

Meeting Logistics

Item	Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee (SCRAC)
Date	April 21, 2022
Time	9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Location	Teams Meeting
Purpose/Focus	Spinal Cord Research Advisory Committee Meeting
Notetaker	Michael Sargent, 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.
- 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
- 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:

- Franklin Caldera, D.O., M.B.A. Chief Medical Officer at the University of Pennsylvania Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- Elizabeth Tyler-Kabara, MD, neurosurgeon, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
- Joel Winer, MD, neurosurgeon, Wellspan Health, York, PA

Department of Health Staff Present:

- Jared Shinabery
- Muneeza Iqbal
- William Cramer
- Galen Graham
- Sylvia Golas
- Stephanie Landis
- Pamela Brown

Agenda

ID	Description	Owner	Time
1	Welcome and Introductions	Jacob Chalfin, Chair	9:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
2	Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes	Jacob Chalfin, Chair	9:40 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
3	Update on 2021-2022 RFA	Sylvia Golas, PPHP William Cramer, Director	9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
4	RFA Evaluation Process Review	Jacob Chalfin, Chair & DOH Staff	10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
5	SFYA 2022-23 Spinal Cord Research Priority Discussion	All Attendees	10:20 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
6	Open Discussion	All Attendees	10:40 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
7	Closing Remarks	Jacob Chalfin, Chair	10:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Discussion

ID	Discussion
1	<i>Jacob Chalfin</i> , Chair, introduced himself. Committee members, and DOH staff introduced themselves. Public attendees introduced themselves.
2	<i>Dr. Cooper</i> moved to accept the meeting minutes of January 20, 2022. <i>Alex Charlton</i> second. No discussion. No opposition or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.
3	<p>Update on 2021-2022 Spinal Cord RFA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ January 20th RFA and links posted on PAeMarketplace ○ February 3rd Letter of Intent and Questions Due ○ February 10th Pre-application Conference ○ February 18th Q/A Responses Posted ○ March 10th Applications Due ○ March 10th HRO Approval of Reviewers ○ March 15th Application Packets to ORAU (17) ○ March 30th Doodle Polls Generated for Evaluation Preparations ○ March 7th ORAU Reviewers Identified ○ April 26th & 27th Panel Meetings ○ May 2nd ORAU Report to Department ○ May 13th SCRAC Evaluation Instructions and Proposal Distribution ○ May 25th SCRAC Evaluation and Recommendation Panel Meeting ○ May 27th SCRAC Recommendations to HRO ○ May 27th HRO Decision Memo to Secretary of Health ○ June / July 2020-2021 Grant Processing and Distribution
4	<p>RFA Evaluation Process Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Committee Members will utilize PeerNet for the Evaluation Process as done in the previous year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HRO will contact ORAU to setup PeerNet for the Final Review Committee.

5	<p>SFY 2022-23 Spinal Cord Research Priority Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The intent of this RFA is to fund Spinal Cord Injury Research Grants with the overall objective to foster and encourage innovative research for treatment and rehabilitative techniques for spinal cord injuries. Through this RFA process, the Department is soliciting Spinal Cord Injury Research Grant applications from Pennsylvania institutions that conduct research on spinal cord injuries. The Department is interested in funding three levels or Tiers of spinal cord injury research: 1.) Pilot Project Grants, 2.) Standard Research Grants, and 3.) Clinical/Translational Grant applications addressing the research priorities established by the Department in conjunction with the Spinal Cord Research Advisory Board.” • Dr. Cooper recommends providing more clarification for the tier requirements. Primarily Tier 1 and Tier 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HRO will provide the Committee with the current tier descriptions via email. ○ Committee will review the current tiers and make recommendations to HRO on changes. • Committee will move this to the July meeting.
6	<p>Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public had no comments. • Application Challenges for 2021 Spinal Cord Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Cooper feels PeerNet was difficult to navigate and a lot of redundant information. ○ Dr. Cooper felt the information required for budgets was redundant, specifically the budget by aims. ○ HRO Program Officers will look into the budget information. ○ Dr. Fischer expressed concern over the delay of approval by the Department. • Future SCRAC Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Meeting was changed from July 21, 2022, to July 20, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. ○ Jake Chalfin requested the quarterly meetings be moved from the first Thursday of the month per quarter to the first Wednesday of the month per quarter. ○ HRO Staff will publish the new dates in the PA Bulletin.
7	<p><i>Jacob Chalfin</i> expressed appreciation for the Department and Committee’s time and participation. <i>Dr. Cooper</i> made a motion to adjourn. <i>Dr. Fischer</i> second. Meeting concluded at 10:38 am.</p>