

Council Quarterly Call Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
2:00pm - 3:00pm Eastern

Participants:

Linda Brady
Carlos Zarate
Kerry Ressler
David Rubinow
Marina Wolf

Ellen Leibenluft
Diego Pizzagalli
Mary Phillips
Helen Mayberg
Rita Valentino

David Kupfer (ad hoc)
Bill Carlezon (elect)
Marina Picciotto (elect)
Sarah Timm, staff
Erin Shaw, staff

Minutes:

- 1. 2021 Annual Meeting Update*** – S. Timm provided an update on the 2021 hybrid annual meeting format. She advised the final deadline for attendees to change their registration type (either in-person or virtual) is November 12th (October 29th for presenters and poster presenters). Current registration is 1229 registered for in-person and 407 registered for virtual attendance (25%). After the COVID Code of Conduct was emailed to all in-person attendees requesting they attest to the code on September 23rd, 29 attendees changed their registration type to virtual attendance. (*Total moved to virtual to date is 42.*) S. Timm advised that the ECNP meeting was two weeks ago in a hybrid meeting format, and they decided to suspend all of their food and beverage events for the in-person experience and SfN just pivoted their November meeting to fully virtual. S. Timm advised that even though all attendees and their guests must be fully vaccinated before they enter the convention center and the College is requiring attendees to wear face masks, she wants to place the College in the best light and consider the safety of all attendees. Communication on the COVID Code of Conduct has been emailed to all in-person attendees and attendees do have the option to register for virtual attendance if they do not feel comfortable attending in person. S. Timm proposed to Council that we consider cancelling the opening reception and remove alcohol from the poster sessions. She advised that there would be plenty of space during the lunches for attendees to space out or they can take the to-go boxes to their guest room or outside for lunch. S. Timm advised that she has attended several in-person meetings over the last few months and that once attendees start drinking alcohol, masks come off and do not come back on. She also suggested that Council consider not serving any food and beverage at the poster sessions or having to-go boxes of food for people to grab as they leave the poster session to take back to their guest room. Council considered the proposals and questioned if we canceled the opening reception and did not have alcohol at the poster sessions, would that change attendee's minds about attending the meeting in-person as part of the meeting experience is the networking during these events. It was questioned if there will be social distancing at the poster sessions. S. Timm advised that the floorplan will have wider aisles and there could be less posters in person this year; however, it is hard to manage social distancing during poster sessions or receptions. S. Timm also stated that if all 1200 come in-person then we will not be able to space out the seating in the scientific sessions by 6ft either. It was questioned if the opening reception is canceled, how are we going to replace this networking for attendees. It was stated that attendees should know the risk they are taking to come to the meeting in-person, and that the staff will do our best to keep masks on attendees and separate as much as possible. It was questioned if the opening reception could be outside instead of in the convention center. S. Timm advised that part of the reception will be outside with the other part inside,

but the winds in December are challenging in Puerto Rico. She advised that it will also be harder to contain the reception to only the ACNP attendees and guests if the whole reception were to be outdoors. S. Timm suggested that attendees could always grab a to-go box of food to take back to their hotel if they are uncomfortable with attending the opening reception. It was also suggested to have an area that does not have any food and beverage and is required for attendees to keep their masks on to network to allow a more controlled networking environment for those more cautious. It was questioned if Council does decide to remove some of the food and beverage or the opening reception, would attendees receive a refund in the in-person registration fee. S. Timm reminded Council that the registration fee does not cover the food and beverage cost during the meeting; however, that we could provide a refund. S. Timm also advised Council that the Distrito T-Mobile entertainment venue has nine restaurants and outdoor seating which is located within walking distance from the convention center. There was concern raised that attendees might not attend the poster sessions at the end of the day if there is not alcohol served. It was also stated that most attendees could be exposed to COVID in the airport restaurants or restaurants in Puerto Rico. Council agreed that regardless of their decision, there will be backlash from attendees on Twitter and that a decision needs to be made soon and communicated effectively so attendees can make a final decision on attending in-person or virtually. It was questioned if the College plans to require a rapid COVID test or PCR test to attend the meeting as an extra safety precaution. However, Council decided this could cause anxiety for attendees who do not have the easy access to COVID testing. Another suggestion was to have drink tickets at the opening reception and poster sessions to encourage responsible drinking. It was advised to try to be as conservative as possible for the scientific events for all attendees to feel comfortable in attending. S. Timm advised that the Women's Luncheon and Diversity and Inclusion Luncheon could include only the presentation content and that attendees could eat lunch prior to this in an area where they can be physically distanced. It was stated that there is still not a resolution on whether government attendees and some other institutions will have their travel restrictions lifted. At this time, the sense is that the NIH travel restrictions will not change in time for the meeting, which will affect some Council members, 27 presenters, and around 100 meeting attendees currently registered. S. Timm also requested for Council to consider if a large percentage of speakers pivot to virtual by their October 29th deadline, what would this experience look like for in-person attendees, particularly if the whole panel session has virtual presenters. Because of the current uncertainty, Council requested for the Executive Office to draft a survey of the following options to be emailed to Council for a vote.

- **Opening Reception** – Vote to have no F&B OR normal F&B with to-go boxes of F&B and a completely masked zone for more cautious attendees to network.
- **Poster Sessions** – Vote to have no F&B OR normal F&B with to-go boxes of F&B for attendees to grab and take back to their guest room after the poster session.
- **Drink Tickets for all Events** – Yes or No
- **Women's Luncheon and Diversity and Inclusion Luncheon** – Vote to have these as presentation content only (no food and beverage allowed inside) with attendees obtaining and eating lunch elsewhere prior to the presentation.

S. Timm advised that the Executive Office will review all the food and beverage events with the schedule based on Council's vote results. Council will discuss the vote results and the current registration numbers of in-person vs. virtual attendance as well as the current presenter registrations on the October 26th EC call. Council requested the

Executive Office work with L. Brady and C. Zarate to communicate to the attendees and members on a weekly or bi-weekly basis that Council is reviewing the meeting details regularly and that additional safety protocols might be enforced in addition to the current COVID Code of Conduct. Council also requested to include a caveat statement that advises attendees that based on the registration type for presenters, the College reserves the right to pivot to fully virtual and remind attendees of the registration deadline of November 12th. Council agreed on the importance of complete transparency and that the College will communicate clearly and repeatedly to attendees on the status of the meeting. This communication will be drafted by the Executive Office and sent to L. Brady and C. Zarate to review and be communicated to attendees and members early next week. Council also discussed the financial burden for attendees, especially early-career if we pivot to virtual too close to the meeting dates as airlines might not reimburse or provide a credit for their canceled flight. Council provided their gratitude to S. Timm and the Executive Office staff for all their hard work in planning in this meeting as there is not enough adequate information to make decisions.

2. ***Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Patients with Eating Disorders*** – L. Brady requested for Council to review the request from Saul Levin on behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) inviting someone from ACNP to review and comment on the draft “Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Patients with Eating Disorders”, developed by the APA. L. Brady requested for Council to email Erin Shaw in the Executive Office if they would like to volunteer or if they have suggestions of ACNP members.
3. ***Discussion on URM Mini Retreats*** – Council to discuss the URM Mini Retreats and review the summary of the action items that arose from the mini-retreats on a future call.
4. ***November Bulletin*** – The November Bulletin will highlight some of our member’s favorite memories of meeting in Puerto Rico. If there are any Council members that would like to share their favorite memories, please send these to Erin Shaw by the end of October.

Information Items:

5. ***Audit Committee Report*** – Council was provided the Audit Committee report to review.
6. ***URM Near Peer Mentorship Program*** – The applications for both mentees and mentors are currently being reviewed. The College received 38 applications for mentees and 12 applications for mentors. The first scheduled training is on November 18th for the mentors.
7. ***Constitution and Rules Committee*** – The Constitution and Rules Committee are currently discussing the Nominating Committee process and the proposal to add a URM and Associate Member to Council as ad hoc members based on feedback from the summer Council meeting. More details will be shared during the December Council meeting.
8. ***November Council Call SAVE THE DATE*** – The November Council call is scheduled on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 12:30pm Eastern.

9. 2022 Summer Council Meeting SAVE THE DATE – The 2022 summer Council meeting will be scheduled virtually on Sunday, July 17, 2022 from 10:00am – 2:00pm Eastern.

10. 2022 Summer Program Committee Meeting SAVE THE DATE – The 2022 summer Program Committee meeting will be scheduled virtually on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

The meeting concluded at 3:00pm Eastern.