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## Immunity and Neurodegeneration PIA Business Meeting Summary

<b>Location:</b>	<b>ExCel London (Platinum Suite 2)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Saturday, July 15, 2017</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>9 - 10 a.m.</b>
<b>PIA Chair(s)/Meeting Facilitator(s):</b>	<b>Bruce Lamb</b>

### PIA Description:

Accumulating genetic, epidemiological, biochemical and histological studies as well as brain imaging and clinical studies suggest that both peripheral and central immune cells likely play a critical role in the development and progression of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, including many other neurodegenerative diseases. These findings also suggest an opportunity for the development, characterization and testing of novel therapeutic targets focused on immunity in dementia. The Immunity and Neurodegeneration PIA seeks to serve as a unique working group of basic, translational and clinical researchers working on all aspects of both adaptive and innate immunity to stimulate interdisciplinary research, develop consensus, identify knowledge gaps on issues critical to the field, and integrate and promote investigators in the field. Given that many of the key findings linking immunity to Alzheimer's disease and neurodegeneration have occurred within the past few years, development of this PIA provides a unique opportunity that currently does not exist, to integrate, promote and facilitate immunity-focused dementia.

### **Agenda Items:**

1. **Welcome and introductions** around the room were made.  
Officers in attendance:  
Chair: Bruce Lamb  
Vice-Chair: Donna Wilcock  
Communications Chair: TBN  
Programs Chair: Marcia Gordon

Steering/Executive Committee Members: Delphine Boche, Guillaume Dorothee

### **1. Current PIA Membership Roster**

- a. Membership stands at 230 as of July 15, 2017.
- b. A roster of members was provided by ISTAART.
- c. PIA members can access the current roster on the PIA ISTAART webpage at [www.alz.org/ISTAART](http://www.alz.org/ISTAART).

### **2. PIA Growth**

- a. The PIA has grown dramatically increasing from 57 members in 2015 and 138 members in 2016.
- b. Nevertheless, the PIA is concerned with recruiting new members, and especially encouraging active participation in the activities of the PIA.
- c. The PIA encourages students and early stage investigators to become active, and views engaging the next generation of scientists as a major requirement for the future. Advantages include leadership experience and networking with peers and senior investigators.

### **3. Growing Membership**

- a. Strategies were discussed.
- b. Action item: Increase communication by
  1. Sending regular email blasts to the membership.
  2. Assuring that the agenda for meetings gets distributed earlier with more notice.
  3. Publicizing the schedule for the PIA day scientific program earlier, giving more notice to potential attendees.
  4. Work to include the PIA day scientific program schedule in the main conference app so more potential attendees will learn about the event.
- c. Action item: Increase participation in PIA activities
  1. Itemize benefits of participating.
  2. Work together with other PIAs to develop joint scientific programs for PIA day or other joint ventures to foster synergy.

### **4. Replacing Committee Members**

- a. The position of Communications Chair is vacant. Given the importance of timely communication, it is vital to fill this position. Volunteers and nominations will be accepted.
- b. It would be desirable to replace 2-3 members of the executive committee each year, and increasing the size of the executive committee would be valuable.
- c. The process will include an email blast requesting volunteers and nominations. An electronic ballot will be generated and distributed to complete the election process.
- d. Action Item: Hold election for communications chair and president elect immediately.

## **5. Key Achievement**

- a. The featured research symposium (FRS) proposed by the PIA was selected for the main program out of a huge submission pool.
- b. It was decided to develop a program for AAIC 2018.

## **6. AAIC 2018 (July 22-27, Chicago)**

- a. FRS/PIA Day Research Session. The program committee gives priority to symposia as opposed to presentations by a single individual for the FRS. Possible format, themes, speakers and PIA member organizers were discussed.
- b. For the PIA day scientific program, it was decided to encourage student participation with a “data blitz” type format.
- c. The consensus opinion regarding a theme involved external influences on immunity, such as microbiome, epigenetics, diet, etc.

## **7. Next Face-to-Face Meeting**

- a. Planning for an FRS application submission and the PIA day scientific program will take place at a face-to-face meeting at the Society for Neuroscience annual conference in Washington DC from Nov. 11-15, 2017. The specific time and location will be announced. Every effort to enable teleconferencing will be made.

## **8. Position Paper**

- a. The PIA will develop a short position paper for the journal Alzheimer’s and Dementia.
- b. The purpose of this article is to state and expand on a specific hypothesis in a manner that could drive new research in a specific direction or area of need.
- c. A status update was provided by Rich Margolin, who is spearheading organization of the paper.
- d. A roundtable discussion was held with the editor-in-chief Zaven Khachaturian at AAIC.
- e. The current workgroup includes Richard Margolin, Bruce Lamb, Amanda McRae, Malu Tansey, Marcia Gordon, Donna Wilcock, Thomas Kukar, and Guillaume Dorothee. Additional volunteers and nominations are welcome.
- f. Action Items:
  - i. Escalate the pace.
  - ii. Develop a small group for coordinating production of an outline.
  - iii. Increase involvement of other scientists, especially students and early-stage investigators.

## **9. Other Business**

- a. It was proposed that the PIA develop a symposium or minisymposium for the Society for Neuroscience annual conference. Volunteers and nominations for organizers are requested.
- b. The PIA discussed the possibility of developing a position for a “conference aide.” This would be a travel award or registration rate reduction from the Alzheimer’s Association in return for work at our PIA day program.