

MINUTES
MCKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION (MBRF)
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL
April 25, 2024

The Research Committee of the MBRF was called to order at 5:05 pm ET on April 25, 2024, by Dr. Madhav Thambisetty.

The following members were present:

Dr. Madhav Thambisetty, Chair of the Research Committee, Trustee
Dr. Mike Dockery, MBRF Chair
Dr. Patricia Boyle, Trustee
Dr. Sue Pekarske, Trustee

The following members were absent:

Dr. Roy Hamilton, Trustee

Others attending:

Dr. Lee Dockery, Chair Emeritus
Ms. Melanie Cianciotto, Corporate Trustee
Dr. Angelika Schlanger, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Dr. Thambisetty welcomed the members of the committee to the call.

2. Minutes of the March 4, 2024 Meeting

The minutes of the March 4, 2024, Research Committee Meeting (Attachment 1) were approved as amended.

The changes were:

Item 5: The first three sentences were amended to read:

The proposal is to renew the current Innovator Awards grant for another three years to fund two three-year awards per year in the amount of \$750,000 each (total 6) with maximum of 15% indirect expenses or institutional overhead. The proposed budget represents an increase of \$11,500 in administrative costs by AFAR.

Item 6: insert "annual" before research award/prize throughout the section

Item 6: delete the following:

The committee proposed the research award/prize be named in honor of Dr. Lee Dockery. Dr. Dockery appreciated the gesture but feels the MBRF needs to be kept in the forefront.

Action Item 1: The minutes of the March 4, 2024, Research Committee Meeting were approved as amended (Attachment 1).

3. Updated Activity Timeline

The committee reviewed the updated Activity Timeline (Attachment 2) for information.

4. MBI Leadership Council's Proposal – McKnight Brain Aging Registry (MBAR)

The committee reviewed the MBI Leadership Council's McKnight Brain Aging Registry proposal (Attachment) and proposed the following changes:

Add the following items to the Deliverables in year 1: "Year-end report outlining all accomplishments to date; projects/publications using MBAR data; use of funds; and criteria used to approve requests for access to biospecimens."

Add the following items to the Deliverables in year 2: "Year-end report outlining all accomplishments to date; projects/publications using MBAR data; and use of funds."

The MBI Leadership Council's McKnight Brain Aging Registry proposal was approved as amended.

Action Item 2: The MBI Leadership Council's McKnight Brain Aging Registry proposal was approved as amended.

5. Cognitive Aging and Memory Core (CAMI) – RFA

The committee reviewed the Cognitive Aging and Memory Core (CAMI) RFA and proposed the following changes:

Under Eligibility Requirements:

The 2nd bullet point has been changed to read " Applications must propose preliminary or pilot interventions with promise for ameliorating cognitive decline associated with normative aging (that is, non-pathological aging), including memory decline."

The 5th bullet point has been changed to read "Awardees may be asked to serve as a reviewer for 1-2 cycles (2025 & 2026) after completion of their award cycle."

Under Application Review Criteria:

The second paragraph has been changed to read "The rankings and final recommendations provided by the Cognitive Aging and Memory Intervention Core will be reviewed by the MBRF. Awardees will be contacted by email."

The Cognitive Aging and Memory Core RFA was approved as amended.

Action Item 3: The Cognitive Aging and Memory Core RFA was approved as amended.

6. Current Grants/Programs

a. MBRF Innovator Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss (AFAR) – RFA and Institutional Commitment Form

The committee reviewed the MBRF Innovator Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss RFA and Institutional Commitment Form (Attachment). The committee proposed the following changes to the Institutional Commitment Form:

Change the first paragraph to read; "Candidates for the McKnight Brain Research Foundation Innovator Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss must be independent investigators with independent research space. As part of the evaluation, the committee will evaluate the institutional commitment for each applicant in order to ensure that adequate research space and resources are available to the candidate. To complete the application, this form must be completed by the Dean or the CEO of the institution. The form is NOT to be included in the application, but must be submitted directly to AFAR by the person completing the form (NOT the applicant), to afarapplication@afar.org as a Word or PDF file.

Item 7: Restate to read: "Indicate percentage of the applicant's profession time (FTE) allocated to: a. Research b. Teaching c. Clinical

Item 8: fix the verb tenses in the series of unnumbered boxes

Add "A letter documenting the institution's commitment to the candidate is an essential component of the application. This letter should be prepared by the Chair of the department in which the candidate holds their primary appointment and co-signed by the Dean or CEO of the institution. The letter should include the following:

- A statement of commitment to the candidate's development into a productive, independent investigator and to meeting the requirements of this award. It should be clear that the institutional commitment to the candidate is not contingent upon receipt of this award.
- Assurances that the candidate will be able to devote the required effort and time to complete the proposed project.

- Assurance that the candidate will have access to appropriate office and laboratory space, equipment, and other resources and facilities (including access to clinical and/or other research populations) to carry out the proposed project.
- Assurance that appropriate time and support will be available for any proposed mentor(s) and/or other staff needed to complete the proposed project.
- In the case of candidates who will be using the resources managed by another investigator or project leader, a letter of agreement from the PD/PI of the project documenting their support is required."

Dr. Schlanger will email the committee the updated Institutional Commitment Form for their review and approval prior to sending to AFAR. The approved document will be included in the May 15, 2024, Board of Trustees' meeting package.

Action Item 4: Dr. Schlanger will email the committee the updated Institutional Commitment Form for their review and approval prior to sending to AFAR. The approved document will be included in the May 15, 2024, Board of Trustees' meeting package.

b. MBRF Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss (ABF) RFA

The committee reviewed the MBRF Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss RFA (Attachment) and proposed the following changes:

Update all dates for the current cycle.

Under Eligibility, item #1 the end of the last sentence was changed to read "or tools to mitigate age-related cognitive decline and memory loss."

Under Evaluation and Selection, the last bullet point was changed to read "Project Significance: the ability to advance the field of cognitive aging."

The MBRF Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss RFA was approved as amended.

Action Item 5: The MBRF Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss RFA was approved as amended.

7. MBI Annual Report Reviewer Template Updates

Due to time constraints, the MBI Annual Report Reviewer Template updates (Attachment) will be circulated to the committee by email for review and approval.

Action Item 6: Dr. Schlanger will circulate the MBI Annual Report Reviewer Template updates to the committee by email for review and approval.

8. Adjourn

Dr. Thambisetty asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for adjournment of the meeting at 6:20 p.m. ET.

Summary of Action Items:

Action Item 1: The minutes of the March 4, 2024, Research Committee Meeting were approved as presented (Attachment 1).

Action Item 2: The MBI Leadership Council's McKnight Brain Aging Registry proposal was approved as amended.

Action Item 3: The Cognitive Aging and Memory Core RFA was approved as amended.

Action Item 4: Dr. Schlanger will email the committee the updated Institutional Commitment Form for their review and approval prior to sending to AFAR. The approved document will be included in the May 15, 2024, Board of Trustees' meeting package.

Action Item 5: The MBRF Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss RFA was approved as amended.

Action Item 6: Dr. Schlanger will circulate the MBI Annual Report Reviewer Template updates to the committee by email for review and approval.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melanie A. Cianciotto
Corporate Trustee