. The Consortium was prominently involved in the assessment of cannabis classification status, whereby the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recommended moving cannabis from Schedule I to III. The Consortium's work on safety and effectiveness is now submitted for publication.

Dr. Winterstein shared that the next steps for the Consortium include continuing evaluation of MMJ use patterns in MEMORY and M³, starting effectiveness and safety studies in MEMORY, including a driving safety study and opioid study, continuing the development of info sheets, publishing the results from the FDA collaboration, and holding the next conference. Dr. Singla asked if the Consortium charges any fees from researchers to access data, and Dr. Winterstein clarified that there is a \$10,000 fee which covers the costs of the FISMA-certified computing environment, in which MEMORY is contained, and the Consortium does not make a profit. If there is more interest in accessing the data from other universities, the cost could possibly go down.

Dr. Winterstein extended a heartfelt thank you and farewell to board chair Dr. William Anderson and vice chair Dr. Martha Rosenthal who will leave their leadership positions in June. Dr. Anderson was presented an award and certificate for his service as chair of the board.

Dr. Singla enquired about requesting the state for increasing funding. Dr. Winterstein explained that the funding increase would have to be written into statute and could not be a standalone action but could be done in conjunction with another change in the state MMJ program. There was a request from the Consortium for a non-recurring one-time funding increase of half a million dollars but so far there has been no response. Dr. Anderson commented that if recreational marijuana is passed in November, there may be a greater urgency for marijuana research.

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Orezza encouraged the Consortium to support and promote start-ups using the Investigational New Drug (IND) licenses obtained by researchers funded by the Consortium research grant program. Dr. Orezza reiterated the need for a conversation about supporting startups and bringing in private industry. Dr. Anderson agreed that this would be important to show how universities can help commercialization in the state. Dr. Sagen suggested adding some sort of funding which could serve as a road to commercialization. Dr. Winterstein agreed with the importance of emphasizing the impact of the Consortium to the state.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Anderson thanked everyone for being in attendance and thanked everyone for their work. A special recognition was given to Dr. Goodin and the 125 graduate students who assisted in the collaboration with the FDA.

Adjournment

Dr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.