

Breast Cancer Research Council Meeting Minutes
March 13-14, 2008: Council Meeting
San Francisco, CA

Members Present: Roxanna Bautista, Chris Bowden, Crystal Crawford, Laura Fenster, Karren Ganstwig, Shelley Hwang, Angela Padilla, Gordon Parry, Klaus Porzig, Sherie Smalley, Maria Wetzel, Mary Alice Yund

Members Absent: Catherine Quinn, Diane Griffiths

Guests: Julia Brody (SRI steering committee member), Terri Burgess (former advisory council chair), Debra Oto-Kent (former advisory council chair), Marj Plumb (consultant), Susan Shinagawa (SRI steering committee member), Sandra Steingraber (SRI steering committee member), Patrice Sutton (consultant), Lisa Wanzor (former advisory council chair), David Williams (SRI steering committee member), Anna Wu (former advisory council chair, attending March 13 only)

Staff: Natalie Collins, Janna Cordeiro, Lyn Dunagan, Larry Fitzgerald, Claudia Grossman, Larry Gruder, Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch, Katherine McKenzie, Lisa Minniefield, Catherine Thomsen

March 13

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm with opening instructions from Chair Angela Padilla and brief introductions from each attendee. The charge for the council by the end of these two days was to come to agreement on a funding package for the Special Research Initiatives.

II. Minutes: The council reviewed the minutes from January 18, 2008. Members discussed the anonymity of the Joining Forces Conference Award applications and letters of intent. Grant applications, including letters of intent, investigator, and institution, are confidential until after the award is granted, if granted.

MOTION: Karren Ganstwig moved (Maria Wetzel seconded) that the council approve the January 18 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. SRI Background: Following opening remarks from Catherine Thomsen, Marj Plumb presented an overview of the agenda for the guest presentations and discussions, and Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch presented the background of the Special Research Initiatives and the planning process that the Program developed to guide the SRI. Guests Terri Burgess, Anna Wu, Debra Oto-Kent, and Lisa Wanzor described their perspectives of the SRI's development during their tenure, including the context of the frustrations and hopes that motivated this provocative approach, and the process that the council took to get to this point.

IV. Overview of Concept Proposals: The SRI steering committee (guests Julia Brody, Sandra Steingraber, and David Williams) presented brief overviews of the ten concept

proposals that grew out of the strategy development process. Council members were asked to avoid critiquing concept proposals by the same standards applied to grants: where grant applications include tightly focused project plans and firm budgets, these concept proposals are intentionally more loosely structured as they are essentially RFP's and RFQ's, and not detailed research plans. If the council approves the concept of the proposals, specific details will come from the applications received, and the contracts to be developed .

V. Distribution of Package Proposals: Following the overview and discussion of the ten concept proposals, the SRI steering committee distributed their recommendations of the concept proposals that they felt would best achieve the Program's goals for the Special Research Initiatives under the existing budget. Council members were asked to review the packages.

The meeting was adjourned for the evening at 8:00pm

March 14

VI. Call to Order and Review of Agenda: The meeting was re-called to order at 8:40am. Marj Plumb presented an overview of the day's agenda and goals for finalizing the SRI funding strategy. Guests were acknowledged and thanked for their work in developing the proposals.

VII. Review of Package Proposals and Small Group Discussions: Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch presented an overview of the five-year financial set-aside, forecasted to reach \$18 million. Three years of the five have been set aside so far; the fourth year will be banked in May 2008, and the fifth year will be banked in May 2009. Because of the decline in the CBCRP's funding, current projections estimate that only \$17 million will be available at the end of the five-year set-aside; however, the council may choose to commit any level of support for the SRI packages. All of the concept proposals that were put forward yesterday had merit; some may be more feasible than others.

Julia Brody presented an overview of the core package recommended by the SRI steering committee. As a whole, the projects address disparities and environment through studies of immigration, demography, and chemicals testing/policy development. The proposals would ensure that breast cancer is included in larger discussions about environmental impacts on health, would generate new methods of advancing the way we conduct science, and would elevate the dialog of the complexity of breast cancer diagnosis.

David Williams presented an overview of one option package that would support existing and emerging large-scale studies that would increase our understanding of racial disparity and survival issues, provide motivation and interest for collaborative studies, and provide an opportunity to leverage our funds for even greater participation by other funding organizations.

Julia Brody presented an overview of a second option package that would extend existing support to new projects that are ready to begin. These projects would provide new

information in a relatively short period of time about specific exposures and would ensure that breast cancer remains an area of focus for the researchers.

Council members broke into three smaller groups with staff and SRI steering committee members to discuss the package proposals and return with amendments.

VIII. Group Discussion of Package Proposals and Package Selection: Upon returning from their small groups, council members discussed each group's package preference and list of modifications. Consensus was achieved on the process for the strategy mechanisms.

Each committee's amendments and recommendations serve as motions and seconds.

Angela Padilla asked facilitator Marj Plumb to lead the voting. It was agreed that the attending former council chairs would vote on packages and amendments, but would not vote on extending the set-aside. It was clarified that neither staff nor SRI steering committee members vote.

AMENDMENTS:

1. That the steering committee will be directive as to populations included in the immigration RFP.

VOTE: For: 8 Against: 5 Abstentions: 0 Amendment passed

2. That the budget for the statistics shall be halved and the money redirected to the set-aside fund.

VOTE: For: 5 Against: 8 Abstentions: 0 Amendment failed

3. That the ecological model project be renamed to include "systems biology"

VOTE: For: 10 Against: 1 Abstentions: 0 Amendment passed

4a. That the Chemicals Testing RFP developers be advised to consider the scope of manageable range as they write the documents

VOTE: For: 7 Against: 5 Abstentions: 1 Amendment passed

4b. That the Chemicals Testing RFP developers be told to narrow the scope to a manageable range and focus on *en vitro*/high input

VOTE: For: 0 Against: 12 Abstentions: 1 Amendment failed

5. To clarify the ecological model's output as a visual graphic with a paper

VOTE: For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 Amendment passed

AMENDMENT FOR CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY:

6.. That the 30% set-aside for SRI be continued for an additional two years of to create a total of \$23 million

VOTE: For: 8 Against: 3 Abstentions: 0 Amendment passed

FINAL PACKAGE: Package Three:

Package Three was drafted and recommended by committee; the recommendation serves as both motion and second.

Augment the California Teacher's Study to elucidate environmental risk factors for breast cancer	4,300,000
Understanding racial/ethnic differences in stage-specific breast cancer Survival – feasibility study	300,000
Piloting an integrated approach to understanding behavioral, social, and physical environment factors and breast cancer among Immigrants – limited	1,680,000
A multi-level and transdisciplinary approach to understanding the contribution of the environment to the etiology of breast cancer (Gene-Environment) – feasibility	100,000
New Statistical Models to address disease complexity	1,100,000
Demographic Questions for California Breast Cancer Research	400,000
Making Chemicals Testing relevant to breast cancer	5,000,000
Towards development of a California Chemicals Policy that considers breast cancer	200,000
Toward an Ecological Model of breast cancer causation and prevention	320,000
Environmental causes of breast cancer across Multiple Generations – limited	5,000,000
Competitive Set-Aside for full studies (Survival or Gene-Environment)	3,900,000
Package Total	\$22,300,000

Vote: For: 11 Against: 2 Abstentions: 0 Package 3 passed

By majority vote, the council approved the final \$23 million allocation and list of funding strategies.

X. Director's Report: Mhel reported that California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared March 2008 to be "Checkoff California Month." The CBCRP is a participating member of Checkoff California, a coalition of the tax checkoff groups to broaden the awareness of voluntary contributions through state tax forms.

Mhel reported that Jan Schnitzer has resigned from the council, and that the program is soliciting new council members for 2008-2009. Council members were encouraged to approach anyone interested in becoming a council member.

The UCOP restructuring continues to evolve, Mhel reported, and some of the changes are going to impact the program. Three staff members are leaving at the end of June: Walter Price, Natalie Collins, and Janna Cordeiro; with the hiring freeze in effect, the program will have to reorganize staff assignments. At the council meeting in May, Mhel will be looking for the council's suggestions on what activities the program should prioritize or eliminate. She will convene an ad-hoc committee to be a sounding board. Maria Wetzel, Klaus Porzig, Roxanna Bautista, Laura Fenster, and Karren Ganstwig volunteered to join the committee. The reorganization is an opportunity for the program to refine its activities and its process. If further cuts impact our vital functions, we will ask the council to advocate on our behalf.

XI. Programmatic Review Committee Assignments: Larry Fitzgerald reviewed committee assignments and procedures for conflicts of interest, and passed out the

programmatic review materials. Council members are invited to attend peer review committees as long as the applications reviewed do not cross over into their programmatic review committee. He presented a list of meeting dates, and advised members to be sure to attend the first day of the meeting. Ballots will be emailed to the council members. Mhel reminded council members that all application materials are highly confidential.

XI. Outreach Committee – Joining Forces Conference Award: Karren Ganstwig outlined the committee’s discussion of a recent application for an event in southern California’s Inland Empire. The project has both positive attributes and weaknesses. Council members discussed the relative merits of the application and the benefits of getting involved with this emerging area, both in terms of population and location.

MOTION: Chris Bowden moved (Klaus Porzig seconded) that the (Ashing-Giwa) JFCA application be funded. The motion passed on majority.

The council discussed a second JFCA application for a patient-navigator conference running parallel in English- and Spanish-language. Members discussed the project’s strengths and weaknesses.

MOTION: Klaus Porzig moved (Maria Wetzel seconded) that the (Weitzel) JFCA application be funded. The motion passed unanimously.

A third JFCA project was presented as a letter of intent for a conference related to toxicity in nail salons. Council members discussed the proposed project.

MOTION: Maria Wetzel moved (Karren Ganstwig seconded) to invite the group to submit a full application. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Chair and Vice-chair Nominations: Angela Padilla opened the floor for nominations. Nominees will submit a brief statement. Elections will be held in May.

- Maria Wetzel nominated Klaus Porzig for chair. Karren Ganstwig seconded. Klaus accepted the nomination.
- Laura Fenster nominated Crystal Crawford for vice-chair. Karren Ganstwig seconded.
- Angela Padilla nominated Catherine Quinn for vice-chair. Maria Wetzel seconded. Angela will follow up with Catherine to see if she accepts the nomination.

XIII. Announcements: A Thursday evening meeting may be added to the May meeting. Council members were asked to hold the time, and details will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.