



ICR Governing Board Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2022 12:00 – 1:00 pm

In attendance: Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. Cinnamon Bidwell, Dr. Joanna Zeiger, Mr. Scott McWhorter, Dr. Tim Mottet, Ms. Elyse Contreras, Dr. Jon Reuter, Mr. Kyle Blakely, Dr. Malik Hasan, Mr. John Lord, Ms. Ali Leonor (standing in for Mr. Sherard Rogers), and Ms. Wendy Fairchild. Ms. Amber Valdez and Mr. Dieter Raemdonck joined for last 15 minutes of meeting. Absent: Mr. Sal Pace.

I. Dr. Bidwell called the meeting to order at noon.

II. Dr. Jon Reuter made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Mr. McWhorter seconded the motion. The consent agenda was passed by unanimous vote.

III. Drs. Smith and Bidwell led discussion about the Request for Applications (RFA) that the research subcommittee has been developing. The board was informed the RFA is similar to the type of announcement that the National Institutes of Health would use and so follows best-practices. The board was also informed that the Governor has recommended an increase in the FY 23/24 budget that would support new ICR projects and also additional funds to support more internal biomedically oriented research in the ICR at Pueblo. Dr. Mottet commended that the ICR has come a long way with funding to support cannabis research initiatives in the state, which could be approximately \$4 million annually if the Governor's budget passes. The research subcommittee presented the RFA for approval by vote and Dr. Mottet seconded the motion. The RFA was approved as presented by unanimous vote. It was agreed that questions regarding how the RFA will be most effectively disseminated will be addressed at the subcommittee level and brought to the board as needed.

IV. Kyle Blakely presented a PowerPoint update of the communications project in which he summarized the feedback received from board members and his plans going forward. My Blakely indicated that he has met with all but two members of Governing Board and discussed four main points: 1) Objectives will be to increase funding and diversify sources of funding for the ICR. This will be achieved by increasing awareness of, and the reputation of the ICR as the sole state-funded entity that creates and disseminates objective unbiased cannabis research that will guide Colorado. 2) The need to develop key messages that will champion ICR research, promote the RFA, conference, and Journal of Cannabis Research as well as other ICR initiatives such as the emerging scientist program. 3) The need to identify and reach a target audience which would include the Governor's Office, key Colorado legislators and departments, scientific researchers and laboratories in the cannabis industry. Dr. Mottet suggested that universities are an important target audience and that the higher education community should be aware of what we are doing, including students. Mr. Blakely asked if Pueblo County should be a target audience and Dr. Smith discussed the ICR's history with Pueblo County and received support for continuing to build this and other relationships with counties in the future. And 4), Next steps in which Mr. Blakely will do research to identify and target public perceptions of the ICR. John Lord added that current federal policy makers are asking for high quality data summaries on the state of cannabis

research. He suggested that a cannabis research database could be developed by the ICR to help with the issue. Dr. Bidwell suggested Mr. Lord reach out to Dr. Smith to help connect him with strong research summaries that exist in the public domain. The ICR and its staff should consider further dissemination and promotion of such well-vetted research findings.

IV. A summary of internal ICR research activities and funding initiatives was presented by Dr. Smith. Dr. Sang Park has published 10 peer-reviewed research papers on behalf of the ICR, five of which were this year. He has three more manuscripts currently under review. This ICR research was also presented fifteen times at conferences, six this year. He has formed seven significant collaborations between the ICR and international organizations in South Korea, Israel and Spain. Dr. Park has also brought in \$265,288 in external research funding to support his work at the ICR, a sum that is commensurate with the level of start-up funding provided by the ICR to support this research. Dr. Park additionally mentors a PhD student, two MS students and six undergraduate students in his work. Several Board members reflected positive comments about this impressive level of productivity and scope of effort. It was suggested that additional opportunities to learn about Dr. Park's research and efforts be brought to the board.

V. Dieter Raemdonck and Amber Valdez presented an update of the lobbying work they will be initiating for the board now that their contracts have been finalized this week. They indicated that the democrat supper majority in the legislature with 31 new members, and the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) having five new members, presents an opportunity to educate the legislature about the ICR's work, role, and importance for Colorado. They also plan to communicate with the Governor's office and his new Chief of Staff. Dr. Bidwell indicated that the Governing Board should help in any way possible to convey the scope of work and vision of the ICR. Dr. Smith indicated he is working with Mr. Blakely, Mr. Raemdonk and Amber Valdez to coordinate the communication and lobbying efforts of the ICR.

VI. No public comments were made and the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.