

Minutes of NgoRS Board Meeting (October 9th, 2024)

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order):

Alexis Branch (At-Large Trainee member)
Alison Criss (Treasurer)
Jennifer Edwards (President)
Caroline Genco (Past President)
Odile Harrison (At-Large Board Member)
Trevor Moraes (At-Large Board Member)
Kate Seib (At-Large Board Member)
Evgeny Semchenko (At-Large Board Member)
Julie Stoudenmire-Sayor (At-Large Board Member)
Nathan Weyand (Secretary)

Board meeting summary (Action items highlighted):

1. NgoRS Funds

a. The current balance reported by Alison is \$21,334.76

2. Discussion of Grant Writing Webinar Proposal. Nathan drafted a proposal for discussion with input from Alison. We decided to postpone it until the new year. *Nathan will solicit additional board member feedback to help revise the proposal.*

a. Questions and Comments

- i. The webinar needs a clear goal.
- ii. Who is our major audience? Trainees and junior faculty were mentioned.
- iii. What is most valuable to our members?
- iv. Can we have a series of more specific webinars that are student or junior faculty orientated?
- v. Would some form of peer sharing be helpful?
- vi. Webinars about team awards were deemed less useful to our target audience.
- vii. Need to *collect URLs* for trainees that list deadlines, relate to Ngo research, and include international awards. We began collecting URLs in the zoom chat.
- viii. A proposed list of panelists were discussed but deemed unnecessary. The board could conduct a first webinar.
- ix. Could we organize a grant fundamentals Spring or Summer workshop?

b. Examples of grant writing workshops brought up by Alison during the discussion:

- i. F31 graduate student NIH fellowship workshop- nuts & bolts, 2.5 hour meeting.
- ii. What are other professional societies doing? *We need to check* so we don't re-invent the wheel. Example: Society for Leukocyte Biology.

c. Webinar Content ideas – Broad over view on importance and how to stand out

- i. Tips and Tricks: How to make a grant better; How to make a CV stand out
- ii. From Alison: Research framing: Forest, trees and weeds
- iii. From Odile: Developing a Narrative; building a story. Why do you wish to do it?
- iv. Kate suggested we 'just do something' and after the webinar solicit feedback from attendees on what they wish us to talk about next.

d. Perspectives on professional development that were discussed

- i. NgoRS sponsored writing groups or writing mentors. Could NgoRS serve as a liaison for writing groups?
- ii. Paraphrasing, Caroline encouraged us to help NgoRS foster high level career development and help NgoRS members learn to establish a culture of obtaining funding.

iii. Using expertise of mentor to foster diversity of funding.

3. IPNC updates

- a. *Caroline will confirm if an NgoRS sponsored lunch slot was reserved.*
- b. IPNC abstract submissions open

4. Membership concerns

- a. Our trainee numbers are low. *Board members were asked to confirm that all lab members are NgoRS members.*
- b. Julie suggested a reminder email be sent out to remind past members that membership has lapsed. *Hank or Crista need to be asked to send an email.*
- c. Educating about the value of NgoRS membership: The Voice newsletter (interviews, protocols, etc); trainee focused events at IPNCs, webinars. *Jenn will work with Crista to send an email that lists the benefits of NgoRS membership.*

5. The Voice (newsletter discussion)

- a. Jenn described her efforts to search Pubmed for all NgoRS member names to identify publications to list in newsletter.
- b. The nomination form for the 'Early Career Researcher Notable Paper Award' needs to be reposted. It was noted the no one would have qualified for inclusion in the recent newsletter based on the initial criteria (1st author, 8 years from terminal degree).
- c. Jenn requested newsletter feedback. She mentioned responses to requests for feedback from members is not high (she mentioned there weren't a lot of replies to 'What type of microscope do you use to visualize individual gonococcal colonies on an agar plate?' in the October newsletter.
 - i. Positive feedback from board: People are really enjoying the interviews with PIs and trainees; cocktail recipes are good; protocols are appreciated.
 - ii. Alison suggested we share the newsletter with our labs. Trevor suggested the voice be circulated outside of membership as a member recruitment tool.
 - iii. Negative feedback: Sometimes seems a bit long. Alexis scrolls right to the protocols. This led to a discussion of the newsletter organization. *It was suggested that protocols be moved up in the newsletter to the third position behind the 'Clap worthy news' and that interviews be moved after.*

6. Discounts for vendor products on NgoRS website

- a. This discussion centered around Pel-freez and what kind of policies NgoRS should have.
- b. As a nonprofit, NgoRS doesn't pay taxes, can't endorse a specific product or profit from a vendor.

7. Establishing a forum for communications (as opposed to website and newsletter).

- a. The prior discord site setup by Odile was mentioned. No one was using it outside of the NgoRS conference.
- b. Julie proposed introducing a forum at the next IPNC. Participation needs to be incentivized in some way. *Board decided to discuss this at the next board meeting.*

8. Logo competition

- a. Six submissions as of the board meeting.
- b. Following inquiries permission was granted for people to enter multiple submissions.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Weyand, NgoRS Secretary.