



## Alzheimer's Association Small Company Consortia Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2015

The Marriott Marquis, Salon 1

Washington, D.C.

12-2 pm

<http://www.alz.org/research/funding/AASCC.asp>

### **Attendees**

Accera – Charles Stacey

Araclon Biotech - Ian Sherriff

AdVax – Daniel Sindelar

Alzheimer's Association - Jim Hendrix

Cerespir - Richard Margolin

DiamiR - Kira Sheinerman

InterVivo Solutions - Joseph Araujo

NanoSomix – Dennis Van Epps

NeuroPhage Pharmaceuticals - John Levenson

NeuroQuest - Jacobo Mintzer

NeuroQuest - Dan Touitou

Neurotrope - Warren Wasiewski

nPharmakon - Felix Sheinerman

Treventis – Mark Reed

T3D Therapeutics – John Didsbury

### **Introduction:**

Jim welcomed the attendees to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Each attendee then introduced themselves.

Kira Sheinerman presented the work for the poster sub-committee (Kira, Joseph Araujo, Richard Margolin, and Dennis Van Epps). The material in the poster was largely made up of the results from the questionnaire. There were many important conclusions from the questionnaire. For example, every member company answered yes when asked if they would consider collaborating with one or more of the AASCC member companies. Also, recognition and visibility for the science appears to be very important to the member companies. The number of publications from the member companies is really very impressive. Knowledge and information sharing also appears to be of value to the group. The questionnaire results and ideas for future efforts were discussed.

## **Discussion:**

### **New Organizational Structure**

The discussion around formalizing the structure of the AASCC was raised in order to increase the legitimacy of group to the larger research community. Suggested structural changes included:

- Establishing leadership for the AASCC with the election of officers. This could include a Chair and a Vice-Chair.
- Establishing criteria for membership with the formation of a membership committee to recruit more member companies and ensure that they are “legitimate” companies working in the AD / dementia space. Various criteria were discussed but no consensus was reached.
- A membership fee was suggested. Rather than to require an exorbitant fee, it was suggested that all members should join ISTAART which has a modest membership fee and carries benefits such as reduced registration to AAIC and subscription to Alzheimer’s & Dementia. The question was asked about forming a PIA (Professional Interest Area) within ISTAART. This might be possible too.
- Other working groups could be established to tackle specific topics in the same way that the Poster Committee for AAIC was established. This may also foster collaboration between the member companies.
- It was suggested that an external advisory board could be useful. This board could be made up of key leaders from academics, industry, philanthropy and the investment community.
- It was asked if there is an AASCC Mission Statement. There is and it can be found on the web-page. It can also be revised as the group evolves.

### **Knowledge and Information Sharing:**

The discussion around ways to share knowledge and information included suggestions such as:

- Educational Webinars with topics such as:
  - ADDF ACCESS
  - AASCC Company Success Stories
  - What are investors looking for?
  - What is big pharma looking for when evaluating biotech partners?
  - Regulatory guidance

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- Create a LinkedIn group or a Blog where information of general interest and questions for the group can be posted.
- There is information that may be useful on the magnitude of the Alzheimer's problem. This information can be found in the Alzheimer's Association's annual publication, Facts and Figures. See the link below for access.

<http://www.alz.org/facts/>

## **Recognition & Visibility:**

The ideas around improving recognition and visibility were discussed.

- Additional group publications like the AAIC poster.
- Increase visibility to the Web-Page to Universities, other companies and investors.
- It was proposed to hold a partnering session at AAIC.

**The next AASCC meeting will be a teleconference and will be held on August 25 at 11 am eastern. Additional teleconferences may be planned.**

**The next AASCC Face-To-Face meeting will be held in Chicago at the Society for Neurosciences meeting on October 19, at 12 noon.**