

Board of Governors Meeting via Teleconference / Webinar

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

1:00pm – 2:00 pm ET

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, *Chairperson*; Sharon Levine, MD, *Vice Chairperson*; Kara Ayers, PhD; Kate Berry; Tanisha Carino, PhD; Michael Lauer, MD (designee for Francis Collins, MD, PhD); Jennifer DeVoe, MD, DPhil; Alicia Fernandez, MD; Christopher Frieze, PhD, RN; Michael Herndon, DO; Russell Howerton, MD; James Huffman; Connie Hwang, MD, MPH; David Meyers, MD (designee for Gopal Khanna, MBA); Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD; Eboni Price-Haywood, MD, MPH; James Schuster, MD, MBA; Ellen Sigal, PhD; Kathleen Troeger, MPH; Danny van Leeuwen, MPH, RN; Robert Zwolak, MD, PhD

Board Members Absent: Michelle McMurry-Heath, MD, PhD; Janet Woodcock, MD

Agenda Item	PCORI Speakers
Welcome and Call to Order Consider for Approval: - Minutes of September 14 and 15, 2020 Board Meeting <i>Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, Board Chairperson</i>	Dr. Goertz chaired and opened the meeting, welcomed all to the meeting of the PCORI Board of Governors and read the Chair Statement on Conflict of Interest. After she reviewed the meeting agenda, Goertz welcomed the newly appointed Board members to their first PCORI Board meeting. She noted that PCORI is looking forward to benefiting from their experience and insight throughout the coming years. Goertz then recognized Dr. Sharon Levine, Chair of the Governance Committee, who reminded Board of Governor members and Methodology Committee members that they are required to complete annual Conflict of Interest Disclosures. She stated that the deadline for submission of these disclosures is January 29, 2021 for any member who has not updated their COI disclosures since October 1, 2020. She noted that this does not apply to the new Board members since their disclosures were submitted after that date. She also commented that reminders would be sent periodically throughout the process. Goertz then presented the minutes of the previous Board meeting for approval. <i>The following motion was made by Mike Herndon and seconded by Sharon Levine.</i> Motion: Approve minutes from the September 14 and 15, 2020 Board of Governors meeting. <i>Approved by a majority vote of the voting Board members by voice vote (no opposed; no abstentions).</i>
Executive Director's Report - Strategic Planning Committee Update and Preview - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Framework	Dr. Cook opened the Executive Director's Report by updating the Board of Governors on recent activities related to strategic planning. Cook reported on the ongoing work to garner diverse input, advance priorities articulated in the reauthorizing legislation, and develop a visioning process for PCORnet. Cook previewed the schedule for the December 7-8, 2020 Board of Governor's meeting where a series of presentations and conversations are anticipated to inform and advance the Board's ability to identify National Priorities.

- <i>Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH, Executive Director</i>	The Board commented on incorporating learnings on and reflections from the COVID-19 pandemic as PCORI continues strategic planning. Cook confirmed that there would be opportunities to do so throughout the planning process such as considering and discussing longer-term issues related to COVID-19 that could impact PCORI's work. Cook provided an update on PCORI's efforts to enhance and embrace Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in all areas of PCORI's work as a response to many of the country's recent social justice challenges. Cook noted that initial plans were shared in September, with several anticipated areas of focus, thus this presentation served as an update. Cook shared PCORI's commitment to DEI and how it is critical to our mission both internally (focusing on the workforce) and externally (focusing on how we fund). Cook shared that PCORI is approaching DEI as a comprehensive initiative that focuses on several overarching activities that assesses our current state and addresses our future state. Additionally, Cook shared a few options that PCORI is considering, such as applying a DEI lens to our engagement rubric, hosting staff roundtable discussions, creating affinity groups, setting DEI goals and forming a data collection metric in a DEI framework. PCORI anticipates a broad comprehensive strategy that will be brought to the Board outlining a future state vision. Staff will look to the Board to hold PCORI accountable in promoting these metrics. Board members expressed support for PCORI to take a strong leadership role in this initiative as it relates to patient-centered research. Members noted that healthcare research needs to more fully include the people most impacted at all stages and PCORI can play a significant role toward this effort. Additionally, PCORI was encouraged to leverage the Board as thought partners in addressing the concept of externally leveraging PCORI as an anchor for various work streams, such as funding and procurement. Cook noted that staff will consider where opportunities may exist to assess how DEI align with PCORI's overall activities.
Consider for Approval: Cycle 1 2020 Broad Slate - <i>Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD, Chair, Selection Committee</i> <i>Steve Clauser, MPA, PhD, Program Director, Healthcare Delivery & Disparities Research (HDDR)</i> <i>Anne Trontell, MD, MPH, Clinical Effectiveness and Decision Science (CEDs)</i>	Dr. McNeil made introductory remarks on behalf of the Selection Committee and introduced Dr. Steven Clauser and Dr. Anne Trontell to provide details regarding the proposed slate of awards being presented to the Board for approval. These projects were reviewed by the Selection Committee in October 2020. Clauser and Trontell then introduced the proposed slate for the Cycle 1 2020 Broad PFA Awards. They reviewed the applicable merit review criteria and summarized the review process, including noting the number of Letters of Intent ("LOIs) received, LOIs invited, applications received, and applications that were deferred. The slate consists of seven research projects from four different priority areas: Addressing Disparities (2 recommended projects), Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options (3 recommended projects), Improving Healthcare Systems (1 recommended project), and Improving Methods for Conducting PCOR (1 recommended project). Brief summaries of the proposed research projects were provided. Out of the budgeted \$50M for the Cycle 1 2020 Broad PFA Awards, the proposed total award is \$33.5M. The Chairperson proposed that questions that related to broader issues beyond the slate itself could be addressed following the vote on the recommended slate.

	<i>The following motion was made by Sharon Levine and seconded by Daniel van Leeuwen.</i> Motion: Approve funding for the recommended slate of awards from the Cycle 1 2020 Broad PFAs. <i>The motion was approved by a majority vote: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 6 recused (Kara Ayers, Jennifer DeVoe, Alicia Fernandez, Christine Goertz, Barbara McNeil, and James Schuster).</i> See Attachment A for the list of Cycle 1 2020 Broad PFA projects approved for funding. Following the Board's vote to approve the recommended slate of awards, Board members posed questions about not awarding the maximum budgeted amount for the slate and on how to best use these rollover funds for future funding. Cook noted that the timing of the applicable PFA announcement coincided with the start of COVID challenges, and thus 19 applications from the Cycle 1 2020 Broad PFAs were deferred to Cycle 2 2020 and will be considered soon. Also, Cook noted that PCORI has recently seen an increase in LOIs and applications for Cycle 2 2020 and Cycle 3 2020 which may result in an increase in the number of awards being funded. Board members discussed the lack of Communications and Dissemination Research (CDR) applications. Cook noted that staff are currently developing strategies to better solicit applications for this priority area.
Wrap up and Adjournment - Christine Goertz, DC, PhD	Meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm

Minutes were approved by the PCORI Board of Governors 12-07-2020

Attachment A: Projects Approved for the Cycle 1 2020 Broad PFA Awards

Program	Awarded Project
Addressing Disparities	Teletherapy to Address Language Disparities in Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children
	Social Interventions for Support during Treatment for Endometrial Cancer and Recurrence: SISTER study
Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options	Biologic Abatement and Capturing Kids' Outcomes & Flare Frequency in Juvenile Spondyloarthritis (BACK OFF JSpA)
	A Comparison of Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Pharmacotherapy, and their Combination for PTSD: What Works Best, and for Whom
	A Real-World Comparative Effectiveness Trial of Treatment Strategies in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis: The RA-PRO PRagmatic trial (RA-PROPR)
Improving Healthcare Systems	Comparing the Effectiveness of Behavioral Health Supports for Publicly-Insured Perinatal Women
Improving Methods for Conducting PCOR	Methods to Analyze Patient-Centered Outcomes Missing due to Death in Cluster-Randomized Trials