



Alzheimer's Association Small Company Consortia Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2015
Hyatt Regency Chicago, IL
12-1:30 pm

<http://www.alz.org/research/funding/AASCC.asp>

Attendees

Accera – Charles Stacey

Araclon Biotech - Ian Sherriff

Alzheimer's Association - Jim Hendrix

Alzheimer's Association - Heidi Jurgens

Alzheimer's Association – Jay Thompson

BrainBits – Michael Goy

Cerespir - Richard Margolin

DC Limited - Ramesh Shah

DiamiR - Kira Sheinerman

InterVivo Solutions - Joseph Araujo

M3 Bio – Leen Kawas

M3 Bio – Lance Stewart

NeuroPhage Pharma - Jonathan Levenson

Telocyte - Michael Fossel

Steven Harris – (Guest)

Introduction:

Jim welcomed the attendees to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Each attendee then introduced themselves.

Discussion:

New Organizational Structure

Jim thanked all candidates who participated in the election and announced the results for Co-Chairs: the new Co-Chairs are Kira Sheinerman (DaimiR) and Charles Stacey (Accera). Jim will continue in his leadership role and support the Co-Chairs; further details on the organizational structure will be worked out and shared with the group.

Sub-Committees

The sub-committees are based off the general interest areas identified in the questionnaire results which are available on the website. It was generally agreed that the AASCC will need some level of governance but should also remain agile and not overly structured. Anyone can join any of the sub-committees; there is no maximum. Anyone interested in joining a sub-committee can email Jim and he will move it to the Co-Chairs.

Recruitment and Membership Sub-Committee

Main areas of focus for this sub-committee center on development of criteria/guidelines for joining AASCC and the review of applications for new membership. It was agreed that membership criteria are necessary to provide the AASCC credibility. It was suggested that general criteria be put forward that allow room for maneuvering in terms of deciding who is a good fit to join. It was agreed that a company needs to be science-driven and focused on AD, but potential members could range from very small companies that are just starting out (no funding, not yet established) to large established companies interested in working with small companies. This subcommittee could also begin to address questions around the growth and ideal size of the AASCC, who we are targeting to join and membership fees. An option for membership fees could be joining ISTAART which is low cost and carries benefits such as reduced registration to AAIC and subscription to Alzheimer's & Dementia.

Program and Education Sub-Committee

Main areas of focus for this sub-committee will be management of educational webinars and identifying/organizing speakers. There was a Doodle Poll sent around to query interest in the six topics identified for educational webinars; the results of the poll in rank order are:

- (1) What is big pharma looking for?
- (2) Company success stories – internal
- (3) Company success stories – external
- (4) What are investors looking for?
- (5) Regulatory guidance for diagnostics
- (6) ADDF Access Program

Next Steps for Educational Webinars:

For topic #1, Jim has been in contact with Declan Jones at Janssen as a potential speaker and will follow up about potential dates in January. The sub-committee could begin to put programs together for the other topics above. It was suggested that educational webinars take place on a quarterly basis.

Funding and Investment Sub-Committee

This was identified via the questionnaire as a very important topic for this group and several members were interested in leading/joining this committee. The main areas of focus will need to be more clearly delineated but will center on using the AASCC network and collective mind to share knowledge and information on strategies for funding and funding sources.

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Additional Topics

LinkedIn Group

Jim has created a LinkedIn Group (**Alzheimer's Small Company Group**; <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8387286>) and invited all members to join and posted topics of general interest. There may need to be some settings adjustments to allow posts/updates to be visible to the group. Anyone can post to this group and feedback is welcome regarding what types of information would be most useful to members.

Raising Visibility/Poster

The poster presented at AAIC 2015 in Washington DC was well-attended; there was discussion to identify other meetings in which we could raise visibility and outreach. Suggestions included ADDF and Partnering for Cures. There is a need to increase awareness about AASCC particularly to outside companies and investors.

AASCC Satellite Meeting

The option to hold our own satellite meeting at AAIC 2016 in Toronto was discussed and the consensus was positive that we should move forward with planning this. A small conference organizing committee could lead this effort and a potential publication resulting from the meeting could raise outreach and awareness. We could host a sponsored, invite-only cocktail hour to offer networking opportunities. Companies in AASCC could sponsor allowing for increased visibility/logos. Jim will discuss this with the Alzheimer's Association conference planning committee to see what may be possible.

Other Business

There was discussion about identifying other small company consortia to gain insight into how they are organized and lessons learned. These could be sister consortia focused on other diseases or we could limit to CNS specific. Jim suggested that the Health Research Alliance (HRA) could be of value in helping to identify these groups.

Future Meetings:

The next teleconference will be scheduled in early 2016