

December 2, 2015  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM



Conference call (888) 670-3525  
Conference code 2922384719

## Biomedical Research Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

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### Board Members Present:

Daniel Armstrong (Chair)  
Charles Evans Wood  
Penny A. Ralston  
Abubakr A. Bajwa  
Barbara A. Centeno  
David A. Decker  
Stephen J. Gardell  
Allison Eng-Perez  
Richard Nowakowski

### Board Members not in Attendance:

John Wingard  
Paul Jacobsen

*No members of the public were present.*

### Introductions

The meeting was called to order and the first agenda item was the introduction and welcome of Dr. Nowakowski and Allison Eng-Perez as new board members. Dr. Armstrong congratulated Dr. Decker and Dr. Jacobsen on their reappointment to the Board. Bonnie Gaughan-Bailey introduced herself as the new administrator for the Biomedical Research Section, which coordinates the BRAC.

### C-CRAB update from the September meeting

During the meeting, there was a presentation on the Cancer Information System, which is the IT system for Florida's Cancer Registry. The Department applied for additional funds from the legislature to update the IT system. Dr. Armstrong (Danny) presented BRAC's current FOA priorities and the finalized research agenda.

### Cancer Symposium

Dr. Armstrong provided an overview of the Cancer Symposium, which occurred this past September. At the symposium, researchers funded through the Biomedical Research Grant Programs presented the results of their research through oral and poster sessions. The attendance at the symposium from both researchers and attendees was excellent.

### Update on legislative presentation

On November 17, Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Philip presented on the current state of the Biomedical Research Grant Programs for the House Healthcare Appropriations Subcommittee.

Representative Hudson wanted to know how we track the impact of grant funding. Dr. Armstrong provided an overview of current methods for ascertaining the impact, such as the number of publications and follow-on federal funding.

The Board requested a copy of the Department's response to questions posed by House Healthcare Appropriations Subcommittee members.

#### Update on the status and timeline for the review of current applications

Bonnie provided an update on the timeline for the review of current applications in addition to the number of applications submitted in each priority for both King and Coley. Peer review results will be available January 4<sup>th</sup>. The BRAC in-person meeting for funding recommendations will take place on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 to 3, at the Florida Department of Health in Orange County.

#### Joint Committee Recommendations:

Dr. Armstrong asked for volunteers to serve on the Joint Committee, which meets every three years. The following six BRAC members volunteered to serve: Richard Nowakowski, Danny Armstrong, David Decker, Abubakar Bajwa, Allison Eng-Perez, and Barbara Centeno. The next meeting is planned for fall 2016.

#### Thoughts on process of feedback to unfunded investigators

Discussion ensued on the type of feedback to provide to principal investigators whose grant application was not funded. The result was a vote to release scores and percentile rank for unfunded applications. A motion was made, first by Dr. Nowakowski, and was seconded by Allison Eng-Perez second. All council members were in favor.

#### Discussion on next year's Funding Opportunity Announcement

Evaluation metrics and strategies are needed to quantify the direct and indirect results of the research funding. This ties into what type of additional information do we need from investigators in their status reports to DOH? An example includes: "Did the project result in the creation of a new drug as a result of bench lab science and what phase of approval is the drug in (same for IDEs)?"

The Board asked if the Department was receiving a complete list of publications resulting from the funded grants. Grantees are supposed to cite the BRAC/DOH as the source of funding in articles published as a result of funded research. The Department should be able to obtain a complete list of publications. However, this is not closely monitored currently.

It was suggested that proactively surveying past grant funding recipients on an annual basis could result in a more comprehensive, documented impact of the Biomedical Research funding.

Dr. Nowakowski would like to add a workforce enhancement priority to the FOA.

BRAC members should send their recommendations for FOA discussion topics on the 1/20/2015 meeting to Bonnie.

#### Approval of 5/13/2015 meeting minutes

Dr. Bajwa made a motion to approval, Allison Eng-Perez second. All were in favor.

Concluded at 11:05 am.