

To: John Hablitz, Ph.D.
Coordinator, McKnight Brain Research Foundation Travel Awards
Cc: Trustees, McKnight Brain Research Foundation

From: Carol A. Barnes, Ph.D.
and Cognitive Test Battery Working Group

Date: August 11, 2011

Re: Report on August 3-4, 2011 Meeting, and Proposal for Follow-up Meetings

The Cognitive Test Battery Working Group met in New Orleans August 3 and 4. The lively discussions lead to a series of productive ideas. We accomplished all 3 of our primary goals: a) coming to a consensus on how to approach the creation of a common Test Battery for Humans that can be used across McKnight Institutions (and hopefully institutions across the country), b) coming up with a domain-specific Test Battery for Animals, and c) to begin to assemble tasks already available that are sensitive to normative aging across species for development of translational studies among us. While many of us had clear ideas on what should be included in the Human and Animal batteries, perhaps the most exciting [to the person writing this report], was the way this interaction facilitated ideas for new tasks both on the human and animal side that can be used in novel ways to generate collaborative experiments.

Comments on “How the Meeting Worked”

There was some risk that with a group of a dozen people, we could have descended into endless arguments, with no progress forward by the end of the meeting. While I am not prepared to say that we had no repetitive disagreements, we were able to work through these to productive solutions. As we began to appreciate the wide ranging expertise among us, it became clear how to divide “writing assignments” for each individual, so that all of us could make productive contributions. The area we are tackling is huge – so we all felt that this size of group was extremely helpful. The summary of the meeting and the writing assignments are outlined in the attached **Summary of the Test Battery Meeting** (the ‘note-takers’ were Barnes and Ryan).

Report on Costs of the New Orleans Meeting

Estimated Costs from May 9, 2011 Proposal: \$10,000

Actual Costs: will be provided by Melanie Cianciotto

Proposed Second Meeting Dates and Site

At the end of the meeting it became clear that we would need one more face to face meeting to refine our write-ups, and agree what will get included in the CORE batteries (Human and Animal), and what will be included in the EXTRA TOOLBOX tests, before the next Inter-institutional Meeting (which will be held in Tucson April 2012). At the Tucson meeting in April we hope to be able to present our recommendations to the full group, and at that time have our papers in review or in revision. The only date that all of us could commit to for the second group meeting was December 1 and 2, 2011. Our first choice venue was Miami, however, we had to reconsider because of a large arts festival

in Miami on those days. All sites can get reasonable flights to Denver, and this is the reason this city was chosen.

The end product of the first meeting in New Orleans is the Summary Document, attached. We have agreed on the focus of our work, and are clear on our individual and group work assignments (see Summary Document for details) that need to be as complete as possible by November 30. In the meantime, each 'group' will have multiple discussions by email or phone. To give us a few more hours together (which we will need to have at this stage) we propose to fly in Wednesday night, so that we start first thing Thursday morning December 1, allowing us to have the full day. We will conclude the meeting by early afternoon Friday December 2, so that everyone can catch flights home that evening.

The meeting will involve the same 12 primary participants that the Leadership Council nominated from each institution:

Tucson

Carol Barnes
Betty Glisky
Lee Ryan
Gene Alexander

Gainesville

Dawn Bowers
Jennifer Bizon
Tom Foster

Birmingham

David Geldmacher
Erik Roberson

Miami

Bonnie Levin
Richard (Tony) DeFazio
Clinton Wright

The approximate **Hotel Room** costs for two nights, plus a **meeting room** for Thursday all day and Friday morning are estimated to be \$5,400. The approximate **airfare and other incidental transportation** costs are estimated to be \$6,000. **Food** includes breakfast, lunch and dinner Thursday, and breakfast and lunch on Friday, and are estimated to be \$2,500.

**Estimated Total for Second Cognitive Test Battery Working Group Meeting:
\$13,900**

Request for support for a Pre-Inter-institutional Meeting for the Working Group

Because we will either be revising our manuscripts in April, or planning collaborative experiments, the working group agreed that coming in one day earlier than the beginning of the Inter-institutional meeting would be a productive use of time. We propose to come in April 10, 2012, have a Working Group meeting that afternoon, and a morning meeting April 11. The opening reception for the entire group is the evening of April 11. We therefore request approval for one additional night's lodging in Tucson and associated meeting costs, estimated to be: \$4,000.

We look forward to hearing of your decision concerning support of this effort.