

Breast Cancer Research Council Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2006: Council Meeting
Marina del Rey, CA

Members present: Moon Chen, Felicia Hodge, Amy Kyle, Anuja Mendiratta, John Morgan, Angela Padilla, Gordon Parry, Mark Pegram, Kim Pierce, Kathy Walters, Lisa Wanzor, Maria Wetzel, Christine White

Members absent: Jim Ford, Kurt Snipes

Staff: Natalie Collins, Janna Cordeiro, Mary Daughtry, Lyn Dunagan, Larry Fitzgerald, Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch, Katherine McKenzie, Walter Price, Sylvia Santana

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00a.m. Members introduced themselves, and Christine White briefly discussed committee participation. She encouraged all members to join one or more committee. Committee meetings may change as needed.

II. Meet a Council Member

Amy Kyle and John Morgan each gave presentations about their work.

III. Minutes

Council members corrected the spelling of Felicia Hodge.

MOTION: John Morgan moved (Lisa Wanzor seconded) that the January 20, 2006, minutes be approved, as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

A. Cycle 12 application data follow-up: Larry Fitzgerald presented a matrix of the applications received and of the upcoming review committees. ProposalCentral allows staff to monitor applications as they're created and submitted, which has improved efficiency in planning and recruiting for review committees.

In the June meeting, staff will present to the council the feedback from the California Observers from the last two years' review committees.

B. Programmatic review: Larry Fitzgerald and Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch presented an analysis of last year's programmatic review and an overview of the philosophy and process. Larry Fitzgerald presented a scatter graph comparing last year's funded and unfunded applications. The council discussed the results and requested further refinement to the data.

The staff presented a mock review, and council members split into groups to conduct their own mock reviews, afterward discussing questions and comments about the process.

V. Committee Reports

A. Translation: Christine White gave an overview of the committee's purpose and introduced Mark Pegram as the new chair of the Translation committee. The council discussed the committee's recommendation for the 2006 translation award mechanism. There was confusion over some of the language that defined the types of research that would be appropriate for a translational award, and it was decided that the staff and committee will revisit the original document for the intended language. Kim Pierce, Maria Wetzel, Kathy Walters, and Amy Kyle will add their input for additional word-crafting for the section under discussion.

MOTION: John Morgan moved (Kathy Walters seconded) to accept the intent and strategic aspect of the Translation committee's recommendation: to move ahead with a translational award mechanism with a letter of intent and application process; with purpose and requirements as stated; subsequent to final approval in June of the polished document. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Evaluation: Lisa Wanzor reported that a logic model for the translation award will be forthcoming in June. Additionally, the committee is looking at the materials resulting from a RAND study to help inform us on the Special Research Initiatives. Janna and Mhel will be speaking with them in April.

C. Outreach: Katherine McKenzie reported the committee's progress in narrowing down a date and location for the 2007 symposium. The committee has narrowed preferred locations down to the following four (in order of preference): Long Beach Convention Center, Los Angeles Millennium Ballroom, Irvine Hyatt, and the Los Angeles Westin Bonaventure. Staff will be conducting site visits in the next several weeks. The committee has been discussing ideas for the plenary session theme, primarily the change in research towards individualized therapies, how treatment has changed over time, and how new approaches are disseminated outside of the research environment. The committee will continue to discuss theme ideas between now and the June meeting; council members were invited to share their input. Angela Padilla and Moon Chen will co-chair the Outreach committee.

VI. Director's Report

A. Special Research Initiatives: Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch announced three steering committee members: Julia Brody (representing environmental science), Funmi Olopade (representing clinical/basic science), and Sandra Steingraber (representing environmental advocacy). There are two or three positions remaining to fill, depending on the candidates' qualifications. She is still interviewing people and is considering asking Susan Shinagawa to be on the panel, because Susan has no conflict of interest and her participation offers several advantages. Additionally, Mhel is putting together a team to write a state of the science document, and the staff has finalized the SRI brochure and website. Courtney Bennett will be resigning her position at the end of May.

B. Council member recruitments: Council members discussed ideas for additional candidates, and were encouraged to email their ideas to Mhel, provided that they first talk to the person they're recommending and include the person's CV in their email to Mhel.

C. Annual Report to the Legislature: Council members received and discussed the draft of the annual report to the legislature.

D. Tobacco Tax Act of 2006: Mhel reported that signatures are being collected and the initiative should be on the November ballot.

VII. New Business

A. Council Rules of Operation: Council members discussed the council Rules of Operation, particularly Rule 15; whether the rules need to be amended, in whole or in part, and if so, whether the task should be assigned to a subcommittee.

MOTION: Mark Pegram moved (Moon Chen seconded) that the council reaffirm Rule 15 of the council Rules of Operation as currently written. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: John Morgan moved (Angela Padilla seconded) that the council reaffirm the Rules of Operation as they currently exist. The motion passed unanimously.

The Evaluation committee was asked to look at council effectiveness, including a summary of what the council has done in the past, what the council is currently doing, and what actions the council should consider necessary for the future.

B. Joining Forces application: The council went into closed session to discuss a letter of intent to apply.

MOTION: Anuja Mendiratta moved (Maria Wetzel seconded) that the group be encouraged to apply, based on our feedback. The voting resulted in seven in favor, three opposed, two abstentions, and one conflict of interest (the council member with a conflict of interest stepped out of the room during discussion and voting).

Council members discussed the Joining Forces award in general, and have set for a future agenda item to discuss the award in greater depth. The Outreach committee will take up the issue and return to the council with some analysis.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 4:07p.m.