

March 25, 2016
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM



Conference call # (888) 670-3525
Conference code 2922384719

Biomedical Research Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Daniel Armstrong (Chair)
Charles Evans Wood
Stephen Gardell
Richard Nowakowski
Paul Jacobsen
Abubakr Bajwa

Board Members not in Attendance:

Allison Eng-Perez
David Decker
Barbara Centeno
John Wingard
Penny Ralston

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Minute Approval

Dr. Wood made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January 20, 2016 meeting and Dr. Nowakowski seconded the motion.

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

Department Staff Update on Awarded Grants

Department staff provided an update on the status of awarded grants.

- Funding recommendations were made and finalized by the State Surgeon General on January 26th and award letters were sent on January 27th.
- A press release was issued on January 28th.
- Researchers who did not receive funding were notified during the first week in February.
- All peer-review comments were sent out by February 18th.
- All terms and conditions have been sent to the Department and are in the process of being executed or amended and executed. The target date for execution of all grants is April 1st.
- An additional \$881,682.80 was identified for the Bankhead-Coley grants. Therefore, Bankhead-Coley grants that were not funded at 100% of the amount requested had their award increased. Increases in the amount awarded were distributed proportionally based upon the amount awarded before additional funds were identified.
- Department staff and Dr. Danny Armstrong met with the peer review vendor to discuss improvements to the review process. There was discussion about changing the peer review process from the current model of three independent reviews to one involving a panel review process similar to that currently used by several federal funding agencies.

Update on the Long-Term Impact Assessment (Survey) of Past Grant Recipients

Department staff provided an update on the status of the survey. Previous edits from the BRAC were received and incorporated into the survey. The following additional revisions and clarifications were requested by the BRAC:

- A survey should be completed for each research project rather than each researcher. Therefore, if a researcher has been funded for several projects, they should complete several surveys.
- Surveys should be sent to the Principle Investigator (PI) and the Sponsored Research Official (SRO) should be copied. The e-mail to the PI and SRO should include language that the survey has been requested by legislators.
- The survey should be sent to grant recipients beginning in 2001.
- All mechanisms of support, rather than just the current mechanisms of support, should be included as potential options. Current mechanisms of support will be listed as radio buttons with researchers typing in the name of previous mechanisms of support.
- A question should be added to ascertain the type of cancer a project focused on.
- If a project has produced an Investigational New Drug (IND), the researcher should denote the current stage of FDA testing. In addition, a question should be added to assess drugs undergoing pre-clinical trials.
- For questions 10 through 12, which gauge the number and type of peer reviewed journal articles, educational pamphlets, or textbooks, language should be added to specify that the survey is only obtaining information from the research funded through the King and Bankhead-Coley programs.
- For question 21, which obtains information about the impacts of the research, effects of research on tobacco-related diseases should be assessed in addition to cancer.
- For question 15, which asks about patents acquired as a result of the research, the question should be broadened so that researchers can include patents filed but not approved. Also, a question should be added to evaluate additional types of intellectual property resulting from the research.
- A question should be added to consider the number and type of non-permanent employees resulting from research funding.

Once the revisions listed above have been made, the survey will be resent to the BRAC for their final review.

Revisions to the 2016-2017 FOAs

The following revisions were requested for both the King and Bankhead-Coley FOAs:

- Several PIs should be allowed to be listed on the project, but there must be a corresponding PI, who is responsible for distributing funds, managing the contact with the Department, and is the ultimate legally responsible individual. However, Co-Investigators will still be a role permitted on grants.
- The maximum length of time between receiving a funding notification by a federal agency and submission of an application to either the Bankhead-Coley or King program for a bridge grant will be 18 months.

Dr. Nowakowski made a motion to approve the bulleted listed above and Dr. Bajwa seconded the motion.

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

The following revisions were requested for the King FOA only:

- For the obesity priority, language should be added to include the relationship between obesity, healthy weight, tobacco use and cancer as a possible research topic.

Dr. Nowakowski made a motion to approve the FOAs pending confirmation the changes listed above have been made and Dr. Bajwa seconded the motion.

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

Revisions to the Reviewer Comment Form and the Review Process

- The BRAC would like to review evaluations of reviewers provided by the peer review vendor.
- The BRAC would like to obtain a list of key words from past research projects that were funded to determine if projects can be identified from key words, research priorities, and grant mechanisms. If grants cannot be identified from these three factors alone, the BRAC would like to view the key words for grant applications during the meeting to make funding decisions. This will provide the BRAC with additional resources when making funding decisions.

Public Comment: None

The meeting concluded at 2:15 PM