

ICR Governing Board Meeting

May 21, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Meeting By Zoom: <https://csupueblo.zoom.us/j/97991490875>

Meeting Minutes:

In Attendance: Dr. Cinnamon Bidwell, Dr. Joanna Zeiger, Mr. Michael Hennesy, Dr. Malik Hasan, Dr. Jon Reuter, Dr. Gail Mackin, Dr. David Gorelick, Mr. Louis Gautier, Mr. Michael McMaster, Dr. Chad Kinney, Dr. Jeff Smith, Ms. Wendy Fairchild, Dr. John Williamson, Ms. Julie Powell, and Mr. Dieter Raemdonck and Ms. Emma Hudson joined at 1:35PM – left 1:54PM

Absent: Dr. Melissa Reynolds, Mr. Sherard Rogers, Ms. Elyse Contreras, Mr. Scott McWhorter, and Dr. John Harloe.

- I. Welcome (1:00-1:02pm) Dr. Reuter
- II. Consent Agenda (1:02-1:05pm) Dr. Reuter
 - a. April 23, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
 - b. RFA 2025 Updates
 - c. Cannabis Research Conference Updates
 - d. ICR Personnel Updates
 - e. ICR Certificate of Foundational Studies in Cannabis
 - f. Marketing and Communication - Executive Summary
 - Motion to Approve by Mr. Hennesey, seconded by Dr. Zeiger – abstention Dr. Hasan – Motion passes.
- III. Journal of Cannabis Research (1:05-1:40pm) Dr. Kinney Guests: Dr. David Gorelick - Editor-in-Chief of JCR
Mr. Louis Gautier – Publisher with Biomedical Central (Springer Nature)
 - Dr. Gorelick – presented an overview journal performance including the number of manuscripts submitted and accepted by year as well as the geographic location of submitting authors – noted potential impact of shifting to the APC model
 - Many handling editors - 51 – collection international subject matter experts - 36 news associate editors recruited this year
 - Readership - More than 3,000 views per article since 2022 and 2024 – Media mentions (14 mentions per article on average) – mentions happening mostly in US, but also seen internationally – 1,000 news outlets mentioned JCR including NYT, The Guardian, etc. Referenced second only to JAMA on topics related to cannabis and medicine.
 - Open access – some competition – about 6 major competitors – in middle of pack in 2023 – JCR is outperforming is closest direct competitor Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research.
 - Doing very well in terms of submissions, readership, citations and growth – influence on public policy and guidelines – we are an emerging journal and only journal in the space with an impact factor that is increasing.
 - Mr. Gautier –Presented on journal’s success and opportunities for improvement.
 - Journal is meeting goals, disseminated globally, helping with publishing costs.

- Well positioned to continue a positive trajectory – good return on investment.
- Opportunity to share with a broader audience.
- Questions and comments from the board
 - Dr. Bidwell – how do you describe partnership between JCR and SN?
 - Mr. Gautier– Attaching the ICR name to the journal has been mutually beneficial – Elevating our brand together can be improved upon.
 - Dr. Bidwell –Do you have specific ideas for promoting the JCR and SN relationship? – Interested in areas of improvement that were mentioned; more access for researchers to funds; in part ICR provided. Were those referring to APCs, waivers; are there certain criteria in which authors will not have to pay the publishing fees? – Interested in funds that are currently in transfer or being held, would like to hear where that stands and when those can be accessed. As an author and somebody who submitted a request for an APC/waiver, the process is lengthy as we were told it would take 5-6 weeks for request to be reviewed.
 - Dr. Gorelick – authors complain that the APC charge is high; dollars is higher than euros; sometimes no funds, so two pathways: across the board program – available, and ICR has 10 slots to Colorado authors – US authors may not have APCs either as funding is being reduced in the US.
 - Dr. Cinnamon Bidwell – concerned we have negative reputation regarding review process since it is very lengthy.
 - Dr. Gorelick – still an issue but asks Mr. Gautier about feedback about length of review – it’s difficult to get reviewers, and handling editor is sometimes problematic – a lag here; all editors must rely on platform and sometimes they drop the ball – data will be coming in the next few days.
 - Mr. Louis Gautier – Submission to acceptance has come down to about 50 days – reviewer problem is industry wide, but we have alleviated this – Springer Nature’s platform is new and improved. **Will Provide data to the Board as a follow up.**
 - Dr. Reuter – Question from Elyse Contreras– is there a mechanism to request special topics via publication process?
 - Dr. Gorelick – They are special collections now, rather than special issue – JCR accepts suggestions for special collection, individuals can volunteer to be a guest editor and can then be posted as special collection – one on hemp is currently nearing completion and two others are underway.

IV. Government Relations Updates (1:40-1:48pm) Emma Hudson and Dieter Raemdonck

- a. Close of session
- Gov has 30 days to sign/veto or becomes law – he did veto controversial bill for labor/worker protections.
- Plan to engage JBC membership – 3 unknowns –
 - Will there be a special session?
 - Requested inclusion on the JBC Tour this summer? Unclear when ICR will be notified if selected or not.
 - Likely some change in JBC membership for next session.
- Dr. Hasan- asks that the lobbyists make the JBC aware of us.

- Dr. Kinney - How can the board help in this process? If selected as a stop on the tour where we engage with the JBC (Denver, Pueblo, etc.)?
 - Ms. Emma Hudson – we have been told by JBC to buckle up for a much more difficult future – they will work to engage JBC members and strongly encourages the board members to engage with them as well.
 - b. Outreach to Legislators prior to the next legislative session (Outreach Outline – Pre-read)
- V. Annual in-person board meeting planning (1:48-1:55) – Dr. Reuter
- a. Location
 - Dr. Kinney - poll for meeting in September – 5 dates suggested.
 - b. Dates – **Chad will send these out again with the poll and as well as gather input on location and agenda items.**
 - c. Agenda ideas
 - Dr. Jon Reuter - SWAT analysis
 - Dr. Joanna Zeiger - RFA process
 - Dr. Joanna Zeiger Stricter budget – how many projects and funding levels do we want to support.
- VI. Public Comment (1:55-2:00pm) Dr. Reuter

Adjourned 2:0