

**NAIPI General Meeting**  
**June 17, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn Hovde Bohach at 5:35 pm.

Dr. Bohach introduced the Executive Committee and the National Committee members. She also introduced Leslie Thompson who is the Idaho INBRE Statewide Administrative Coordinator and will serve as assistant to the NAIPI President, the Executive Committee and the National Committee.

Dr. Bohach made opening comments. She stated that NAIPI is the collective voice for the IDeA Programs including COBREs, INBREs and CTRs. She reminded committee members that the NAIPI bylaws include specific objectives which are listed on a card that was distributed to members. She also mentioned that NAIPI has a strategic plan with two primary objectives: 1) document successes of the IDeA Program, and 2) enhance the IDeA Program's ability to build biomedical research capacity. In order to achieve these objectives, Dr. Bohach announced her intention to initiate two NAIPI working groups. The first working group will collect information about the IDeA Programs that can be used to demonstrate the success of the INBRE, COBRE and CTR programs. The second working group will assemble best practices for COBRE, INBRE and CTR programs and disseminate this information across the IDeA network.

Dr. Bohach provided the following updates:

- 1) Dr. Bohach thanked Dr. James Kenyon (Nevada INBRE PI) for his leadership as NAIPI past-president. She noted that the Executive Committee meets monthly by teleconference and there is recognition that NAIPI needs to be re-invigorated.
- 2) Also needed is a stronger relationship with van Scoyoc and Associates, the Washington Law Firm that coordinates the EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation and Coalition activities. Dr. Bohach introduced Jessica Malow-Molesworth who provided a brief overview of the EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation and Coalition. She also provided a brief review of the federal FY2014 budget including success in maintaining increased funding for the IDeA Program at \$276 million and an update on the federal FY2015 budget process. Ms. Malow-Molesworth reported that it is unlikely that Congress will pass the Labor/HHS appropriation bill that includes the NIH budget. The Senate Labor/HHS mark-up is postponed and the House Labor/HHS subcommittee has yet to complete its mark-up. What this means for NIH and the IDeA Program in FY 2015 is unclear at this time.
- 3) Dr. Bohach and Leslie Thompson are working on an accurate membership list for NAIPI.
- 4) A new logo for NAIPI has been developed. The logo has been used on promotional items that include a brochure that describes the activities of NAIPI and a pen. Both items were distributed to all in attendance.
- 5) Dr. Bohach has initiated a NAIPI newsletter that is sent out by email to the general membership.
- 6) A national election was recently undertaken. The results extended the terms of the executive committee to three years. This change should enable the executive committee to more effectively lead NAIPI and achieve the goals and objectives of the association. Dr. Bohach also reviewed other changes in the bylaws that were approved by the general membership. These

changes include discontinuing mandatory dues and expanding the membership by including INBRE Project Coordinators, and COBRE and INBRE project leaders.

- 7) Dr. Bohach announced that the NAIPI website is currently being updated.

Dr. Bohach then opened the meeting to a general discussion. The following topics were discussed:

- 1) Dr. Edgar Garcia-Rill encouraged everyone to communicate successes of the IDeA Program to their congressional delegations.
- 2) Dr. James Kenyon challenged all principal investigators to have an answer to the question, "Why have an IDeA Program?" He encouraged everyone to read the National Academy of Sciences report on EPSCoR-like programs that was released in November 2013. The report can be found at <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/COSEPUP/epscor/index.htm>. Dr. Kenyon also expressed concern about the review process for INBRE and COBRE applications. He suggested that NAIPI explore ways to work with NIH to improve/strengthen the study sections that conduct initial scientific review of INBRE and COBRE applications.
- 3) Dr. Scott Minnich asked about the status of data collection for INBRE and COBRE programs since the IDeA Program was moved administratively to NIGMS. Dr. Bohach stated that NCRR did an excellent job collecting data from the annual reports. Unfortunately, NIGMS has thus far been unable to create a database system that effectively collates information from our collective annual report data.
- 4) Dr. Gus Kousoulas provided rationale for the IDeA Program. He pointed out that many IDeA states have disproportionate disease burden and that it is important that the IDeA states have centers that address the health needs of their populations. He emphasized that we should all be proud of the accomplishments of the IDeA Program. The success rates of junior investigators in terms of gaining R01 independence is far better among the IDeA program participants than other junior investigators across the nation. A recent article in the Boston Globe challenged the value of the IDeA Program. Dr. Kousoulas encouraged everyone to be proud of and advocate for the IDeA Program.
- 5) Dr. Lucia Pirisi-Creek emphasized that despite feelings to the contrary, NAIPI has been an active organization. NAIPI leadership provided important input during the time that NCRR was dissolved and discussions were ongoing regarding the future administrative home of the IDeA Program. At one point, there was a possibility that the IDeA Program would be moved to the NIH Director's Office. NAIPI members worked effectively to prevent this. Dr. Pirisi-Creek reinforced the idea that NAIPI should play a role in collecting data that illustrate the value of the COBRE, INBRE and CTR programs.
- 6) Dr. Dan Kapusta emphasized that Phase III COBREs must collect data on the successes of their core facilities. This is critical to ensure that NIGMS continues to support Phase III COBREs.
- 7) In follow-up to comments made by Dr. Pirisi-Creek, Dr. Judith van Houten reminded members of all the work that was done by NAIPI leadership when NCRR was dissolved. She emphasized that Van Scoyoc and Associates needs all of us to inform our congressional delegations of the value that the IDeA Program brings to our respective states. She also stated that we should all do more to make our core facilities available to investigators in all 23 states and Puerto Rico. She

mentioned the Vermont Genomics Network (<http://vgn.uvm.edu/>) searchable database and encouraged all core facility directors to list their core on the VGN website. Dr. van Houten mentioned that only two states do not have core facilities listed on the VGN website and that she would be happy to provide assistance to Core Directors who wish to add their facility to the site.

- 8) Dr. Charles Wood mentioned that there are currently 120 COBREs in the 24 IDeA jurisdictions and consequently there are a large number of new principal investigators. He encouraged the new principal investigators to forward their ideas about how to improve the COBRE Program to the NAIPI leadership and to NIGMS IDeA Program staff.
- 9) Dr. James Kenyon reminded the membership that Cliff Poodry, Director of the NIGMS Training and Workforce Development Division (administrative home to the IDeA Program) recently retired and the search is underway for his replacement. He believes that NAIPI should provide input into the selection of the new Director. Dr. Kenyon also mentioned the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) which will be held in San Antonio, Texas November 12-15, 2014. Dr. Kenyon has attended previous ABRCMS meetings and highly recommends the meeting as a venue to identify minority students who are interested in advanced training in the STEM disciplines.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

**NAIPI General Meeting**  
**Agenda**  
**5:30-6:30 Tuesday, June 17, 2014**

1. Introductions

- Executive Committee members
- National Committee members
- Working Groups
- Mrs. Leslie Thompson

2. What is NAIPI? **Our Collective Voice**

- Bylaws with specific objectives
- Strategic Plan

3. Update of NAIPI activities

- Monthly Executive Committee teleconference meetings
- Email list
- Logo
- NAIPI News
- Elections
- NAIPI Vote
- Two National Committee meetings
- Bylaws change vote
- Expand membership vote
- Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc.
- Promotional Material
- Website

**4. Open Microphone**