

**Breast Cancer Research Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 6, 2009: Council Meeting**  
**Oakland, CA**

**Members Present:** Roxanna Bautista, Chris Bowden, Barbara Brenner, Terri Burgess, Crystal Crawford, Laura Fenster, Jim Ford, Karren Ganstwig, Larry Green, Klaus Porzig, Catherine Quinn, Jeanne Rizzo, Mary Alice Yund

**Members Absent:** Chris Bowen, Moon Chen, Shelley Hwang, Angela Padilla, Sherie Smalley

**Guests:** Steven Beckwith (via Skype), Christina Wynings

**Staff:** Lyn Dunagan, Larry Fitzgerald, Claudia Grossmann, Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch, Katherine McKenzie, Lisa Minniefield, Catherine Thomsen

**I. Call to Order:** At 8:17am, Klaus Porzig called the meeting to order, confirmed that a quorum was present, and initiated introductions.

**II. Minutes:** The council reviewed the minutes from November 7, 2008. There was one correction of a typo.

**MOTION:** Catherine Quinn moved (Mary Alice Yund seconded) that the council approve the November 7 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Priority Setting Overview/Refresher:** Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch reviewed the purpose and process of priority setting—to make thoughtful, educated, and informed decisions about the CBCRP’s priorities and methods of achieving them. She described the characteristics of the process, reviewed the previously-established and affirmed goals, and defined the scope of evidence-based criteria that the council will review. At the end of the process, the council’s recommendations should arise from goals, data, and considerations for each goal (e.g., “How well are we meeting that goal now?”). She described the results of previous priority-setting processes, which included developing the targeted investigations of the SRI. She encouraged council members to consider what data they would like to see in order to make these priority-setting decisions. Since data won’t be available for every aspect of the program (e.g., SRI), she offered suggestions for methods of getting sufficient intermediate feedback from experts.

Discussion centered around suggestions and questions that might identify and address both progress and gaps in breast cancer research, strategies and mechanisms of funding, and methods of gathering data, including ideas about possibly changing criteria for evaluating grants and the combination of targeted and investigator-initiated funding.

**IV. Priority-setting Presentations:** Mary Alice Yund introduced the goals of the two priority-setting presentations and invited council members to discuss and offer feedback

at the conclusion. Claudia Grossmann presented an overview of how the decisions from the previous priority-setting process changed the Program's portfolio, including additional investments in etiology and prevention and a reduction in investment in biology. She described the changes in the distribution of award types through the portfolio, such as an increased investment in innovative and collaborative awards and a decrease in career development awards.

**A. Innovation Presentation:** Claudia outlined the programmatic goal, the landscape of its development and definition, its historical impact, and an analysis of how innovation is funded in other funding organizations. Discussion of trends and observations included how the need for impact at the community level led to the development of the CRC awards and how the Program has changed over time, such as investing more money into the IDEAs by discontinuing RFAs. General comments included a desire to maintain the Program's focus on seed funding for and on maintaining a portfolio balance that complements other funding organizations. Council members discussed possible methods for collecting data on the outcomes of innovative grants, such as the number of citations of a publication, and the minimal expectations of a successful project.

Larry Fitzgerald presented examples of successful innovative grants and suggested reasons why good projects go bad, such as minimal effort from the investigator, unresolved technical issues, and a lack of commitment to breast cancer research. His analysis added thoughts and suggestions for potential changes to the IDEA mechanism. Council members discussed these ideas and other thoughts about outreach and institutional motivation for small-scale projects.

**B. Outcome-driven Research Presentation:** Claudia described some of the challenges to assessing the outcomes of research funding, including the long timeline involved in research and the many contributing funding organizations. She compared the Program's current portfolio of outcome-driven research with other funding organizations, and she presented an analysis of different strategies adopted by other funding organizations as they search for possible methods of redefining "outcome". Katherine McKenzie reviewed of some successful Program outcome-driven grants, such as CRC grants that have resulted in improvements in service delivery and quality of life. Discussion arose around defining outcomes and opportunities to strengthen outcome-driven projects.

Mary Alice summarized the priority-setting criteria and materials that have been presented to the council thus far. She invited members to offer suggestions or requests for other data that might help their decision-making. Suggestions included gathering data that examines translation outcomes, policy, stakeholder responsiveness, non-duplication, and portfolio analysis.

**V. Special Research Initiatives Funding and Update:** Catherine Thomsen presented the update on the current research projects and presented an updated timeline for all of the initiatives. She reviewed the Request for Qualifications for the project, "Toward a New Paradigm of Breast Cancer Causation and Prevention," and presented the expert review committee's conclusions and recommendation.

**MOTION:** Barbara Brenner moved (Karren Ganstwig seconded) to accept the committee's recommendations to fund the Hiatt proposal. The motion passed with two abstentions.

**Working Lunch. Meet a Council Member:** Roxanna Bautista presented information about her background.

**VI. Committees:** Klaus Porzig invited council members to participate in the committees.

**A. Outreach Committee:** Catherine Quinn reminded council members that several members' terms are ending this year, and key positions will need to be filled on committees in order to prepare for the symposium. The outreach committee has concluded that the symposium is integral to the intent of the 1993 Breast Cancer Act, and recommends the council remain committed to continuing this event. She reviewed the changes made to the event that will reduce expenses, such as eliminating the third day of programming and reducing the number of scholarships. The date and venue have been set for September 24-25, 2010, at the Oakland Marriott, and we are awaiting signed contracts from UCOP.

**VII. Programmatic Review:** Larry Fitzgerald presented the final tally of the Cycle 15 applications. Members discussed concerns about the impact that the loss of staff has had on CRC applications. Larry presented an overview of the review committee schedule, an overview of the programmatic review process goals, principles, process considerations, timeline, and the committee booklets. Following a mock review process, council members shared ideas and suggestions regarding scoring criteria.

**VIII. Director's Report:** Katherine McKenzie presented the Director's Report, as Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch had lost her voice. She reviewed the governor's budget, which showed that the Program's appropriation had not changed, and the Program's submitted budget, which compared the Program's revised budget with the initial budget submitted by Special Research Programs Executive Director Larry Gruder. Steven Beckwith described to the council his belief that recharges from UCOP will drop further, although the reorganization is still underway and incomplete, and he updated the council on the status of the new review committee planning unit, and other matrixed units under development within UCOP.

**IX. Council Chair and Vice-Chair:** Due to time constraints, nominations and elections will take place via email and/or conference call.

**X. Council Nominations:** Catherine Quinn reminded members about recruiting new council members.

**XI. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.