

**Strategic Research & Innovation Committee Minutes**

Meeting #71

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

12:00 – 1:30 pm

HBI Boardroom (HRIC 1A06)

Chair: Dr. Keith Sharkey

Present: Drs. Jaideep Bains, Andy Bulloch, Chantel Debert, Oury Monchi, Bruce Pike, Quentin Pittman, Naweed Syed, Eric Smith, Cam Teskey, Roger Thompson, Patrick Whelan, Jessie Keogh.

Regrets: Drs. Andrew Demchuk, Susan Graham, Nathalie Jetté, Keith Yeates, Wee Yong.

HBI research coordinator (Stand in): Raj Clair.

**Welcome:**

Dr. Sharkey welcomed SRIC members to the November 22, 2016 meeting.

**Approval of agenda:**

The SRIC committee reviewed and approved the agenda as circulated.

**Approval of minutes (October 16, 2016):**

The October 16<sup>th</sup> (meeting #70) SRIC minutes were reviewed and approved as circulated.

**Report from the Chair (Dr. Keith Sharkey):**

Dr. Sharkey informed the committee that twice a year the HBI has an opportunity to nominate individuals to the School of Medicine for Killam Prizes. Two nominations for the Killam annual professor awards submitted by HBI were accepted from the School of Medicine this year– Dr. Jaideep Bains and Dr. Michael Hill. This was a very intense competition. The committee congratulated these worthy nominees.

Dr. Sharkey updated the committee on the success of the HBI Town hall meeting. Feedback was extremely positive.

During the BMH town hall, Dr. Sam Weiss announced the potential for development of a new NeuroTeam. Dr. Weiss has initiated discussion with members of ACHRI. They will begin to discuss development of a neurodevelopment NeuroTeam amongst interested neuroscientists.

Dr. Sharkey shared with the committee that HBI and SRIC will undertake a formal external review of the NeuroTeams teams in 2018 and this will be combined with a review of the entire research portfolio. This was forecast in the strategic plan for development of the new NeuroTeams and the Team leaders will be consulted for names of potential reviewers in the New Year.

**NeuroTeam updates:**

### **Dementia and Cognitive Disorders: Eric Smith**

Dr. Smith explained to the committee that the theme for the NeuroTeam's first year was simply getting together and getting to know one another a bit and looking for opportunities for future collaborations. The goal was to start out with a manageable nucleus to explore deeper connections. The team is now at about 20 members.

It was pointed out that the team has only one participating basic researcher at this point in time. Other groups of researchers in the team are focused more on health services research, quality of life and outcomes from dementia. Leaders will be seeking opportunities to expand the activities of the team as time goes on.

Dr Sharkey thanked Dr. Smith for his strong leadership efforts.

### **NeuroTeam leaders:**

Dr. Sharkey briefly reviewed the expectations and needs for support.

Dr. Sharkey updated the committee about the leadership/team member survey. He is happy with results as they suggested the teams were functioning well, however, it was noted that communication is a bit of a struggle sometimes and in some cases administrative support may be lacking. SRIC will talk more about issues of support at the December meeting.

### **Recruitment updates:**

Dr. Sharkey reminded the committee that a revised table was sent out regarding recruits to show what is happening on the recruitment front. A detailed discussion of current recruitment efforts followed.

### **Support request:**

Dr. Sharkey reminded the committee that SRIC has a modest budget of unspecified nature to allow them to do something special if there is a need. Examples were given such as helping out with equipment or core facilities.

It was brought forth to the committee that there was a request for funding from Dr. Whelan. The request for funding help was to go towards the cost of a community research engagement symposium. Dr. Whelan explained to the committee how for the symposium community members from the Alberta Paraplegic Foundation and Spinal Cord Injury Alberta would be present and would involve researchers presenting data while getting direct feedback from patients. Previous meetings tended to have a focus towards pain and this year the focus is on neuropathic pain. It was explained that this will involve bringing in human rehab investigators from Laval, which is an opportunity to encourage collaboration. Overruns in cost came from inviting community members in and creating a webcast. Dr. Sharkey pointed out that it is being held at the Hyatt, as it's the most accessible place in Calgary. The HSC is not very accessible at all. Dr. Teskey has moved to fund the symposium, seconded by Dr. Pike, all in favour.

### **Budget 2017-18:**

Dr. Sharkey reminded the committee that the December meeting will cover the SRIC budget. For the time being, the committee will just go through the items that make up the SRIC budget so there is complete understanding.

Dr. Sharkey reminded the committee that NeuroTeams themselves have base budget for every team. No plans for changes unless teams really feel that its inadequate but will be discussed in December.

Dr. Sharkey informed the committee that we fund the core facilities and two budgets have been sent out – NIRU and the HBI molecular core. The RUN facility and the Halo are now under the Cumming Medical Research Fund and their budgets will all be incorporated there. Relevant information will be sent out.

The committee was reminded that small equipment replacement will be a budget item. Dr. Pittman will propose that again in the budget items. Bridge funding is another budget item to be carefully considered. SRIC will continue to budget for this as there will be even more need possibly in future. Additionally, the molecular core asked for more money this year including some equipment. The committee asked Dr. Pittman to take a closer look at these requests and initiate discussions as support of these two as part of your infrastructure update in December.

**Update from CAT and infrastructure (Q. Pittman):**

Dr. Pittman explained to the committee that CAT has not met recently. No new information at present.

**Other business:**

Dr. Teskey said that there have been changes to the Oxford exchange program. Dr. Teskey will update SRIC and HBI about the Oxford exchange as more information becomes available.

Dr. Sharkey noted that the Cumming School of Medicine added highly cited authors to the HBI annual report. HBI was highly competitive in the CSM's metrics – at or above most CSM metrics as an institute. The point was emphasized that HBI should be proud of overall success.

Dr. Sharkey reminded the committee that the next meeting is a budget meeting. The committee will vote on many issues and as such, it is very important everyone tries to attend.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm

**Next meeting:** December 14, 2016