

**Regenerative Medicine Minnesota
Board Meeting Minutes January 14, 2021, via conference call**

Board members in attendance via call: Shernan Holtan, Andre Terzic, Kristina Bloomquist, Barbara Nelsen and David Knapp

Absent: All members present

Guests: Lauren Bigalke, Beth Borg, Nancy Morgan, Michael Yardley, Tucker LeBien

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm via Zoom with a quorum in attendance.

The members were thanked for their attendance and reminded not to discuss grant proposals until after Dr. Terzic has had a chance to recuse himself from the meeting.

David Knapp was introduced as a new member of the Board. David Knapp is a leader in Medical Device Development and Exploratory Research working to treat unmet clinical needs for over 20 years. His current focus as Corporate Distinguished Fellow at Boston Scientific is on developing new solutions and fostering growth in adjacent and strategic areas of Interventional Cardiology and Peripheral Interventions, and developing novel technical platforms that cut across all Boston Scientific Divisions. He is passionate about coordinating open collaborative efforts including developing relationships with external institutions and connecting functions to drive meaningful innovation. Dave also serves as President of the Board for the Boston Scientific Foundation, is the Executive Sponsor in Minnesota for the Employee Resource Group Leadership, Education and Allies for Disabilities, and is a member of the Boston Scientific Health Advisory Panel.

Barbara Nelsen was introduced as a new member of the Board. Barbara Nelsen is the founder of Nelsen Biomedical, a strategy consulting firm focused on building businesses in the life sciences industry headquartered in Minneapolis with offices in Cambridge, MA. A scientist who moved to the business side of industry early in her career, Barbara thrives on working at the intersection of biology and business. She brings more than 20 years of experience providing technology and opportunity assessment, strategic planning and partnering, market expansion and commercialization plans. Clients range from start-ups to well-established life sciences companies, investment firms and research institutions. Barbara is also the founder of Emerge Institute, providing career training programs for advanced professional degree students in the life sciences.

The Board was asked to turn their attention to the Biobusiness RFP for review.

Previously submitted edits from board members were presented to the board using the Zoom share screen feature. Discussion was conducted on whether to adapt RFP language to be more inclusive of all biobusiness projects that could be funded by RMM. Minor edits were suggested and utilized in the new RFP. Dates were modified as appropriate.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to approve the RMM Biobusiness RFP.

Dr. Terzic recused himself from the meeting prior to the review discussion.

An overview of the research process and the highest rated applications was presented for the board. Members were provided with current budget information and shown three separate scenarios for funding recommendations regarding the research applications. The board entered into a discussion surrounding the review process and further discussed the scientific subjects of the highest scoring applications.

Discussion followed about the possibility of redistributing percentages of funding amounts for Biobusiness and Research awards in the future. In addition, the board discussed the possibility of expanding RMM presence throughout the state of Minnesota.

Discussion was redirected to current research applications. Comments were made commending the variety of scientific subjects and types of grants represented by the highest scoring applications.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to approve funding the 12 highest scoring research grant applications.

Board moved to discuss the annual RMM annual meeting, which was canceled in 2020 due to COVID restrictions. It was suggested that an online meeting would be in line with safety restrictions and a shorter meeting of only 1-2 hours could be best to reduce “zoom fatigue.” Breakout rooms could be used to allow researchers to present individual research. Legislators should also be invited to the meeting in support of RMM projects. There are software applications that allow for “tables” during meetings and could be used for the poster sessions.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to hold a RMM annual celebration in 2021.

There was no old business to discuss.

New business: Strategy to increase legislative support for RMM projects and operations. Set up additional board meeting to discuss future operations of RMM board. Identify settings for future RMM annual meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, the motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn at 4:58 pm.