

## **PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING #90**

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MEETING CHAIR: Dr. Samuel Weiss  
MEETING: Executive Committee Meeting #90  
DATE & TIME: September 21, 2016, 8:00 – 10:00 am  
LOCATION: HBI Boardroom  
ATTENDEES: Drs. Samuel Weiss, Keith Sharkey, Cam Teskey, Rajiv Midha, Benedikt Hallgrímsson, Keith Dobson, Bev Adams, Wally MacNaughton, Rob Sevick, Oury Monchi and Mr. Carlos Arenas  
REGRETS: Drs. Nathalie Jetté and Jong Rho  
RECORDED BY: Ms. Brandi Chuchman

**90.01** Dr. Weiss welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2016/17 academic year. There were no changes suggested to the meeting agenda. The minutes from meeting #89 were reviewed. Dr. Weiss shared a special welcome for new members Dr. Richard Walker, as the new Head of Radiology, and Dr. Keith Dobson as the acting Head of Psychology.

**90.02** Dr. Weiss provided his Director's update to the committee. The BMH Strategic Research Fund competition results have been finalized, following both internal and external review of the proposals. The winners have been notified and results will be publicly announced at the BMH Town Hall on Nov 21. Throughout the year, we will also be announcing these projects to the community as examples of our research that spans from basic to clinical.

Dr. Weiss next provided an update on the progress of the NeuroTechnologies programs. The first program to launch in late 2015 was the Non-invasive Neurostimulation Network, or N3, led by Dr. Adam Kirton. Installation of the first of three transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) systems for this program, in the Alberta Children's Hospital, was completed in April, and projects are underway studying motor mapping of children with perinatal stroke and cerebral palsy, and clinical trials using repetitive TMS and transcranial direct current stimulation. The second system will be located in the Mathison Centre, and the third system in the neurorehabilitation unit of the Foothills Medical Centre. Site preparations for both of these systems are underway, and equipment purchases are anticipated for this winter. Over 20 investigators are already taking part in the N3 network, and a seminar series will launch in November.

For the MR guided Focused Ultrasound (FUS) program, led by Dr. Bruce Pike, the human brain FUS system has now been ordered, and it will arrive in December, following customized construction. Simultaneously, design work for renovations to the Seaman Family MR Research Centre, where the FUS system will be installed, is underway, with completion expected before March. An \$8 million team proposal led by Dr. Pike to the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), to expand this program to include pre-clinical, blood brain barrier/drug delivery, and neuromodulation research, is being submitted in October, and results will be announced next June 2017. Additionally, Dr. Menashe Zaaroor from the Technion in Israel, will be coming to Calgary for a sabbatical in the spring, and will help to launch the program.

The research & business plans for the Optogenetics (led by Dr. Jaideep Bains) and Advanced Microscopy (led by Dr. Grant Gordon) platforms will be submitted this fall. There is a new option for space for the Optogenetics facilities that will be included as a “phase 2”, and we will elaborate on this in the institute space planning section below. New recruit Dr. Jonathan Epp, who will begin in April, is an expert in lightsheet microscopy and as such will contribute to the microscopy platform.

In fundraising, each NeuroTeam is developing a funding proposal in collaboration with the fund development team. Community champions for the Institute are also leading Institute-wide fundraising portfolios, including for the Mathison Centre, the Integrated Concussion Research Program, and the new “Research and Education Excellence Fund – REEF”. This evening (Sept 21) is the Rouge donor cultivation event, featuring all 9 NeuroTeams and with a special presentation of the exoskeleton led by Drs. Chester Ho and Patrick Whelan. The Mathison Series in Youth Mental Health is Nov 1 on “Marijuana, Mental Health and the Teenage Brain”, and will be held at the Rozsa Centre this year. The Gairdner Symposium on Concussion will include a public lecture on Nov 29, followed by a scientific symposium Nov 30.

The Dean of the Cumming School of Medicine will be attending the Dec. 5th meeting of the HBI Strategic Advisory Board, to discuss plans for the recruitment of the next Director of the HBI. The goal will be to have a new director in place in 2018, to enable overlap prior to the end of Dr. Weiss’ term.

- 90.03** Dr. Teskey provided an update from the Education Committee. In the Oxford exchange this summer, we sent two students and received two; all four had extremely positive experiences. Two honours students have recently been sent to the Karolinska in Sweden. This summer we had 42 BSc in Neuroscience students working in HBI labs, and most students also received funding from additional sources. Dr. Teskey thanked trainee Haley Vecchiarelli for the successful summer trainee research day, and he thanked HBI Education Coordinator Jason Ng for his work on the Kolb lecture and the exchanges. The September Kolb lecture with speaker Dr. Sheena Josselyn was filled to capacity this year. We are about to open scholarship and fellowship competitions in the HBI for this year, and Dr. Teskey asked the Department heads to please encourage trainees to apply. In the REALISE program, there are now over 200 registered members. Spaces in REALISE workshops are reserved for trainees of full HBI members, but there are often additional spaces available for other interested trainees and staff.
- 90.04** Dr. Sharkey provided an update from the Strategic Research and Innovation Committee. The CIHR competition results have just been announced. We were provided access with data only for those faculty members within the CSM. Of those, in the Foundation Scheme, 9 applications from HBI members were submitted in stage 1, 5 made it to stage 2, and 4 out of 5 successful, including Drs. Bains, Borgland, Gordon and Sharkey. The fifth person received funding in the Project Scheme. In the Project Scheme, 45 applications from HBI members were submitted, and 11 full grants and 1 bridge grant were successful, which is twice the national average. The efforts the Departments put in to help contribute to the success of the grants are huge, and we thank everyone who was involved. CSM bridge funding was received by 5 of our members. Two of our members who put in renewals to CIHR were not successful, and the committee discussed and approved HBI support for these individuals using budgeted funds, which will be used specifically to support trainees in their labs. Dr. Weiss shared kudos to Dr. Richard Hawkes who supported the development of many of these grants.

In recruitment updates, the new movement disorders clinical leader, Dr. Davide Martino, will be arriving later this year. The lead candidate in the neuroscientist position in the Department of Cell Biology & Anatomy has been identified and should be soon receiving a formal letter of offer. A neuroimmunologist recruitment and an optogenetics scientist recruitment are ongoing. A search for an imaging scientist is being led by the Department of Radiology. The application period has just closed for a functional neurosurgeon, who will significantly contribute to the MR guided Focused Ultrasound program. In Psychiatry, there are 3 ongoing searches, including an adult neurostimulation psychiatrist, a child psychopathology clinical researcher, and a clinical and developmental neuroscientist. The CRC Tier 2 clinical neuropsychologist position has been re-advertised, in partnership between the Department of Psychology and the HBI. The institute also anticipates a new replacement position in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, due to a recent departure.

The HBI seeks approval of the Executive to allocate funding for two major new clinical trials.

1) The first trial is in the multiple sclerosis (MS) program, and is a proof of principle study looking at a new drug which may have treatment potential for MS. The MS program has funds in their donor directed fund that was unallocated, and they wish to apply these funds to the new clinical trial. The proposal for this trial was reviewed by 3 international external reviewers, and has received approval from Health Canada, as well as the support of the HBI Executive Committee.

2) The second trial is in partnership between The Mathison Centre and the Sheldon Kennedy Centre, to look at biological markers of neurological damage in victims of assault, led by Mathison Director Dr. Paul Arnold. This proposal has also undergone external review, and is fully supported by reviewers, and by the HBI Executive Committee. They are seeking funding from the HBI, with matching funding from The Mathison Centre already approved. While this is an unbudgeted expense, the HBI recently received an anonymous donation in support of the institute's "greatest needs", and wishes to apply this new donation to this important new trial. This will be a 2-year pilot study, which is hoped to lead to a larger, longer-term study.

Dr. Sharkey moved to approve the budget expenditures for both of these clinical trials, and this motion was seconded by Dr. Teskey. There was no further discussion, and all were in favour. This item now moves to the HBI Strategic Advisory Board for their approval.

Finally, Dr. Sharkey shared that Ms. Cari Jahraus, the HBI Research Coordinator, has accepted a new position in Clinical Neurosciences with Dr. Michael Hill. Dr. Sharkey thanked Cari for her major contributions to the Institute, including the CFI JELF competitions, the pilot funding program, and the HBI Research Day events. The job posting is in the process of being updated, and will be posted shortly.

#### **90.05**

Mr. Arenas provided the Q1 financial statements for the 2016/17 fiscal year. Complete statements were provided to members. In Research, investments supported recruitment startup packages, core facilities, support of the NeuroTeams, research programs, and operations. In Education, investments supported studentships and fellowships, career training and development, and operations. In Community & Partnerships, investments supported international exchanges. All expenditures were budgeted and came in at or below budget forecasts.

**90.06**

Dr. Weiss led a discussion of the HBI's space planning initiatives, noting that space is a very sensitive issue among faculty. The CSM Space Planning Committee, led by Dr. Paul Schnetkamp, has identified approximately 2400 sq. ft. of space in the basement of the Health Sciences Centre that the faculty is considering allocating to the HBI. However, funding from the faculty would be required to complete significant needed renovations to this space. Renovations would take 18-24 months to complete. If the faculty agrees to fund the renovations, the plan is for the Optogenetics and Behaviour facilities to move to this basement space. This would be beneficial, as they would be adjacent to the animal care facilities. This plan would also free up space in the Heritage Medical Research Building, which could be used for additional microscopy facilities or laboratory space for new recruitments. Given the time required for renovations, Optogenetics will still open in the current RUN space this year as planned, and then, if funding for renovations is approved, move down to the basement in approx. 2 years' time. The Institute is currently working through a detailed space utilization study that documents the usage of all HBI space by faculty, trainees and staff in the Institute. The study will be completed this fall, and combined with detailed plans to house the current active recruitments being led by the HBI, to ensure the CSM Space Planning Committee receives a comprehensive picture of all the HBI's upcoming space needs related to core facilities, new recruitments, and expansion of the laboratories of our highly successful young investigators. As well, a detailed functional plan for how the new basement space would be used by the Optogenetics platform has been completed. Before these studies are presented to the Space Planning Committee, we will bring the report, including recommendations, to the Executive Committee for review. Dr. Weiss also sought the input of the Department heads on the Departments' needs over the next five years.

Dr. Weiss continued a discussion of the HBI's evaluation strategy from the June meeting. During its first decade of operations, the HBI received advice biennially from an international Expert Advisory Committee (EAC). The EAC was instrumental to the establishment of the Institute as a top neuroscience research and education centre which was recognized internationally. The EAC also helped to elevate the profile of brain and mental health as an institutional priority at the University of Calgary. However, the needs of the institute have changed, and the HBI has begun development of a new evaluation strategy to reflect the current research landscape and institute status. This new strategy focuses on more targeted advisory reviews for our specific research and education programs. The members were provided with a skeleton outline for this new plan. The committee discussed the value of continuing to bring in international reviewers, and other suggestions for the evaluation strategy. Dr. Weiss invited members to continue submitting ideas to help inform this strategy.

**90.07**

The committee reviewed the full HBI membership application for Dr. Karen Barlow, a full member of ACHRI and long-time collaborator on concussion research. Dr. Monchi made a motion to accept her application, and this motion was seconded by Dr. Teskey. All members were supportive of accepting her application, and it was approved. The meeting was concluded.