

Regenerative Medicine Minnesota

Board Meeting Minutes February 5, 2020, via conference call

Board members on call: Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Roberta King, Jakub Tolar

Guests: Nancy Morgan

Note: Dr. Tolar discussed the grant review process with Ven Manda and Andre Terzic prior to call. They both agreed with the funding recommendations to be put before the Board with this exception: Dr. Terzic has disclosed that he is a co-founder and member of the RION LLC Board. Dr. Terzic is not (and will not be) involved in the review, appraisal, or ranking of any application from RION LLC submitted to Regenerative Medicine Minnesota, in line with the bi-directional recusal principle.

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM and a quorum was achieved.

The meeting began with a review of the January 16, 2020, RMM Board meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

It was suggested that all RMM Board members review the video of the OLA Audit Conference Meeting. A link to the recording was sent to Board members this morning.

The recent review of the RMM Research grants was described for the Board. There were 62 applications: 2 clinical trial, 26 translational research, 36 discovery science. Twenty-six reviewers participated in the process, and all proposals received three reviews.

The results of the review were unusual, as most of the top-scoring grants came from two of the seven review groups. Several options were proposed to ensure that differences in scoring were accounted for.

After brief discussion, the Board favored the option to award grants to the two best-scored grants in each review group (Option 3) because it reflected the distribution of applications most closely. It was also noted that the reviewers are experts and that they can be trusted to put forward the best grant proposals.

The motion was made to fund Option 3 as given. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved with no one abstaining.

The recommendation was made that University of Minnesota and Mayo Government Relations talk to Senator Ann Rest, Senator Michelle Benson, and Representative Rick Hansen to see if they are planning to propose legislation to tighten and clarify this law. It was noted that follow-up documentation in response to the audit is in progress. It was recommended that this be sent to OLA and the Commission prior to the start of session. If RMM plans to continue education grants, changing the legislation is critical. It was noted that the Commission showed support of the investment in regenerative medicine.

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

The business of the meeting being completed, it was adjourned at 2:25 PM.