

Breast Cancer Research Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2007: Council Meeting
San Francisco, CA

Members present: Moon Chen, Diane Griffiths, Angela Padilla, Gordon Parry, Mark Pegram, Catherine Quinn, Lisa Wanzor, Maria Wetzel

Members absent: Crystal Crawford, Amy Kyle, Anuja Mendiratta, Klaus Porzig, Kurt Snipes

Staff: Natalie Collins, Janna Cordeiro, Liz Day, Lyn Dunagan, Larry Fitzgerald, Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch, Katherine McKenzie, Joyce Price, Walter Price, Sylvia Santana, Catherine Thomsen

Guest: Thea Tlsty, Ph.D.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:10a.m. After general introductions, Catherine Quinn and Diane Griffiths described their backgrounds during their individual “Meet a Council Member” segments.

II. Minutes

The council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting.

MOTION: Diane Griffiths moved (Moon Chen seconded) that the November 17, 2006, minutes be approved as written. The motion passed with two abstentions.

III. Cycle 13 Application Update

Larry Fitzgerald reviewed the application tally and summary of the applications received thus far. The number of applications received was commensurate with previous cycles, and we saw a continuing rise in detection, prognosis, and treatment applications, which was an especially popular topic for the IDEA applications. There is a slow reduction in the topics of community impact and etiology/prevention, possibly because the award amounts insufficiently match the needs of those types of studies.

Staff is planning and preparing for five scientific review committee meetings, planned for March and April. Council members are encouraged to attend any committee meeting that does not match their programmatic review committee assignment.

Larry surveyed 103 IDEA applicants about their experiences with proposalCentral, the vendor that the Program uses to process the online applications. He received a 50 percent response rate, and reported that the respondents replied favorably.

Natalie Collins reported that 31 CRC concept papers were received and reviewed. The majority of the concept papers focused on quality of life and modifiable risk factors, but the CRC group is encouraged by the overall diversity in topics. She noted a decline in the

quality of some of the concept papers, compared to previous years, but also noted that five new research institutes and twelve new community agencies submitted concept papers. The CRC team is scheduling conference calls and workshops for the applicant teams, to work with them to improve their applications, which are due in February. The CRC team will continue to expend outreach efforts to diverse groups and diverse geographical regions, and is planning future outreach activities.

IV. Programmatic Review

Larry reviewed the goals, timeline, past results, and materials for the programmatic review, and he also presented two options for restructuring the council review committees for the council's consideration. Council members discussed the strengths and weaknesses of both options, and decided to (1) separate Etiology and Prevention applications into other four committees and (2) assign all Translation applications into one committee. The staff will propose a solution for how to distribute the translation applications so that the applications are balanced through the four committees.

V. SRI Steering Committee Member Report

Sandra Steingraber, via phone conference call, introduced her background and updated the council on the SRI's progress. The Strategy Team has been assembled. Work on the state of the science papers is ongoing. Once that process is complete, the strategy team will prioritize the data gaps and choose which lines of inquiry to pursue.

VII. Guest Speaker: Epigenetics

Thea Tlsty presented some of the results of her CBCRP-funded research into epigenomic changes caused by environmental exposures. Her research has found an early marker for cells that are most likely to become cancerous before the cells become histologically different. These markers can be used in risk assessment, as targets for therapy, and in early detection.

VIII. New Business

A. Joining Forces Conference Award—Walter Price described a new Joining Forces project. As a change in the process, the Outreach Committee read and discussed the letter of intent and is returning to the full council with its recommendations. The committee recommends that the applicant submit a full application, but be more specific on the outcome product and what is new about this meeting that they didn't find at the two previous meetings.

MOTION: Catherine Quinn moved (Gordon Parry seconded) that the committee's recommendations be accepted and the applicant be so instructed. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Committee Reports

Special Research Initiatives: Catherine Thomsen reported that the stakeholder meetings are currently set to take place in the last two weeks of March and early April, in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Ukiah, and Merced, plus two web-based meetings. Council

members were encouraged to attend any of the meetings. Council members offered suggestions and contact information for securing actual meeting venues.

Outreach Committee: Catherine Quinn reported on the symposium planning process. Four plenary speakers have been confirmed; the committee is still exploring options for a moderator and keynote speaker. Six of seven workshop speakers have been confirmed. Discussion on the breakout sessions is still ongoing and will be finalized by email. The committee is discussing a possible media event at the symposium, featuring Wendy Max and discussing the cost of breast cancer in California. Diane Griffiths volunteered to help.

Evaluation Committee: Lisa Wanzor reported on the committee's priority-setting process, which is due to be completed in March 2009. The committee asked the council to approve or amend the revised process and timeline. The committee has also slightly edited the ten criteria to improve the usefulness of using these criteria to make decisions in 2009.

MOTION: Lisa Wanzor moved (Moon Chen seconded) that the council accept the Evaluation committee's recommendations for the revised proposal and timeline for the priority-setting process. The motion passed unanimously.

The Evaluation committee is also looking at ways to evaluate the different award types. They will report on their progress at future council meetings.

VI. Director's Report

SRI: Mhel added her report about the SRI's progress. The team is catching up on its timeline and is in the midst of reviewing the state of the science document. Some sections are ready to go to the science editors. The end product will be a published report and a lay summary; both publications will also be available on the website. We are still having a challenge in finding a scientific lead; the most recent promising candidate declined our offer. The project is moving forward with an excellent steering committee and strategy team.

Tax Check-off: The legislation that enables the tax check-off is at sunset. Mhel has been talking to various organizations to see about finding someone to author a new bill, and Assembly-member Hoffman has stepped up. Mhel would like to float the idea of not having a limit. Diane Griffiths will speak to his chief of staff.

Draft of Annual Report to the Legislature: The council is encouraged to read, edit, and comment on the draft report.

Budget outlook: The governor has released his first proposed budget; there are no changes from last year. This provisional budget undergoes revisions in May, and the legislature votes on it sometime after that. We expect no changes.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 4:35 p.m.