

ICR Governing Board Meeting
November 19th, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Meeting By Zoom

Meeting Minutes:

In Attendance: Dr. Joanna Zeiger, Mr. Sherard Rogers, Mr. Chuck Smith, Ms. Elyse Contreras, Mr. Michael Hennesy, Dr. Melissa Reynolds, Mr. Dieter Raemdonck, Mr. Michael McMaster, Ms. Julie Powell, Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. John Williamson, Ms. Justyna Dubey, Dr. Chad Kinney

Absent: Dr. Angela Bryan, Dr. Gail Mackin, Dr. John Harloe, Dr. Jon Reuter

- I. Welcome (1:00-1:02pm) Dr. Zeiger
- II. Consent Agenda (1:02-1:05pm) Dr. Zeiger
 - Sept 10, 2025, Board Retreat Minutes
 - ICR Affiliate Title Initiative
 - SWOT Update Summary
 - CRC 2025 – By the Numbers
 - Draft Student Research Award
 - Proposed Revision to Board Bylaws
 - Advancement Updates: Colorado Gives and Collaboration with WHOi
 - Marketing and Communication Updates
 - Recent publication
 - Motion to approve consent agenda
 - Motion passes
- III. Government Relations Updates (1:05-1:12pm) Emma Hudson and Dieter Raemdonck
 - Governor's Budget
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: The governor submitted his budget proposal to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) earlier this month. Projections are looking like about \$850 million deficit going into next fiscal year that the JBC will have to tackle. They're at a point where they may have to consider cuts, rather than moving money from different buckets. In the last 6 years, Medicaid growth is about 43%, outpacing higher education, which is about 29%. He is calling for a restoration of the ICR's funding to put back the \$725,000 that was cut last year, bringing us to about \$3.8 million in funding. Reminder that this is not finalized as this is the governor's proposed budget and that the JBC will draft the budget.
 - Marijuana Tax Policy Overview – JBC
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: The Marijuana policy overview briefing was the other day. Sales are down, thus, revenue to the state is down. They're keeping an eye on the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund and other revenue drivers.
 - Coffee with Legislators
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: There have recently been meetings with some JBC members. Jon Reuter and Emma Hudson met with Senator Amabile and dispelled some myths, explained what the ICR does, and thought it was a productive conversation. John Harloe met with Representative Sirota. Plan to continue to engage members, they are in their briefing now. The higher education briefing is in December.
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: We are working on a survey that we plan to send to members of the General Assembly to get insights into what interests them in the

Marijuana field and what type of research potential could be of use. We want to demonstrate we are forward thinking and that we heard them and we will try to get them the information they would like.

- Dr. Chad Kinney: The survey that Dieter is talking about will also be accompanied by a summary of the outcomes from the roundtable that was held last Friday. Thank you to those folks on the call who participated.
- Dr. Joanna Zeiger: Do you know when this will be brought back up and is there anything that we can do or anybody else we can speak to? If yes, can you offer training on how to do that?
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: I don't think anything in the short term. The JBC is in the briefings now. Advise to sit tight but continue periphery work that will lead to interacting with legislators down the road. In the near future, Emma and Dieter will touch base with Alfredo Kemm, the new analyst for higher education. Chad and Dieter previously met with Alfredo and had a pretty good conversation.

IV. Student Research Award – Advancement Resources (1:12-1:25pm) – Dr. Kinney
(Pre-read in Consent Agenda)

- Board Feedback
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: There is an item in the consent agenda that is a summary of what the ICR has put together in response to a meeting with the Research Subcommittee. It is mostly built on the Emerging Scientist Award Program, but there were some key differences that the Research Subcommittee recommended and have been implemented in the new award process. Goal is to gather applications, review applications, and at least announce awards prior to the fundraising dinner in May. One key difference is the Emerging Scientists Award was available to students working with a PI or co-PI of a project that was currently being funded by the ICR. That is no longer a requirement, which opens it up to new original research ideas.
 - Mr. Chuck Smith: Are there any downsides to this change?
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: The benefit is that it opens the door to a broader array of research being proposed. This would have been limited under the previous program.
 - Ms. Elyse Contreras: Are these funds what we collected from the ICR dinner? Okay, just wanted to circle back to provide perspective for Chuck as to where these funds came from.
- Decision Item
 - Motion to approve Student Research Award
 - Motion passes

V. SWOT – Preliminary Review (1:25 – 1:40pm) – Drs. Zeiger and Kinney
(Pre-read – Consent Agenda)

- Review higher priority items
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: The provided document in the consent agenda represents a summary of the SWOT analysis we did at the board retreat in September. The first page is directly from the moderator and is a summary of the outcomes from the SWOT update. She recommends identifying a few key items on the SWOT analysis to focus on. The raw information was taken and sorted by items with the most votes and the category it was in. The provided data is the filtered and sorted version, but we are happy to share the raw data if anyone wants it. The ICR staff met, and in the potential responses column, the staff came up with what might be appropriate ways to respond to the SWOT analysis. This is a starting point for discussion with the Board, and we would like the Board's input on how they would like us to move forward in

refining the responses.

- Strategies for Moving Forward (Special SWOT Meeting?)
 - Dr. Joanna Zeiger: Proposes a special meeting to discuss the SWOT analysis in December or January. [Julie will send out a Doodle poll to gather availability in December and January. Board should review SWOT analysis document prior to meeting.](#)
- Subcommittee Roles
- Develop a plan to for establishing future actions

VI. Advancement and Networking Dinner (1:40-1:45) – Dr. Kinney

- May 28th, 2026, Meow Wolf Denver, 6-10 pm
- Nominations for the ICR's Award for Excellence for decision at the December meeting (nominees and short bio to the ICR by Dec. 5th.)
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: [Requests nominations that consist of person's name, short paragraph about why they would be a good recipient of the award, and a bio to include their background. A list of nominees will be compiled so that this can be a decision item at the December board meeting.](#)
 - Ms. Elyse Contreras: Asked who can nominate.
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: The board and potentially ICR staff. It will come to the board as a decision item.
 - Mr. Chuck Smith: How many people have received this award and is there a criteria?
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: Last year was the first year so this will be the second recipient. [Will locate the award description and share it with the board.](#)
- Nominations for the Keynote Speaker for decision at the December meeting (nominees and short bio to the ICR by Dec. 5th.)
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: The keynote speaker doesn't need to provide a research presentation. It should be a talk maybe about the challenges in doing cannabis research and successes they have had. The individual could also be a celebrity or influential person.
 - Mr. Mike Hennesy: Recommended Carmelo Anthony from the NBA and provided an example of why he would be a good fit.

VII. Revision to Board Bylaws (1:45-1:50pm) – Dr. Zeiger
(Pre-read – Consent Agenda)

- Further Board Discussion
 - Dr. Joanna Zeiger: There is a Board member on the conference executive committee and the planning committee. Conference updates are put into the consent agenda for the board.
- Decision Item
 - Change Conference Subcommittee to an Ad hoc Subcommittee
 - Motion to approve bylaw change from Conference Subcommittee and Marketing and Communications Subcommittee to Ad hoc Subcommittees
 - Motions passes
 - [Change shall be reflected in the bylaws.](#)

VIII. Colorado Cannabis Research Roundtable Report Back (1:50-1:55pm) – Drs. Smith and Kinney

- Dr. Kinney: The roundtable had 56 participants and featured three panels representing policy, regulation, industry, and research perspectives. Attendees collaborated in thematic groups to identify top cannabis research priorities, followed by electronic voting to rank them. A summary report will be prepared to guide future board decisions and inform research funding criteria.

- Ms. Elyse Contreras: Really impressed by how smoothly the event went and how organized it was. Huge thanks to the ICR staff.
- Mr. Chuck Smith and Mr. Mike Hennesy: Both echoed Ms. Contreras' comments.
- Dr. Joanna Zeiger: Will the roundtable be a yearly event?
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: No, I envision it might be something that occurs every two years. There is value in future events bringing together cannabis research stakeholders, but the format is yet to be determined, and we should allow time to assess outcomes first.
- Dr. Joanna Zeiger: Emphasized using feedback from the roundtable to guide the RFA process and establish clearer research priorities.
 - Ms. Elyse Contreras: Will these priorities be incorporated into the 2026 RFA?
 - Dr. Chad Kinney: Confirmed that updates could be made after the summary report is released in December, with special interest areas added this year and refined for next year's RFA.

IX. Public Comment (1:55-2:00pm) Dr. Zeiger

- Dr. Chad Kinney: Thank you to the ICR staff for helping with the SWOT analysis, brainstorming the ideas that were shared thus far, and for the roundtable event last week. Thank you to Jeff on the programming side and Julie on the logistics side.

X. Adjourned at 1:53 PM MST.