



Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment Standing Committee on Grants Meeting Minutes December 12, 2024

The following board members appointed by the CARE Board of Directors currently comprise the Standing Committee on Grants: Cliff Berkman, Thomas Brown, Nancy Davidson, Beth Lawlor, Libby Mongue-Wymore.

Committee Members Present and Constituting a Quorum: Cliff Berkman, Nancy Davidson, Beth Lawlor, Libby Mongue-Wymore

Committee Members Not Present: Thomas Brown

CARE Fund Staff Attendees: Laura Flores Cantrell, Peter Choi, Tasha Florez, Pam Fujita-Yuhas, Joseph Sparacio

Guest Attendees: Alison Beason (WA Department of Commerce)

Thursday, December 12, 2024 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (PT)

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was confirmed by Laura Flores Cantrell. Peter Choi presented the Summary of Key Action Items for the Committee.

2. Rivkin Center CARE Fund Award Reviewer Appointments

Peter Choi introduced the first agenda item, the review and appointment of reviewer candidates for the Rivkin Center CARE Fund Award grant applications.

Rivkin Center identified reviewer candidates to review the applications. Peter noted project summaries and anonymized biosketches of the reviewer candidates were included in the meeting materials. Peter asked the Committee to disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest. Committee members disclosed the following: Nancy Davidson, University of Washington, Seattle Children's, and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center; Beth Lawlor, University of Washington, Seattle Children's, and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.

[Cliff Berkman joined the meeting at 3:14.]

Peter then opened the discussion for committee members to consider reviewer candidate nominations. Nancy Davidson asked for clarification regarding the number of reviewers assigned to each application. Peter confirmed three reviewers will be assigned to each application, and an alternate for each application is listed should they be needed. Cliff Berkman asked CARE Fund staff whether the reviewers identified by Rivkin had been assigned to individual proposals. Peter

responded that reviewers had been identified for the pool but had not yet been assigned. A discussion of the reviewer candidates followed.

MOTION: Beth Lawlor made a motion to appoint the reviewer candidates as presented to review the applications submitted for the Rivkin Center CARE Fund Award funding opportunity with a request that, if possible:

- On the application “Adaptation of Helping Ovarian Cancer Patients Cope (HOPE) for Clinical Burnout,” move Reviewer #5 from an alternate position to a primary reviewer and move Reviewer #12 to the alternate position”; and
- On the application “Leveraging AI and Drug Screening in Microtumors to Identify Effective Therapies for Platinum-Resistant Ovarian Cancer,” replace one of the primary reviewers with a Reviewer who is an MD with relevant expertise.

The motion was seconded by Nancy Davidson. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Grant Award Decisions and Applicant Appeals Policy

Peter Choi presented Draft POL 09.1 Grant Award Decisions and Applicant Appeals. By way of background, Peter reminded the Committee that at the November 6, 2024 board meeting it was noted that CARE Fund staff began drafting a CARE Board policy regarding appeals, and staff would work with the grants committee and consult with the AAG to develop a final draft policy for board consideration at a future board meeting. As drafted, the appeals process language is added as an update to the Grant Award Decisions and Applicant Appeals policy.

Assistant Attorney General Sandra Adix has provided input to inform this draft but has not yet completed a full review of the draft. Peter provided an overview of the changes and additions to the policy. A discussion of the draft policy followed.

Motion: Nancy Davidson made a motion to approve a Committee recommendation to the CARE Board to approve POL 09.1 Grant Award Decisions and Applicant Appeals Policy, editing section 4.0 to reverse the order of the two paragraphs. The motion was seconded by Beth Lawlor. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Implementation and Outcomes Research RFP Award Decision – Funding Scenarios

Peter Choi introduced Pam Fujita-Yuhas to present potential funding scenarios for the Implementation and Outcomes Research RFP Award Decision. Pam began by sharing a note from the chairperson of one of the recent scientific review panels, which was provided by AIBS to the CARE Fund after the panel meeting. The panel chair praised the reviewers' qualifications and described the process as “one of the best they had experienced.”

Pam then presented the materials for the award decision funding scenarios for the upcoming CARE Board award decisions for applications received in response to the Implementation and Outcomes Research RFP (Cycle 1). She noted, per Resolution 12.0, the Standing Committee on Grants is authorized to make recommendations to the full Board related to grant application, review, selection, and notification. At the November 6, 2024 Board meeting, the Board approved, as part of the Allocation Plan, \$9,870,000 for Implementation and Outcomes Research grant awards in FY25.

Pam reminded the Grants Committee that members of the independent scientific review and advisory committee score each application. The average scores are rounded to the nearest whole number by AIBS to arrive at a rating. Applications with overall impact scores of 1–3 are rated “Highly Recommended,” scores of 4–6 are rated “Recommended,” and scores of 7–9 are rated “Not Recommended.”

Pam then turned the discussion over to Peter, who noted three of the 25 applications reviewed had a rating of “Not Recommended” and are ineligible for funding per RCW 43.348.040(4). He presented the funding scenarios and CARE Fund staff’s recommendation. He noted 22 eligible applications are requesting approximately \$22.3 million, which is well above the \$9.87 million allocation. CARE Fund staff have reviewed the scores provided by AIBS, FY25 Allocation Plan approved by the Board, and anticipated FY25 spenddown of funds in all allocated categories.

Peter outlined two potential options for the Committee’s consideration (along with committee members’ options, if any). The first option would be to recommend to the Board that only the “Highly Recommended” applications be awarded for a total of \$7,452,371, resulting in an underspend of \$2,417,629 from the approved allocation for FY25. The second option would be to recommend to the Board that all “Highly Recommended” applications and the next three highest scoring applications, which shared the same overall impact score and were rated “Recommended,” be awarded for a total of \$10,256,298, resulting in an overspend of \$386,298 from the approved allocation for FY25. The staff recommends the second of the two options presented.

Peter then invited committee members to disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest. Committee members disclosed the following: Nancy Davidson, University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, and Seattle Children’s Research Institute; Beth Lawlor, University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, and Seattle Children’s Research Institute; and Cliff Berkman, Washington State University.

A discussion of the funding scenarios followed. The Committee agreed by consensus to make a recommendation to the Board to award funding for the 10 highest scoring applications to the Implementation and Outcomes Research RFP (Cycle 1), consisting of the seven applications rated “Highly Recommended” and the next three highest scoring applications (rated “Recommended” by the independent scientific review and advisory committee), totaling \$10,256,298.

Laura Cantrell asked the Committee members for feedback on the presentation of the Implementation and Outcomes Research funding materials, and committee members commented that the materials were generally clear as presented. Beth Lawlor requested the full names of the Principal Investigators be included in the line list to improve transparency in reviewing the applicant pool.

5. Committee Chair Appointment

Peter Choi presented the information for the Standing Committee on Grants Chair nomination. The committee currently consists of five board members whose terms end on June 30, 2025. The committee will meet approximately two or three more times during this term. The Committee may select a Chair. Chair responsibilities include facilitating committee meetings, working with CARE

Fund staff to establish the frequency of meetings, and collaborating with CARE Fund staff to create meeting agendas. He then invited questions from committee members. Peter noted there is currently a nomination for Dr. Nancy Davidson to chair the committee. No other nominations were made at the meeting. Nancy accepted the nomination.

Motion: Beth Lawlor made a motion to appoint Nancy Davidson as Chair of the Standing Committee on Grants through the June 30, 2025 term. The motion was seconded by Cliff Berkman. The motion was approved unanimously. Nancy Davidson abstained from the vote.

Peter noted the staff will work with Nancy on a proposed 2025 Committee meeting calendar.

6. Public Comment

No members of the public were present to provide comment.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes approved by the CARE Board of Directors at a regular meeting of the board on March 12, 2025.

Signed by:



Marc Cummings, CARE Board Secretary

3/19/2025

Date