

Minutes of NgoRS Board Meeting (July 23rd, 2024)

Board Members Present:

Caroline Genco (Past President),
Jennifer Edwards (President)
Nathan Weyand (Secretary)
O. Harrison (At-Large Board Member)
Trevor Moraes (At-Large Board Member)
Evgeny Semchenko (At-Large Board Member)
Julie Stoudenmire-Sayor (At-Large Board Member)
Kate Seib (At-Large Board Member)
Alexis Branch (At-Large Trainee member)
Hank Seifert (Past President, Ex Officio Member)

Board meeting summary:

1. NgoRS Funds

- a. The current balance is \$20,487.80.
- b. Prior to the NgoRS conference the balance was ~\$16K.
- c. Expenses are low. Mailchimp, used for NgoRS communications by Crista Wadsworth costs about \$20/month.

2. NgoRS Membership.

- a. 124 active members
- b. 72 professional members
- c. 33 trainee members – most did not renew memberships after conference.

3. October Activity Planning. Proposed topic: A list of ideas and suggestions made by board members follow.

- a. Foundational principles; fundamentals
- b. Nuts and bolts of how grant agencies work.
- c. How do you go about getting \$ for your research? How do we fund our labs at different stages of our careers?
- d. Could we have a slide reviewing country-specific information about funding agencies in USA, UK, France, Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, etc.
- e. Examples of grants that facilitate domestic and international collaborations. What goes into getting collaborations between different institutions approved.
- f. Grant opportunities for trainees and early stage/young investigators.
 - i. Evgeny Semchenko has a slide on post-doc and graduate student fellowships.
- g. Invite back an NIH representative
- h. Nathan Weyand was assigned to draft an outline and list of possible panelists. He was invited to brainstorm with Alison Criss.

4. NgoRS sponsored event at next IPNC

- a. Board discussed sponsoring an event on Sunday March 30th 2025.
- b. Ideas for an activity:
 - i. Lunch with trainees
 - ii. Have an event for the entire membership
 - iii. Cooking lessons
 - iv. Sponsoring the Monday evening poster session was another suggestion
 - v. Have survey at IPNC. Supply a QR code to solicit suggestions on what to do at next NgoRS conference in 2027. Board discussed how to incentivize survey participation. Kate suggested offering random free memberships. Could travel support be offered for a future IPNC or NgoRS? It was mentioned that European law requires permission be obtained for release of email addresses or a list of attendees.

5. Survey after the NgoRS conference was reviewed by Odile Harrison.

- a. Respondents: 21% graduate/PhD students, 26% trainee/ECR, 5% post-docs, . . . [didn't note the % for team leaders; need to have Odile review this section]
- b. Length of conference: 26% found it too long; 75% thought it was just about right.
- c. Have you attended NgoRS before? 42% had not.
- d. Board discussion on alternative formats for future NgoRS meetings
 - i. Have two, 2.5-hour sessions
 - ii. Have a three-day conference with 2 sessions on each side
 - iii. Have the conference run for four weeks, one session per week
 - iv. Have session that aligns with morning in USA and evening in Europe. Make recordings for other time zones. Kate encouraged providing daily content and noted that many accessed the video recordings.
- e. Possible swag for future NgoRS conferences: mug, stickers, crocheted diplococci. Different logos from logo contest could be used.

6. NgoRS website:

- a. Hank mentioned that keynote talk recordings are still available. They are password protected.
- b. Evgeny asked if an online forum could be added. Odile mentioned that a discord channel was not being used. Hank noted that moderators are needed.

7. NgoRS logo contest.

- a. Jenn will chat with Crista about sending out a deadline (end of October). NgoRS members can be given a month to vote.
- b. File types mentioned for submission: .svg, .png
- c. Only NgoRS members can submit.
- d. Including a dpi size restrictions was briefly discussed (600 dpi).
- e. Details that need to be worked out: No photos, gonococcus-related, not generated with Biorender. Use of AI was discussed. If AI is used, the submitter needs to own up to it.

- f. Who will judge? Board members? Voting by ballot sent to members? Let's have Crista make a ballot.
- g. Board needs to confirm that submissions are appropriate; not inappropriate.

8. NgoRS Newsletter

- a. Email twice a year to keep people engaged
- b. Ask NgoRS community for
 - i. news updates
 - ii. papers published
 - iii. grant related information including awards
 - iv. highlights to promote trainees
 - v. Have nomination form for best paper of the year or quarter
- c. Can protocols be included in the newsletter. How to grow GC in liquid was mentioned as a common request the Seifert lab receives.
- d. Odile suggested posting a question, so replies can be posted in the next newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Weyand, NgoRS Secretary.