

## Meeting Logistics

<b>Item</b>	<b>Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee (SCRAC)</b>
<b>Date</b>	October 14, 2020
<b>Time</b>	9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
<b>Location</b>	Call-in Only
<b>Purpose/Focus</b>	Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee Meeting
<b>Notetaker</b>	Amber Garbinski, Court Reporter, Sargent’s Court Reporting Services, Inc. and Health Research Office staff, Pennsylvania Department of Health

## Attendees

SCRAC Members:

In Attendance:

- Jacob G. Chalfin, “Jake,” Chair
- Benjamin Abramoff, MD, MS, Director of Spinal Cord Injury Services at the Penn Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine and Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Franklin Caldera, D.O., M.B.A. Chief Medical Officer at the University of Pennsylvania Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- Alex Charlton, father of daughter with spinal cord injury
- Itzhak Fischer, Ph.D, Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy at Drexel University College of Medicine and co-director of the Spinal Cord Center
- Michael Boninger, MD, Professor and UPMC Endowed Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine
- Rory A. Cooper, Ph.D., veteran with a spinal cord injury, Founding Director of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Pittsburgh PA; FISA/PVA Distinguished Professor of the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology and Associate Dean for Inclusion, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

Not In Attendance:

- Elizabeth Tyler-Kabara, MD, neurosurgeon, University of Texas, Austin
- Joel Winer, MD, neurosurgeon, Wellspan Health, York, PA

Department of Health Staff Present:

- Christopher Albright, Administration Officer, Health Research Office
- Penny E. Harris, M.Ed., CAC, LPC, Director, Health Research Office
- Pamela Brown, Management Technician, Health Research Office
- Tirzah McClinton, Project Officer, Health Research Office
- Meghna Patel, MHA, Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation
- Emily Roussel, Executive Advisor to Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel

Others In Attendance:

- Erin O’Dea, PA House of Representatives Health Committee
- Janet Kile, Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- Stephanie Sheerwood, Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee

## Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review	Jacob Chalfin, Chair	9:30 am – 9:35 am
2	Review and approval of July 16, 2020 minutes	Jacob Chalfin, Chair	9:35 am – 9:40 am
3	Update on 2020-2021 Request for Application	Jacob Chalfin, Chair	9:40 am – 9:50 am
4	Follow up to last meeting a) Review of SCRAC Applications Procedural Overview b) Confidentiality Statement form	Jacob Chalfin, Chair and DOH staff	9:50 am – 10:10 am
5	Spinal Cord Injury Research Priorities for 2021-2022	Jacob Chalfinm Chair	10:10 am – 10:25 am
6	Tiered Approach for 2021-2022	Jacob Chalfin, Chair	10:25 am – 10:40 am
7	Open Discussion	All attendees	10:40 am – 10:55 am
8	Closing and Next Steps	Jacob Chalfin, Chair	10:55 - 11:00 am

## Discussion

ID	Discussion
1	<i>Jacob Chalfin</i> , Chair, introduced himself. Committee members, and DOH staff introduced themselves. Public attendees introduced themselves. <i>Jacob Chalfin</i> , reviewed Agenda.
2	<i>Dr. Cooper</i> moved to accept the meeting minutes of April 16, 2020. <i>Dr. Caldera</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.
3	<p>Update on 2020-2021 Request for Application (RFA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department has received the estimated amount for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.</li> <li>• The actual fund amount will be known in mid-to-late spring.</li> <li>• The funds for the SCRAC RFA will combine the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 state fiscal year funding, as per Appendix H, for a total of \$2 million. This was approved in the previous meeting.</li> <li>• The RFA was drafted and submitted to Procurement for review on September 11 and is going through the editing process.</li> </ul>
4	<p>Follow up to last meeting</p> <p>a) Review of SCRAC Applications Procedural Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ORAU outlined its peer review process which would result in them providing the SCRAC with a rank order of the proposal scores.</li> <li>• <i>Jacob Chalfin</i>, expressed that the preference is for ORAU to provide a ranking of all proposals regardless of what tier they fall in.</li> <li>• <i>Drs Boninger and Fischer</i> suggested that a secondary review of each grant proposal would not be needed. Instead SCRAC will evaluate the proposal rankings to assess consistency of scores and relevance of proposals based on RFA criteria.</li> <li>• <i>Meghna Patel</i> reminded the group that committee members from those institutions that have submitted applications will need to recuse themselves from any review or scoring activity.</li> <li>• <i>Dr. Boninger</i> suggested that a second committee could be formed comprised of outside experts to review the proposals as a way to address conflicts of interest.</li> <li>• <i>Jacob Chalfin</i>, agreed to review minutes and present a more simplified process to Committee around the issues related to the review of the applications and conflicts of interest.</li> </ul> <p>b) Confidentiality Statement form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fillable form was provided to Committee members, this should be completed, saved as a PDF and returned to the Health Research Office.</li> </ul>
5	<p>Spinal Cord Injury Research Priorities for 2021-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dr. Cooper</i> made a motion to adopt the same research priorities for 2021-2022. <i>Dr. Caldera</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</li> </ul>
6	<p>Tiered Approach for 2021-2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year three funding amount will be \$1 million.</li> <li>• <i>Jacob Chalfin</i> suggested reverting back to original Tier grant amounts of: \$75,000 (Tier one), \$150,000 (Tier two) and \$250,000 (Tier three).</li> <li>• <i>Alex Charleton</i> made a motion to adopt the Tier levels identified for 2021-2022. <i>Dr. Abramoff</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</li> </ul>
7	<p>Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was no additional discussion.</li> </ul>

8	<p><i>Jacob Chalfin</i> reminded the members of the next meeting on January 21, 2021 from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. Jake expressed appreciation for the committee members guidance and input in determining the research priorities to improve the health of Pennsylvanians. <i>Dr. Cooper</i> made a motion to adjourn. <i>Dr. Fischer</i> second. Meeting concluded at 10:34 am.</p>
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