



Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment Standing Committee on Grants Meeting Minutes July 10, 2025

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, and Libby Mongue-Wymore.

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

Committee Members Absent: Thomas Brown.

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

Guests Present: None.

Thursday July 10, 2025, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (PT)

1. Welcome and Summary of Key Action Items

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Davidson, Committee Chair, at 4:02 p.m. Quorum was established and confirmed.

2. Standing Committee on Grants Chair Appointment

Peter Choi facilitated the appointment of a Chair for the Standing Committee on Grants. The Committee is currently made up of five board members whose terms end on June 30, 2026. Peter noted that there is currently one nomination to chair the committee, Dr. Nancy Davidson, and asked for other nominations from the Committee. There were no other nominations. Nancy accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Beth Lawlor made a motion to appoint Dr. Nancy Davidson to serve as Chair for the Standing Committee on Grants for the July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026 term. The motion was seconded by Cliff Berkman. The motion was approved unanimously by the voting members of the Committee. Nancy Davidson abstained from the vote.

3. Scientific Discoveries Research Cycle 1 Award Decision – Funding Scenarios

Nancy Davidson provided a brief overview of the applications being considered by the Committee for a recommendation to the CARE Board at the August 20, 2025 Board Meeting. Nancy invited Committee members to disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest. Nancy Davidson disclosed employment at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and an affiliation with the

University of Washington. Beth Lawlor disclosed employment at Seattle Children's Research Institute, and affiliations with University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. Cliff Berkman and Libby Mongue-Wymore confirmed they did not have any conflicts of interest. Nancy asked if those who had disclosed conflicts could fairly and objectively discuss and provide a recommendation to the CARE Board. Both Nancy and Beth affirmed that they could objectively discuss and provide a recommendation to the CARE Board. Nancy then asked Committee members if they were comfortable to move forward without recusal to discuss and provide a recommendation to the CARE Board. The Committee members affirmed they were comfortable.

Nancy provided a brief overview of the FY25 Allocation Plan and noted that no Scientific Discoveries Research grant awards were made in FY25. Peter Choi provided additional information regarding the estimated amounts that may be available for grants in this cycle. Nancy asked the Committee what is the upper limit of applications that might be recommended for an award to the Board. A discussion of grantmaking scenarios followed.

MOTION: Beth Lawlor made a motion to recommend the CARE Board award grants to the 11 Scientific Discoveries Research applications with the top overall scores (by independent scientific advisory committee review) totaling \$11,689,245.00 subject to the CARE Board's determination that sufficient funds are available. The motion was seconded by Cliff Berkman. The motion was approved unanimously.

A Board member identified a correction was needed for the principal investigator listed in the meeting materials for the application from Seattle Children's Research Institute, "Harnessing phosphatase activity to minimize toxicity and increase the anti-cancer activity of CAR T cell therapies." Eric Tham is the authorized official and may not be the principal investigator. Laura Flores Cantrell stated that staff would verify the principal investigator for the Board meeting materials and confirm that principal investigators and other line list information for all applications are correct.

Peter Choi asked the Committee for feedback on which materials would be needed for the Board to make informed grant award decisions. The Committee agreed by consensus that the same materials provided to the Committee would be sufficient for the Board meeting materials.

4. Scientific Discoveries Research Cycle 2 RFP

Nancy introduced the next agenda item to review and discuss a draft of the Scientific Discoveries Research Cycle 2 RFP. Nancy noted the RFP had been updated to include language approved by the Board in May for the Implementation and Outcomes Research Cycle 2 RFP.

Nancy asked whether the updated RFP as presented fulfilled the Board's intent as a funding opportunity to support scientific discoveries and breakthrough ideas and, if not, whether Committee members had suggestions for revisions. A discussion followed.

MOTION: Cliff Berkman made a motion to recommend the CARE Board approve the Scientific Discoveries Research Cycle 2 RFP, revised to clarify CARE Fund will conduct Stage 1 Application Review, removing "and/or consultants" language from Application Review Process at the top of page 6 of the RFP. Beth Lawlor seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Breakthrough Research Grant, University of Washington (UW), Lieber Request

Nancy provided Committee members with an overview of the Breakthrough Research grant and the current status of the Breakthrough Research grant to UW (Principal Investigator, Dr. André Lieber).

Nancy informed the Committee that Dr. Lieber has requested a portion of the grant funds awarded by the Board at its November 6, 2024 meeting be made available prior to January 2026 for concentration and potency assays when manufacturing has started. The remaining funds would be available when IRB and FDA approval are in place.

Before opening the floor for a discussion, Nancy asked Committee members to disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest. The grant is to UW and has collaborations with the PAI Life Sciences, Swedish Medical Center, Fred Hutch, and Biodextris. Beth Lawlor disclosed affiliation with UW and Fred Hutch. Nancy Davidson disclosed employment with Fred Hutch and affiliation with UW. Cliff Berkman and Libby Mongue-Wymore confirmed they did not have any conflicts of interest. Beth and Nancy affirmed that they could fairly and objectively discuss and provide a recommendation to the Board. The Committee members affirmed they were comfortable moving forward without recusal.

A discussion followed.

The Committee agreed by consensus to recommend to the Board, subject to the contingencies previously approved by the CARE Board at its November 6, 2024 meeting when continued funding was awarded, approve Dr. Lieber's request to make Breakthrough Research grant funds available prior to January 1, 2026, for:

- UW and PAI Life Sciences costs after manufacturing of the clinical material has started; and
- Clinical trial costs after IRB and FDA approval are confirmed

6. Grantee Convening

Joseph Sparacio provided an overview of CARE Fund's May 22, 2025 Grantee Convening.

Joseph asked Committee members for suggestions regarding how the event might foster collaboration and partnerships at the 2026 convening. A discussion followed. Committee members made suggestions for the next grantee convening, including the use of name badge ribbons to visually identify CARE Fund Board members, staff, and grantees (to encourage opportunities for introductions). The Committee also suggested timing the 2026 Grantee Convening be held in conjunction with a Board meeting, to increase Board member attendance by consolidating travel.

7. Public Comment

No members of the public were present to provide comment.

8. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 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 August 20, 2025.

Signed by: Marc Cummings 9/9/2025
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 Marc Cummings, CARE Board Secretary Date