

Minutes of NgoRS Officer and Board Meeting (April 16th, 2024)

Present:

Caroline Genco (President),
Jennifer Edwards (President-elect)
Alison Criss (Treasurer)
Nathan Weyand (Secretary)
Trevor Moraes (At-Large Board Member)
Evgeny Semchenko (At-Large Board Member)
Julie Stoudenmire-Sayor (At-Large Board Member)
Alexis Branch (At-Large Trainee member)
Erin Garcia (At-Large Trainee member)
Hank Seifert (Past President)

1. Welcome new Board members

2. NgoRS Society Conference June 2024

- a. Keynotes are confirmed, working on chairs of sessions
- b. Planning on “pub trivia sessions” after main science sessions
- c. Two 45 min (AM and PM) trainee sessions on Wednesday organized by Evgeny and Erin. Trainees have been invited, PIs are being invited to participate.
- d. Fewer than expected abstracts were received. Odile notifying speakers by end of the week. Talks to be uploaded 2.5 weeks before the meeting.
- e. Those presenting posters will upload figures for the program book.
- f. Crista will send notices to advertise the conference.
- g. Hank noted an uptick in trainee memberships since the conference was announced.
- h. Discussion of whether to give prize/incentive for participation in the trainee sessions. Ultimately decided not to and to make networking the central piece of these sessions.
- i. Along these lines, open positions can be advertised during the meeting (slides prior to sessions), in the program book, and on a “job board” on NgoRS website (??)
- j. Two business meetings at NgoRS Monday (AM and PM) run by Board members to share plans for upcoming year and receive feedback from the community. Doing as part of social gather sessions to enhance participation. Jen and Hank working on whether this can be a breakout in the webinar format or if a new Zoom link is needed.

3. NgoRS activity going forward

- a. Presented by Alison based on discussion among Caroline, Hank, Nathan, and Alison
- b. Proposal to have quarterly panel discussions on topics that align with NgoRS member interests, instead of webinar lectures (Format below may not fit with plan for October '24 session)
 - i. Have a moderator and 3 panelists
 - ii. Each panelist gets 5 min to present

- iii. Moderator runs Q&A based on questions solicited from attendees when they sign up and from questions arising from the discussion, including those from the moderator
- iv. Record and upload to a YouTube channel and on NgoRS website, for public access
- v. Helpful to have someone who can provide a historical topic perspective – where did we start and where are we now / where are we going?
- c. First one in ~October 2024 on the fundamentals of grants: different agencies, different mechanisms, budget, components, writing assistance, review process
 - i. Suggestion to begin with overview that's applicable to all and then have country-specific breakout rooms for specifics of applying to NIH, CIHR, etc
 - ii. Speakers can include grants program staff
- d. Second one in ~January 2025 on fundamentals of working with *N. gonorrhoeae*
 - i. Topics like bacterial growth, physiology, genetics
 - ii. For newcomers to the field but also an update on new techniques now available
- e. See attached document for more, being shared with Board members for editing
- f. Alexis will circulate edited document to trainee members to solicit their input

4. NgoRS at Florence IPNC 2025

- a. Caroline is on the Program Committee and will reach out to the organizers about opportunities for NgoRS branded activities
- b. Alexis will solicit ideas from NgoRs trainee members

Respectfully submitted,

A. Criss, NgoRS Treasurer.