

Advisory Committee

Meeting Logistics

Item	Description
Date	April, 10 2023
Time	1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Location	Telephonic
Purpose/Focus	Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee Meeting
Notetaker	Sargent's Court Reporting Services, Inc. and Health Research Office Staff, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Attendees

SCRAC Members:

In Attendance:

- Jake Chalfin, Chair of the Committee
- Dr. Franklin Caldera
- Mr. Alex Charlton (610-742-1751)
- Dr. Rory Cooper
- Dr. Itzhak Fischer
- Dr. Guy Fried

Not In Attendance:

- Dr. Ben Abramoff
- Dr. Joel Winer
- Dr. Zarina Ali

Department of Health Staff Present:

- Muneeza Iqbal
- Lindsey Walsh
- Will Cramer
- Galen Graham
- Sylvia Golas
- Stephanie Landis
- Caroline Grimm
- Denise Jenkins
- Keith Fickel

Not In Attendance:

- Pam Brown
- Srushti Patel

Others In Attendance:

- Eric Rowe – Legislator
- Jake Beckstrom – Unite to Fight Paralysis
- Jason Stouffer – Unite to Fight Paralysis – Canada
- Matthew Roderick – Unite to Fight Paralysis
- Kate Chalfin – Support for current membership

- Rodeen Lechleitner – PHPA w/ HRO

Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review	Chair Jake Chalfin	1:00 p.m. to 1:10 p.m.
2	Department of Health Updates	Muneeza Iqbal, Deputy Secretary for Health Resources and Services	1:10 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
3	Review and approval of minutes of the October 2022 meeting	Chair Jake Chalfin	1:45 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
4	Vote on 2023 Priorities	Chair Jake Chalfin	1:50 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.
5	Discuss any new questions and concerns from the Committee members	Chair Jake Chalfin	2:10 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.
6	Public Comments and Questions	A	2:20 p.m. to 2:29 p.m.
7	Closing remarks and next steps/schedule	Chair Jake Chalfin	2:29 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Discussion

ID	Discussion
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>WELCOME</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good afternoon, I would like to welcome Committee members, Department of Health (DOH) staff, and members of the public to this meeting of the Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee. ○ I am Jake Chalfin, Chair of the Committee. ▪ <u>ROLL CALL / QUORUM CONFIRMATION AND INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND DOH STAFF</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Secretary of Health has appointed two new members to fill the openings left by Dr.'s Kabara and Bonninger. ○ Dr.'s Zarina Ali and Guy Fried, please accept our warmest welcomes. ○ I will take roll-call and invite Committee members to introduce themselves by sharing their title, organization or role represented and interest in committee service after confirming their presence with a "present". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ben Abramoff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Franklin Caldera <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Alex Charlton (610-742-1751) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Rory Cooper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Itzhak Fischer <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Joel Winer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Guy Fried <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Zarina Ali ○ Quorum requires attendance of a majority of 5 members. ○ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We have quorum / <input type="checkbox"/> We do not have quorum. ○ I will do the same for the Department of Health staff on the call. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Muneeza Iqbal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lindsey Walsh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will Cramer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Galen Graham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sylvia Golas <input type="checkbox"/> Pam Brown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Landis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caroline Grimm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denise Jenkins <input type="checkbox"/> Srushti Patel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Fickel <p>Eric Rowe – Legislator Jake Beckstrom – Unite to Fight Paralysis Jason Stouffer – Unite to Fight Paralysis – Canada Matthew Roderick – Unite to Fight Paralysis Kate Chalfin – Support for current membership Rodeen Lechleitner – PHPA w/ HRO</p> ▪ <u>INTRODUCTIONS OF THE PUBLIC</u>

- Finally, I will invite all other persons who are on the call to introduce yourselves.
- Please provide your name, title, and the name of your organization. Please speak slowly and clearly, spelling your last name, stating your title and the name of the organization you represent.
 - Eric Rowe, Representing the 158th Legislative District
 - Jake Beckstrom, Unite to Fight Paralysis / Co-Manager CURE Advocacy Network
 - Jason Stoffer, Unite to Fight Paralysis
 - Matthew Roderick, Executive Director at Unite to Fight Paralysis / Chair, Advisory Council in Minnesota
 - Kate Chalfin, Caregiver for an individual with a spinal cord injury showing support for current membership
 - Rodeen Lechleitner, PHPA with HRO

▪ RECORDING OF THE MEETING

- Before we begin, I would like to announce that we will have a stenographer for today's meeting to capture notes. This will ensure that the minutes accurately reflect the actions and recommendations made by the Committee. Please be sure to identify yourself before speaking to assist the stenographer in creating an accurate record.
- By continuing to be on this call, you are consenting to being recorded.

▪ MUTE PHONES

- (*Mute buttons*) Please place your phone on mute when you are not talking to minimize feedback.
- This is an open meeting. I appreciate the interest of the members of the public who are on the call to listen to the meeting. I do want to stress, however, that in order to ensure that the Committee has enough time to conclude its business today, we will wait until the end of the meeting for any comments or questions from the public, if time remains. All attendees other than Committee members and staff are muted currently.

▪ REVIEW AGENDA

- Our agenda for today's meeting includes:
 - Department of Health Updates including:
 - Membership Status and Cycle Review;
 - New Member Announcement;
 - Backlog and Compliment Updates;
 - SFY21 Spinal Cord Grant Updates;
 - SFY22 Spinal Cord RFA Updates; and
 - SCRAC Role in Peer Review Discussion.
 - Review and approval of the October 19, 2022 SCRAC meeting minutes, a copy of which was provided to the committee on Friday
 - Discussion of SFY23 and correction of the SFY22 spinal cord research priority recommendations.
 - Approval of the SFY23 research priority recommendations and correction of the SFY 22 research priority recommendations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approval of funding amount recommendations for each tier of the SFY23 RFA. • Any new business and/or further discussions and we will close with • Wrap-up and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any additions to the agenda? If not, let's proceed. And, at this point I would like to introduce Muneeza Iqbal, the Deputy Secretary for Health Resources and Services.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND CYCLE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SCRAC members were appointed to the inaugural two-year term in the summer of 2019 with the initial meeting of the Advisory Committee occurring on January 15, 2020. With the expiration of member terms, the Department recognizes the need for coordinated transition to maintain consistency and integrity of the group; therefore, the Secretary of Health has requested the transition of half the membership annually to prevent disruption of total turnover each year. ○ As SCRAC Committee Members, you will have the opportunity to request continued service and my understanding is that many of you have already submitted your interest in continuing participation; however, we ask that you also assist in the recruitment of candidates that would be interested in having the opportunity to participate on this important Committee. We would like to request that each of you engage your colleagues and friends over the next six weeks and encourage their submission of Letters of Interest to the Health Research Resource Account at RA-healthresearch@pa.gov . ○ The Secretary of Health will appoint committee members from all interested candidates at the conclusion of this six-week recruitment cycle. ○ Three minutes for each agenda item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Itzhak Fischer - Appreciate need to cycle committee member and need to retain experience. Important to retain expertise in the form of Jake. ▪ Alex Charlton – Inquired if committee turnover is standard. Advised that term limits are standard to allow other the opportunity for service. ▪ Jake Chalfin – Requesting SOH attendance to meet membership prior to appointments. ▪ <u>NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As Jake indicated at the start of today's meeting, two new committee members have already been selected and appointed to existing vacancies on the Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr. Zarina S. Ali: Zarina S. Ali, MD, is Chief of Neurosurgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. She is co-Director of the Penn Nerve Center, where she leads the Neurosurgery Enhanced Recovery After Surgery program, and her BS, MD, and MS in neurobiology and anatomy are from the University of Rochester. She completed neurological surgery residency

and a fellowship in peripheral nerve surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. at the University of Pennsylvania.

- Dr. Guy W. Fried is the Senior Vice-President for Medical Affairs and Associate Chief Medical Officer at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital, and the Associate Chief Medical Officer at Moss Rehabilitation Hospital. Dr. Fried is the Vice Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for Jefferson Health and serves as a professor, Vice Chair of Quality, and representative in the Quality Improvement Patient Safety Leadership course within Thomas Jefferson University School of Population Health's Rehabilitation Department.
- We are all very excited to have them join the SCRAC Committee and thank them for their service.
 - Dr. Cooper welcomed new members.
- BACKLOG AND COMPLIMENT
 - As everyone is aware, the Health Research Office staff has been working out from under a significant backlog generated by the pandemic and exacerbated by staff turnover and retirements.
 - Two of the eight SFY 21 Spinal Cord grant applications have been fully executed while the remaining six are in some stage of the final signatory process. We are in constant contact with the awardees.
 - The SFY 22 Spinal Cord RFA posted on PAeMarketplace.com on April 5, 2023 and will close of May 16, 2023.
 - Jake questioned RFA project schedule. Muneeza reported confidential nature of a competitive bid. Jake requested high level schedule.
 - Jake questioned why is schedule confidential when provided in detail in past.
 - These delays and backlogs are not ideal, and I would like to take a moment to thank the Health Research Office staff for helping us push through despite the issues caused by the pandemic, and large staff turnover. To prevent future delays, I am happy to announce that we were able to create three new grant-funded positions in the Health Research Office, this includes two additional Public Health Program Administrators and an Administrative Assistant. We've also added two temporary contracted positions to our team as well: these positions are a Clerical Staff and a Grants Administrator. For your awareness, it is not an easy process in the state to increase staff sizes for a program, but the Department of Health recognized the importance of the work the HRO does, and the importance of giving them increased staff support. Please join me in welcoming our new staff.
 - Caroline Grimm started on February 27th, 2023, as a PHPA. She previously worked for Penn State College of Medicine as a Human Research Technologist.
 - Rodeen Lechleitner started on April 8, 2023, also as a PHPA. She served as the Health Systems and Data Coordinator in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.
 - John Krahel is slated to start on April 24, 2023, as an Administrative Assistant.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Jenkins started on November 7th, 2022, as a contracted Grants Administrator. • And lastly, Srushti Patel started on March 20, 2023, to provide temporary clerical support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>SCRAC ROLE IN PEER REVIEW</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The committee had asked “what is the role and relationship between the Peer Review Committee and the SCRAC committee as it pertains to the scientific review process and recommended revisions of RFAs?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) is contracted by the Department to recruit qualified professionals nationwide to serve on and perform peer review activities and coordinates all such activities associated with CURE grants. They abide by the strict standards that the commonwealth applies to scoring for RFAs to provide transparent and unbiased awards. • In the previous two RFA rounds, SCRAC members have reviewed and scored the applications after ORAU has completed their scoring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed for membership ORAU is still serving as the peer review contractor. • ORAU advises what changes make sense scientifically. • Membership suggested SCRAC meeting w/ Procurement but advised this is outside their purview.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>MEETING MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our first order of business is to review and approve the minutes of the last meeting. The board and department have received the minutes from October 19th, 2022. ○ May I have a motion to accept the October 19th, 2022, minutes? ○ Motion made by Rory Cooper ○ Is there a second? <i>(If it is not clear who made the motion or seconded it – please ask the members to state who made the motion and who seconded it.)</i> ○ <i>Seconded by Jake Chalfin</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Next meeting that the next public meeting did not take place – was cancelled.</i> ○ Is there any discussion? <i>(If there are corrections, ask the Committee to agree upon the exact wording for the corrections.)</i> ○ I will now call for the vote. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All those in favor, say aye. <i>(Pause for vote)</i> Opposed, say nay. <i>(Pause for vote)</i> Any abstentions? ○ The October 19th, 2022, minutes are now approved.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>SCRAC RESEARCH 2022 & 2023 PRIORITIES</u>

- It was discussed that the 2023 priorities remain the same to support distribution efforts for the 2022 RFA. However, due to clerical error, it should have been discussed that the 2022 priorities remained the same. SCRAC members voted on having the 2023 priorities be as below:
 - Pharmacologic, biologic, medical device, brain stimulus, and rehabilitative approaches and techniques.
 - Preference will be given to those projects and techniques that seek to change the nature and course of the injury.
 - To ensure funded research addresses the gap in translation of discovery to human study and proposal, further preference will be given to research that is strategically translational or translatable relative to aims and outcomes.
 - Finally, further preference will be given to research strategies that represent either potential or existing collaboration with industry, whether in the development and trial of biologics, pharmacologics, device, or novel therapeutic rehabilitative treatments in combination with these developments.
 - Jake Chalfin said emphasis on getting body working and not making a better wheelchair - Durable Medical Equipment (DME) or Palliative care
 - Rory Cooper objected
 - Itzhak Fischer moved to keep everything the same

- In order to correct this error, I would like to call to amend last meeting's vote, to modify the 2023 priority vote to apply to the 2022 research priorities and have the 2023 health research priorities cleared for discussion.

- May I have a motion to vote?

- Itzhak Fischer moved to approve the amended minutes.

- Is there a second?

- *Rory Cooper seconded the motion.*

- Is there any discussion?

- I will now call for the vote.

All those in favor, say aye.

Opposed, say nay.

Any abstentions?

- The 2023 research priorities have been corrected to the 2022 research priorities and are now unanimously approved.

- 2023 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- As previously discussed, last year's research priorities have been fulfilled in the 2022 RFA. I would like to call for an open discussion on the 2023 research priorities. Some topics for consideration:
 - Change the research priorities or keep them the same.
 - Change the funding amount / release cycle of the funds (one year vs two) or keep them the same.
 - Change the tier levels or keep them the same.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other ideas from board members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jake Chalfin indicated he would like to tweak priority language to eliminate durable medical equipment and focus on improving body functioning. • Rory Cooper objected to that change as being to limiting to the means where prioritization could resolve the issue without the restriction. • Itzhak Fischer agreed to keep the language status quo. ○ May I have a motion to vote on the 2023 Health Research Priorities? ○ Rory Cooper made a motion to approve keeping the priorities the same. ○ Is there a second? ○ Alex Charlton seconded the motion. ○ Is there any discussion? ○ I will now call for the vote. <p>All those in favor, say aye.</p> <p>Opposed, say nay.</p> <p>Any abstentions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2023 Health Research Priorities are now unanimously approved.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our next public meeting is Wednesday, September 20, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. ▪ Are there any questions or concerns? ▪ <i>Follow up any discussion with summary, call for motion, or clarification as needed.</i>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As we have a few remaining minutes, the Department would like to open the meeting for any public comments or questions. ▪ All attendees have been unmuted. ▪ Any questions, we cannot answer today, will be addressed at the next meeting. ▪ Eric Rowe – former legislator expressing support for reinstatement of any member wanting to stay ▪ Kate Chalfin – manage 20 international committees and distinction between membership term and “turnover”
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We value all of the Committee members’ guidance, ideas and input. I, along with the Department, thank you for your service. ▪ Again, as a reminder, our next meeting is September 20th, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Members will receive information for the meeting. ▪ Is there a motion to adjourn the meeting? ▪ Motion made by Rory Cooper.

- Is there a second?
- Itzhak Fischer seconded.
- All those in favor, say aye. (*Pause for vote*)
- Opposed, say nay. (*Pause for vote*)
- Thank you for taking the time out of your schedules to participate in this meeting, the meeting has officially ended. have a great day everyone.