



ARIZONA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 16, 2015

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance

Clayton Dehn

Hugo Vargas (via teleconference)

Peter Kelly (CO-chair)

Brandy Wells

Mitchell Shub

Commissioners Absent

None

ABRC Staff & Visitors

Jennifer Botsford

Theresa Napoleon

Victor Waddell

AZ Alzheimer's Research Center

David Jerman

Eric Reiman

Willetta Partners

Tom Farley

Brian Tassinari

I. Call to Order and Verification of Board Quorum

The Arizona Biomedical Research Commission (ABRC) meeting convened at 250 N. 17th Avenue, Auditorium Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ and via teleconference on October 16, 2015.

A quorum being present, Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. Approval of October 9, 2015 Minutes

Commissioner Shub made the motion to approve the draft minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Vargas. The minutes were unanimously approved, none abstained.

III. Process for Review of Letters of Intent

The Commissioners reviewed the check list for the Letters of Intent. Commissioner Vargas expressed concern that it may be difficult for the commissioners to judge scientific merit. The commissioners will have the option of asking the investigator to clarify his/her proposed research project. If they still aren't sure of the scientific merit, the commissioners would like to invite the investigator to submit a full application, in which case the scientific merit will then be graded by peer reviewers.

Mr. Waddell advised that he is expecting two new Commission members to be appointed next week. Commissioner Dehn will be resigning from the Commission and leaving the state at the end of November.

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The Commissioners agreed that they will recuse themselves from reviewing a specific LOI if they have an ongoing personal or business relationship with the primary investigator.

The Commissioners agreed that the “Health Impact” criteria was a top priority and would be graded on a point system of 1 to 5. ABRC staff can initially review the NIA Letters of Intent to ensure they meet the “new investigator” criteria. The Economic Impact criteria can be graded on a system using “yes,” “no,” or “somewhat.” It can be used as a tie breaker, or a bonus, for those applications that are graded equally on the “Health Impact” criteria.

The Commissioners also agreed that if they do not fully understand the scientific merit, it would be best to invite the applicant to submit a full application rather than disqualify the applicant. A line item for “scientific merit” will be added to the check list. The 500 word summary will also be graded on a 5-point scale. Therefore, a line item to grade the summary will also be added to the check list. The investigator must have the ability to “sell their science.”

The Commissioners will meet and discuss the Letters of Intent they have reviewed.

The following timeline is suggested:

- a. Release of RFGA’s as soon as possible, but no later than Monday, 11/2/15.
- b. Review of Letters of Intent to be completed by 1/22/16. At that time, invitations will be sent for full application submission.
- c. Feedback will be sent to all applicants who are not invited to submit an application.
- d. Full applications will be due mid-February (approx. 2/12).
- e. All Peer Reviews should be in by 5/6/16.
- f. Award letters to go out by 5/13/16.

Ms. Botsford will check with Procurement regarding the requirement that Peer Reviewers come from outside the state of Arizona. The Commissioners believe a resident of Arizona would be better qualified to judge a prospective research project’s impact on Arizona.

ABRC’s review process should be posted on our website to eliminate the perception of bias. All those who submit an LOI will receive the Commissioners’ feedback and all those who submit a full application will receive feedback from the peer reviewers.

Since discussions on the review process for the Letters of Intent had been completed, and Dr. Reiman’s presentation was not scheduled until 2:00 p.m., the Commissioners moved ahead to discuss Item VI. Approval of Strategic Plan.

IV. Approval of Strategic Plan

The Commissioners discussed the draft Strategic Plan. They believe ABRC is on track with Column 1 (Identify, Fund and Support Biomedical Research). Column 2 (Build a Strong Arizona Presence) is an ongoing process. The Commissioners discussed several ways to get

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more exposure for ABRC and the work it does. Some suggestions were to invite a Senator (or, specifically, a member of the Senate Health Committee) to an ABRC Commission meeting. Another idea is to present awards to members of the research community and follow up the award ceremony with a press release. Submitting articles to the Arizona Republic's "My Turn" column would also help generate exposure. Column 3 (Maximize Efficiency and Effectiveness of ADHS Partnership) is also an ongoing process. It is understood that the office of Boards and Commission is in the process of reviewing all boards and commissions. We are still expecting at least a couple of new appointments to the ABRC commission next week.

V. Presentation by Dr. Reiman – Arizona Alzheimer's Research Center

Dr. Reiman gave a presentation regarding the activities of the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium.

VI. Continuation of Approval of Strategic Plan

Commissioner Wells made the motion to approve the draft strategic plan, seconded by Commissioner Vargas. The draft strategic plan was unanimously approved, none abstained.

VII. Call to the Public

A call to the public was made. No public members addressed the Commission.

VIII. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

The next Commission meeting was scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2016. A meeting will be set up before that time for the sole purpose of discussing the Letters of Intent. The Commissioners then discussed possible agenda items for the February 12th meeting:

- Column B of Strategic Map – Build a Strong Arizona Presence
- ABL presentation

Any other suggested agenda items can be sent to Victor Waddell.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.