

Alliance of Women Alzheimer's Researchers PIA Business Meeting Minutes

Location: Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Room: Pier 8

Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Time: 6-7 p.m.

Facilitator(s): Laura Baker (Acting Chair) and Anne Marie Fosnacht

In attendance:

Executive Committee: Laura Baker (Acting Chair), Anne Marie Fosnacht (Communications Chair)
Outgoing Executive Committee: Robbie Brinton
Staff: Maria Carrillo, Keith Fargo, Megan Mitchell
AWARE members at large (approximately 28)

- 6:00 pm: Laura opened the meeting and summarized the original goals of AWARE: actively provide resources specific to leadership development by hosting high-impact programs to meet the needs of the membership.
- 6:10 pm: Laura stated the objective of the business meeting: create tangible goals we can accomplish within the year. Ideas include: social networking; mentoring (e.g. encountering bias and how to manage it); developing a safe forum for constructive mentoring for members at all stages of career.
- 6:15 pm: Laura recounted the recent history of AWARE when two foci developed: mentorship and gender differences in Alzheimer's disease, a change which split the group and may have hampered progress.
- 6:20 pm: We looked at the breakdown of AWARE membership of which the vast majority comes from the US.
- Question posed: How do we increase membership from other countries and support diversity?
- 6:30 pm: Laura read the annual report and reported on the success of the AWARE Mentoring Breakfast that was attended by 168 despite the rain that morning.
- 6:35 pm: Decisions to be made: Should we have a Steering Committee? (group leaned yes)
Should we have student position(s)? YES
- 6:40 pm: Laura proposed a student on the Steering Committee as training for a position on the Executive Committee
- Jamie Knight, BA volunteered for student position (jknight@uvic.ca)
 - Aurelie N'Songo volunteered for student position (nsongo.aurelie@mayo.edu)
- 6:45 pm: Open floor discussion

- 3 webinars, 1 every 4 months with high profile speakers on specific issues
- Current Linked-in page... do we foster it?
- Chat rooms? Robbie mentioned they tend to fizzle out quickly (agreed).
- More-senior women could volunteer to receive phone calls based on mentoring topics they are comfortable covering. Calls can be stripped of identity and archived.
- Create a resource library
 - Eugenia Trushina (trushina.eugenia@mayo.edu) mentioned that Mayo has a similar initiative and has curated a library of resources including Ted Talks that she is happy to share with AWARE.
 - Women in STEM fields is another possible resource.

7:00 pm: Meeting adjourned

After hours:

- Keith, Laura and Heidi Johnson discussed utility of creating a closed (members only) Facebook page. Facebook has a live video function in which members can chat with the speaker and with each other during the segment. Using the live video function may be a very cool way to host our Webinars. The speakers would need to be comfortable broadcasting live and know how to use the Facebook function. It would be a truly open forum; automatically archived and available for viewing afterwards along with all of the discussion that occurs.
- Names shared by Heather by email:
 - Suparna Sanyal, PhD: ssanyal@mdanderson.org
 - Cassandra Szoeki, PhD (offered to be nominated for one of the Program Chairs for AWARE; we will need another one as well): cassandra.szoeki@acu.edu.au
 - Aurelie N'songo (I'd like to nominate her for one of 2 Vice Chair positions for AWARE; would like to also find a more senior basic science Vice Chair): Nsongo.Aurelie@mayo.edu
 - Zhu Yanan (mentoring breakfast; student at National U of Singapore): aol09350@u.nus.edu (might be asl09350@u.nus.edu)
 - Elena Rodriguez-Vieitez, PhD (mentoring breakfast; post-doc in Stockholm): elena.rodriquez-vieitez@ki.se
 - Claire O'Connor (mentoring breakfast, student at U Sydney AU): claire.oconnor@sydney.edu.au
 - Nelly Joseph-Mathurin, PhD (mentoring breakfast; post-doc): mathurinn@wustl.edu

Annual Report

1. PIA Name: Alliance of Women Alzheimer's Researchers

2. Submitted by (one report per PIA, please): Laura Baker and Anne Marie Fosnacht

3. 2015-2016 Goals:

Please list your PIA's goals at the beginning of the 2015-2016 membership year.

- Serve as a nexus for women in Alzheimer's disease and dementia research.
- Provide networking and development opportunities.
- Foster connections and collaborations between women in Alzheimer's and dementia research.

4. 2015-2016 Key Achievements:

Please list key achievements accomplished during the 2015-2016 membership year.

- Organized a PIA Day session focused on career and leadership issues for women in Alzheimer's and dementia research.
- Identified a Communications Chair for the Executive Committee.
- Planned an early career networking breakfast for AAIC 2016 that will bring together dozens of experienced researchers with hundreds of early career scientists

5. Did your PIA develop or publish any white papers, criteria, or manuscripts?

N/A

6. Please attach any white papers, criteria, or manuscripts that we may share with your PIA members and the ISTAART Advisory Council.

N/A

7. Additional Comments

Our relatively young PIA will hold its first election this fall.