

Vascular Cognitive Disorders PIA Business Meeting Summary

Location: ExCel London (Platinum Suite 3)

Date: Saturday, July 15, 2017

Time: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PIA Chair(s)/Meeting
Facilitator(s):** Deborah Gustafson

- I. Welcome & Introduction of new Chairs (and thank you to immediate past chairs)
Done
- II. Review of 2016/ 2017 - Done
 - a. Elections
 - b. PIA day programming - VPIA has N=666 members
- III. PIA Communications
 - a. Twitter (@ISTAART #VascularPIA) – Adam provided an update on these communications to occur during AAIC. #VascularPIA
 - b. Other vehicles or venues for communication – Facebook was mentioned; it was also discussed that ISTAART needs a more streamlined process re: communicating with the PIAs, and more linkages to the AAIC program on the ISTAART website.
 - c. The VPIA has regular conference calls and there was some interest expressed in making these conference calls open to members-at-large or having specific conferences for members.
- IV. Looking toward 2017/2018 activities
 - a. Survey for PIA members – Creation of this has begun as a result of business meeting discussions. A survey will be sent around late August/early September to all VPIA members.
 - b. There was discussion about dissemination of publicly available international datasets and/or research consortia that could facilitate collaboration and primary or secondary research. Scott Hofer (Chair, Design and Data Analytics PIA) provided a link to a centralized searchable data platform of research studies/data being created. He will assist the VPIA to query on selected search terms, and we generate a resource list to VPIA members <https://www.maelstrom-research.org/mica/network/ialsa>
 - c. Possible webinars/ educational programs (example: webinar with funding agencies to make junior investigators know of funding opportunities); solicit discussions for other ideas – It was agreed that webinars re: international funding opportunities and existing data bases/sources be formulated. Scott Hofer, Chair of the Data Analytics PIA, agreed to conduct a webinar re: the latter topic

- d. There was discussion about establishing work groups surrounding specific topic areas, to encourage manuscript generation, research collaborations, etc.
- e. The question was raised as to whether we should we have one EC member from other Vascular Cognitive Impairments organizations/meetings, e.g., VasCog, Vascular Dementia, serve as *ex officio* members of the VPIA and vice versa? This may allow a faster forwarding of the field, as we share knowledge with each other, and limit replication unless warranted. Deb Gustafson, VPIA Chair, can take this up with both organizations, should we decide on this option.
- f. PIA leadership on co-authored papers; topics? The AlzDem suite of journals is interested in publishing a series of papers or a London VPIA summary. The VPIA is responsible for putting this together. Examples include:
 - i. Global Vascular Initiatives or Consortia
 - j. WMH per VPIA2017
 - k. Solicit abstracts from VPIA2018 presenters before the 2018 meeting and draft a paper based on this prior to VPIA2018 to be finalized shortly thereafter
- g. There was interest expressed in having a VPIA poster session either during the PIA day or earmarked during the regular congress
- h. There was universal agreement that information about joining a PIA whilst registering as an ISTAART member is not made clear.
- i. There was interest expressed in having a student board member on VPIA; expressing interest is Nárilon Cássio Boa Sorte Silva (student @Western Health Sciences, London, ONT, CA).
- j. There was interest expressed in identifying an LMIC board member; expressing interest was Suvama Alladi (LMIC, India)
- k. There was discussion about putting out a consensus paper from the VPIA's perspective.
- l. The Chair of the Perioperative PIA wants to apply for an FRS with the VPIA for the 2018AAIC related to vascular surgeries.
- m. Possible themes for 2018 AAIC PIA day were discussed. Geert-Jan Biessels, Program Chair, put forward the following potential theme for 2018:

Vascular cognitive disorders: what are the actual treatment targets and how to engage them?

In the Alzheimer field we have seen surge of research activity due to the fact that there is a specific disease process that can be targeted and that can be assessed with biomarkers, thus allowing to demonstrate presence of the target and target engagement in drug trials. For vascular cognitive disorders risk factors are known, we can measure downstream vascular damage on MRI, and assess cognitive consequences. Yet much less is known about the core disease processes at the level of the blood vessels. To move the field ahead we need to identify these actual treatment targets that are at the base of the disease. We need biomarkers to measure these targets and specific drugs to engage them. The Symposium will address studies into the core processes underlying vascular cognitive disorders, biomarker development to probe these processes and developments in the field of drug therapy.

- Other 2018 themes raised during the Business meeting and ancillary discussions included:
 - o Meta Cohorts
 - o descriptions and availability of international cohort data
 - o the need for basic clinical and neuropathological definitions
 - o descriptions and examples of translational research
 - o Some of these themes could be addressed via webinars

V. Some of the aforementioned (Section IV) issues were addressed at the ISTAART Chairs meeting and include:

- a. election (vs informal appointment) of student chairs
- b. improving ISTAART PIA day website navigation, expressed by several
- c. improvement of ISTAART email communications; issues (not receiving mails, not knowing which are relevant to the VPIA, etc) were reported by several
- d. Sid O'Bryant (Assoc editor, AlzDem) wants to write a paper on race/ethnic gaps in the AD and related disorders literature and solicits involvement of the other PIAs. Adam Brickman, Communications Chair, will represent the VPIA on this effort
- e. ISTAART sent out a doodle poll for a VPIA telecom in early August