

**Board of Governors Meeting via Teleconference / Webinar**

Monday December 7, 2020

1:30pm – 4:45 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 Friese, 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 November 17, 2020 Board Meeting - Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, Board Chairperson	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. She then reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. With no additions or corrections offered, Goertz then presented the minutes of the November 17, 2020 Board meeting for approval. <i>The following motion was made by Barbara McNeil and seconded by Kara Ayers.</i> Motion: Approve minutes from the November 17, 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 Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH, Executive Director	Dr. Cook provided updates on a few staff transitions: the retirement of Jean Slutsky, PCORI's Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer, and updates on the roles of Regina Yan, PCORI's Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Larry Becker who has served as Interim COO during Yan's extended leave. Cook congratulated Jean Slutsky on her retirement and thanked her for her many years of service to PCORI and her valuable contributions. She was pleased to report that Slutsky has agreed to continue as a part-time Senior Advisor to the Executive Director, and thanked Greg Martin, Deputy Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer, who will serve as the Interim Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer. Cook also welcomed back Regina Yan and expressed thanks to Larry Becker. Cook also shared that the GAO issued its 3rd mandated review of PCORI on November 18, 2020, entitled "Comparative Effectiveness Research: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and HHS Continue Activities and Plan New Efforts. She noted that the report affirms that PCORI continues to meet the mandates of its authorizing law and offered no recommendations for improvement.

Cook then presented the Q4-2020 Dashboard for the Board's review. The Dashboard demonstrated 7 green-flagged metrics (those that are on track): Funds Committed, Research Project Performance, Altmetric: Attention to PCORI Results, Uptake into UpToDate®, Other Examples of Uptake, Results Viewed on PCORI.org, and Front Door Requests in PCORnet. There were 2 yellow-flagged metrics (those that are off target by more than 10%): Operational Expenses and Speed of PCORI Peer Review. There were no red-flagged items (items that are off-target and in need of attention or action by the Board).

Cook provided an example of a completed PCORI-funded study, covering the sequence from results to uptake of findings. The study that was provided as an example had results published in *JAMA Network Open* and *PLOS One*, and on PCORI.org. The study found that educating nurses and patients about the importance of VTE blood clot prevention medications reduces missed doses in hospitalized patients. She shared that the study has two PCORI-funded implementation projects and has the potential to reach 1 million patients admitted to trauma centers each year. Results from the study have been disseminated by external groups, including by Johns Hopkins University and through a CMS-funded Quality Improvement Initiative. Cook then shared an example of how PCORI influenced the development of resources to promote and support patient-centered outcomes research.

Cook presented PCORI's \$2.8B in cumulative funding commitments as of FY20, which included \$2.2B in research awards. She shared an update on the status of PCORI-funded research projects: 368 have been completed, and 322 are currently in progress. She provided further details on the trends and shifts in project status in Q4-20. The percent of projects in the Yellow zone (on track but experiencing slight delays) is higher in Q4 than usual due to COVID-19 delays. She shared an update on contract modifications, which are higher than historical rates in Q4 due to COVID-19 related modifications.

Cook gave an update on metrics relating to recruitment of study participants for PCORI-funded projects, noting that 95% of projects that completed recruitment had achieved greater than 90% of their enrollment target.

She also shared that PCORI's award funding process provides complete and earlier availability of research results to the public. She shared year-to-year trends on measures of attention, uptake and use of results from PCORI-funded studies. Cook proposed changing the frequency of sharing the Dashboard with the Board to every 6-months, rather than every 3-months.

Board members expressed interest in continuing to capture dissemination metrics on a quarterly basis, in capturing only the most substantive PCORnet Front Door Requests, and the time it takes for study results to be available to the public.

COVID-19 Update

Cook presented the latest COVID-19 funding response from PCORI. She provided a snapshot of ongoing and emerging priorities such as longer-term complications, mental health and disparities in outcomes. Cook explained the initial multipronged approach through Awards, Information Sharing and Adapting for our awardees in their existing projects. To date funding for COVID-19 has resulted in \$30M for Targeted awards, \$34.4M for Enhancement awards and the HERO Program, which includes ~17,000 enrolled in the HERO registry; she also anticipates reporting early next year on

	the next phase of the trial. She also noted PCORI's approach to our ongoing and emerging priorities. Members of the Board raised questions related to capturing learnings and measures around healthcare workers (HCWs) impacted by COVID-19, what we can learn from HERO and HCWs who are also caregivers, if PCORnet can play a role in the post market safety / surveillance space relating to vaccinations and what we can learn from modalities such as telehealth.
Panel Discussion: Strategic Planning for PCORI 2.0: Health Policymakers and Thought-Leaders • Sheila Burke, MPA, RN, Strategic Advisor, Baker Donelson • Lisa Fitzpatrick, MD, Founder and CEO, Grapevine Health • Liz Fowler, JD, PhD, Executive Vice President for Programs, The Commonwealth Fund • Chris Jennings, Founder and President, Jennings Policy Strategies Inc. • Rodney Whitlock, PhD, Vice President, McDermott+ Consulting	This panel discussion with health policymakers and thought-leaders was convened to help inform PCORI Board of Governors' strategic planning activities. Dr. Levine, Vice Chairperson of the Board, opened the session and thanked the panel members for their participation and support in sharing their expertise with PCORI's Board. Ms. Slutsky, Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer, served as moderator and introduced each speaker. The discussion focused on two key themes: identifying issues or topics of priority to policymakers, and strategies for PCORI to better engage and inform policymaker decisions. Key topic areas of interest included telehealth and mental health, community stakeholder engagement, PCORI's COVID-19 response, public health, health disparities and equity, and cost and economic data. The panelists discussed how evidence could be presented through engagement with policy influencers and demonstrating the value-add to each constituency. The panel commented that, with a bipartisan reauthorization, this is an opportunity for PCORI and noted that PCORI is in a unique position to improve health outcomes from a patient perspective and focus on the integration of health and healthcare. Ms. Slutsky then introduced the panel members to give their remarks. Dr. Whitlock began the discussion by describing the opportunities for bipartisanship and PCORI's ability to demonstrate value through data to influence payment policies. Mr. Jennings explained the impact of stakeholder, policymaker, provider, and purchaser engagement. Dr. Fowler addressed public health concerns such as trust in the COVID-19 vaccine and noted how health equity concerns have heightened during the pandemic and suggested PCORI consider methods to record data on race and ethnicity. Dr. Fitzpatrick raised the issue of the need for data on the digital divide, telehealth accessibility and health interventions in vulnerable populations and suggested PCORI can utilize the data to impact policies that benefit telehealth access. Ms. Burke noted PCORI's focus on patient engagement and how patients/consumers receive, utilize, and act on evidence is essential as policymakers continue to shift towards value and evidence-based care, particularly regarding concerns around vaccine hesitancy and mental and behavioral health. Given the continued focused on health care costs, both on direct out-of-pocket costs to the patient and consumer as well as to the health system, PCORI has an opportunity to inform this debate by helping to define "value" and to consider drivers of waste and excess costs in the system. In terms of strategies to inform policymakers, the panelists noted that PCORI is well positioned to understand the provider and patient perspective at both federal and state-by-state levels. Fowler suggested organization partnerships with federal agencies (i.e., ASPE, HRSA, CMS, FDA, etc.) and advisory bodies (i.e., MedPAC). Jennings noted the need to consider how the information is conveyed, ensure that it is relevant to the specific audience and understand from where support and challenges to the results may come. In terms of informing Congress, the panel advised that it is critical to build a

	narrative around the research and results, making it “local” and putting it into context for each Congressional Member. During open discussion, Board members sought input on key topics and highlighted key opportunities for PCORI. Dr. Carino raised PCORI’s unique position to unite all stakeholders and have meaningful impact. Dr. Schuster highlighted that PCORI’s research portfolio on accessibility and effectiveness of telehealth are in progress, and sought input on how best to present data in a hyperpolarized setting. In regard to public health, the panel responded to Mr. van Leeuwen’s question inquiring how PCORI can inform public health, noting that PCORI should identify opportunities for investments in the public health infrastructure, build trust in the healthcare system and advance healthcare provider and patient-centered issues. Dr. Hwang asked about the potential impact of future leadership of the Department of Health and Human Services, with the panelists noting how it is important to recognize opportunities for collaboration given the change in administration. In closing the session, Goertz thanked the panel for an energetic, interesting dialogue and for their ideas and thoughts. She stated that PCORI would be looking to find ways to incorporate these ideas into PCORI’s strategic planning and its future. Goertz then thanked Jean Slutsky on behalf of the Board for her service, dedication and steady leadership, especially leading up to PCORI’s reauthorization. Goertz then invited other Board members to provide their words of appreciation for Slutsky’s support and guidance.
Wrap up and Adjournment - Christine Goertz, DC, PhD	Meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm

Minutes were approved by the PCORI Board of Governors 01-12-2021