

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2021

Online Meeting - 5:00 pm

**Present via call-in (in alphabetic order):** Chakan, M.; Cipi, A.; Collins, Jay; Derkay, Craig; Holt, Nicole.; Hosseini, Alireza; Ikonne, U. ; Koteeswaran, Rajasekara; Lattanzio, Frank; Mlynarczyk, Malgorzata; Morris, Shannon; Musto, Alberto; Pant, Mohan; Rubino, Mary; Sharp, Julia; Smith, Robert; Strunc, Michael

Invited guest: Drs. Mylona, Castillo, Cohen, Kim, Okhravi

1. The Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:05 by Dr. Hosseini.
2. The minutes of the June 2021 Faculty Senate meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Dr. Hosseini adjusted the order of the agenda to allow our guests to speak regarding the INDC. Dr. Okhravi shared his screen for a presentation about the proposed center. The proposal for the INDC was submitted in December 2019 as one of 24 projects. This was to be a Sentara-EVMS affiliation and the concept was approved in December 2020 with 1.064 million dollars made available. A research director was recruited in January/February 2021 for the Center. Currently about 1500 Alzheimer and Parkinson's disease patients/yr are being treated, with an increase to 2500 patients/yr expected with the new Center, of which 300-400 will be new patients. The center has unique access to over 10 years of longitudinal data and biomarker evaluations, with 40-50% of patients being African-American. In Hampton Roads it is estimated that there are 40,000 Alzheimer's and 4,000 Parkinson's disease patients, with about 50% of those patients having undiagnosed dementia. There is a need to discover biomarkers associated with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases that are detectable in the plasma/serum, rather than CSF, to lower detection costs. Currently, CSF samples have the limitation of very invasive collection procedure, while PET scan detection, although relatively non-invasive, costs about \$10,600 and is not covered by insurance. The Center will have a multidisciplinary approach utilizing cognitive and movement specialists, proteomics and metabolomics for biomarker discovery. There are 3 main groups in the Center including Basic Science researchers from

EVMS (including Drs. Kim, Semmes)) and Clinical groups from Sentara (including Drs. Castillo, Cohen) and EVMS (including Drs. Okhravi, Flaherty). The initial project involves accumulating biomarkers of AD/PD in specialized clinics and then using them for screening in primary care clinics. There will be 2 substudies on AD and PD and currently there are 6 ongoing/proposed clinical trials. The INDC will work in conjunction with the CINID and the Goldrich Institute for Integrated Neurohealth. The INDC clinical biomarkers study is funded through the Sentara-EVMS affiliation. The CINID is supported through the EVMS Strategic Plan and the Goldrich Institute for Integrated Neurohealth from donated funds. Dr. Okhravi noted that the CINID focuses on neuroinflammation and does not have direct expertise in AD/PD and the Goldrich Institute for Integrated Neurohealth has no current research plan. Dr. Hosseini noted that the last two slides of the INCD presentation clarified the differences between the three centers. One of the Faculty Senate concerns was about a problem with competing funding demands, a concern that was addressed, but it was felt that the three centers should have collaborations, as they currently are not under an umbrella statement. Dr. Ohkravi stated that the research interests were different as one focused on AD/PD while the other had a wider range that considered neuroinflammation (CINID). The INCD has its own budget and is clinically oriented. Collaborations of basic scientists were proposed for the Goldrich Institute for Integrated Neurohealth. The Goldrich Center was focused on AD/PD and closer to INCD, could be part of a the Neurohealth institute. Dr. Musto asked what were the pros and cons of having these three Centers. Dr. Ohkravi noted that the proposed center would collaborate with basic scientists, including Dr. Sanford, in the CINID. Dr. Kim mentioned that the INDC concept had been reviewed during the Chairs' retreat and also by the Joint Committee and there had been multiple reviews of this idea and its mission and values. Dr. Collins asked what is the faculty coverage and monetary support for INCD faculty. Dr. Okhravi said that part of the faculty's salary was covered, with patients for the clinical studies coming from the memory clinic, healthy control samples from the registry and additional samples from the movement disorder clinic. Dr. Hosseini then asked if there were any additional questions from the Faculty senate. Dr. Cohen noted that an umbrella plan to link the three Centers

might occur, but that was outside of the current review. Dr. Hosseini then thanked our guests and said that after the guests logged out the Faculty Senate would continue the discussion. Dr. Musto said he does not see how the collaboration and benefits would be sustained after the four years of support ended. Dr. Hosseini noted that other Centers had not confirmed support after their initial funding. Dr. Musto wondered about the probability of long-term support, as the INCD business plan went until years 3 and 4 followed by gaps during attempts for funding. Dr. Hosseini said that the Center would be supported for 4 years by Sentara, after which funds would have to come from grants and contracts. The INCD group was not currently looking for funding, but just focusing on getting the Center running. Dr. Rubino said that she was satisfied with the responses from the INCD group. Dr. Hosseini asked for a motion for approval of the INCD proposal as is. Dr. Rubino made that motion that was then seconded by Dr. Collins. Dr. Hosseini asked if there was any absentions or opposing votes, but there were none, so the motion carried unanimously. It was believed that the three Centers would have better chance for funding if they were under one institute.

4. Dr. Hosseini opened a discussion on the Executive Committee voting. He noted that there were candidates for Secretary (Dr. Rubino) and Member at Large (Dr. Cipi). Dr. Derkay was working to recruit a President elect and have a plan in place with an August meeting for elections. Dr. Hosseini said that the Faculty Senate would come back and have an August meeting with a shortened agenda to finalize the Executive Committee slate and vote on it.
5. Dr. Derkay asked to update the Faculty Senate on the Faculty Senate subcommittee meeting with Dr. Homan, as well as last Thursday's Chairs meeting with Dr. Homan. After both meetings had occurred, Dr. Homan announced that (1) the compensation formula would be on hold for the next academic year (2) the Chairs' funds would remain accessible (3) the proposed clinical merit review would be withheld from September to December for further evaluation (4) additional funds would be allocated for faculty, students, residents, postdoctoral fellows and staff (5) Kurt Stauder would resign as of September 1, 2021 and Brant Cox would be transitioning into the EVMS Medical Group CEO position over the next

few months. Dr. Derkay said that the clinical faculty sent thanks for support to the Faculty Senate and their ongoing representation of the faculty. Dr. Cipi asked if the new faculty support funds were now available and Dr. Derkay said that they would be. There would be no time limits on the use of the money but use of said money would be vetted through the faculty's chair.

6. Dr. Hosseini asked if there were any further items to be discussed, but there were none. Dr. Hosseini requested a motion for adjournment and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at about 6PM.

Next Meeting: August 16, 2021