Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board:
- Ken Brummel-Smith, Ph.D., Florida State University, Chair
- Leilani Doty, Ph.D., University of Florida, Assistant Chair
- Jacqueline Wiltshire, Ph.D., University of South Florida
- Frederick Schaerf, MD, Ph.D., Neuropsychiatric Research Center of Southwest Florida
- Mariana Dangiolo, M.D., University of Central Florida
- Ranjan Duara, M.D., Mount Sinai Medical Center (by phone)
- Neill Graff-Radford, M.D., Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville (by phone)
- Clinton Wright, M.D., University of Miami (by phone)
- Todd Golde, MD, Ph.D., University of Florida (by phone)
- Leonard Petrucelli, Ph.D., Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville (by phone)
- Amanda Smith, M.D, University of South Florida (absent)

DOH Staff:
- Deanna Barath, MPH, Health Programs Administrator, Office of the Deputy Secretary for Health
- Sarah Hofmeister, Research Program Analyst, Public Health Research Unit

Members of the Public:
- None

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Board members received all pertinent meeting materials. Board members who participated via conference call could actively and equally participate in the discussion.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Dr. Brummel-Smith made a motion to approve the March 3, 16, & 26, 2015 Board meeting minutes as presented. Dr. Schaerf seconded the motion.

Total votes for approval: (Total members voting: 6) Affirmative: 6, Negative: 0, Recusal: 0

Note: Dr. Golde, Dr. Petrucelli, Dr. Duara, Dr. Wiltshire were not present during the vote.

II. Epidemiological Subcommittee
Members: Dr. Wright and Dr. Graff-Radford

Board members were provided with suggested goals and areas of focus from the epidemiological subcommittee. Members discussed research priorities that address recruitment, biomarkers, assessment, and health disparities in particular communities. Members identified the need to encourage research priorities that align with Federal priorities to increase the possible future funding.

III. Behavioral/Social Subcommittee
Members: Dr. Brummel-Smith, Dr. Wiltshire, Dr. Schaerf, (Dr. Smith absent)

Board members were provided with suggested goals and areas of focus from the behavioral/social subcommittee. Members discussed research priorities that address non-pharmacologic interventions,
caregiver education and support, and end-of-life care. Dr. Schaerf suggested that some specific items regarding psychiatric problems and dementia be added.

IV. Pre/Postdoctoral Fellowship Subcommittee
Members: Dr. Doty, Dr. Golde

Board members were provided with suggested goals and areas of focus from the Pre/Postdoctoral Fellowship subcommittee. Members discussed the current focus on postdoctoral fellowship criteria and then later to expand the fellowship opportunity award to include the development of criteria for pre-doctoral fellowships. The discussion considered need to support clinical fellowships that are patient-oriented. Members discussed and agreed to exclude fiscal compensation to the mentors. Members discussed and agreed that to be eligible to apply organizations would need to have an accredited program. Members discussed grant timeframes to be up to 2 years for a fellowship grant.

V. Clinical/Diagnostic Subcommittee
Members: Dr. Duara, Dr. Dangiolo, Dr. Graff-Radford

Board members were provided with suggested goals and areas of focus from the Clinical/Diagnostic subcommittee. Members discussed a number of research priorities including the creation of a statewide data registry through collaboration with the ADI Memory Disorder Clinics. Members deliberated the idea and concluded that one approach could be to fund research that would develop a best models registry, identify the best way to enable clinical data acquisition from multiple statewide sources, maintain strong long-term support of a registry, and appropriate accessibility for research.

Additional research priorities were discussed such as projects that address standardizing diagnosis, access to care, and clinical trial recruitment barriers.

VI. Basic/Translational Subcommittee
Members: Dr. Golde, Dr. Petruelli

Board members were provided with suggested goals and areas of focus from the Basic/Translational subcommittee. Members discussed a number of research priorities including the discovery and validation of a broad spectrum of potential therapeutic targets or novel therapeutic strategies, novel insights into the pathophysiology of Alzheimer’s disease and to identify novel biomarkers.

VII. Research Priorities and Funding Opportunity Announcement

Members discussed grant categories, funding amounts, timeframes, and number of applications excepted per grant category. Program staff noted that all awards in response to Funding Opportunity Announcements are subject to the availability of funds and spending authority provided by the Florida Legislature. Members agreed on the following types of grants and criteria to include in the Funding Opportunity Announcement:

- **Consortium Grant:** Research organizations are eligible to apply as the lead organization for one consortium grant that addresses one of the research priorities. Maximum award amount will be up to $500,000 and the maximum duration will be up to 5 years.
- **Standard Grant:** Research organizations are eligible to apply for four standard grants that address the research priorities. Organizations are not eligible to submit more than two applications within the same research priority. Maximum award amount will be up to $250,000 and the maximum duration will be up to 3 years.
- **Pilot Grant:** Research organizations are eligible to apply for two pilot grants that address one of the research areas. The research areas must be different if the organization is submitting two applications. Maximum award amount will be up to $100,000 and the maximum duration will be up to 2 years.
• **Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Grant:** Research organizations are eligible to apply for **one** postdoctoral research fellowship grant that will provide patient-oriented focus. Maximum award amount will be up to $100,000 and the maximum duration will be up to 2 years.

Members agreed applications that are collaborative and address health disparities will be weighted higher when making funding recommendations. Members commented that applications should be innovative in nature and provide a plan for future funding.

Dr. Golde provided a template for each Board subcommittee to use for consistency. Members were asked to send program staff their revised subcommittee priorities in the template provided. Program staff will collate the information into the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Board to review and vote on during the next conference call.

**VIII. Public Comment**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.