

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Oct 17th, 2023 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Attendees:	Gavin Stuart, Chair, , Martin Dawes, Kate Keetch, Lisa Elser, Kendall Ho, Stephania Manusha, Melanie Reid, Julia McFarlane (MoH), Tania Bubela, Wendy Hurlburt
Ex-Officio:	Alison Orth, Jean Smart
Regrets:	Tania Bubela, Mandeep Manhas (MoH), Paul Winwood, Rob McMaster, Srinivas Murthy, Stirling Bryan, Julia Bickford, Rob Olson,
Recording Secretary:	Brianna Stowell
Guests:	Danielle Lavallee, Hanna Jones-Eriksson, Tatiana Kawakami, Greg Tooke

1. Call to order & welcome

G. Stuart welcomed all members to the Clinical Trials BC Advisory Council (AC) meeting, led a short roundtable introduction and offered a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of agenda

The minutes from the previous meeting on June 5th, were approved by the AC.

3. Update from the ACT Consortium Meeting

S. Murthy shared that the meeting was focused on a portfolio program to scale up the research capacity at hospitals nationally. The representation from BC was strong for these proposed hospitals. There's enthusiasm to develop new infrastructure.

Policy discussions also took place regarding new ICH amendments and the implementation of them moving forward.

G. Stuart shared that the knowledge of BC's successes was not widely known. A number of universities nationally inquired about if B.C. universities would get involved in assisting with resourcing for clinical trials. B.C.'s role in clinical trials, its capacity and successes were not apparent to others at these meetings, which could affect future funding. B.C. must be recognized for the work taking place.

G. Stuart also added that the United Kingdom model was ahead of many other jurisdictions due to working from the grassroots and the concept of portfolio hospitals, which allow greater recruitment for trials. The bodes well for B.C. and the country if we move down this road.

A. Orth echoed the need for B.C.'s success to be acknowledged. W. Hurlburt noted that the B.C life sciences sector faced similar challenges with lack of acknowledgement for successes and funding. The need to be vocal and unashful about B.C's role and capacity for success.

4. Update on national activities (CIHR, ACT, and CANTRAIN)

A. Orth updated the council on national activities we are involved in.

- CIHR is moving forward and figuring out how to support Clinical Trials. They are forming a provincial table that meets every 3 months. The next agenda will be focused on the 7 clinical trial platforms.
- ACT- Alison is sitting on the systems transformation committee. The last meeting was in June, with no future meetings planned. The focus seems to be on the day-to-day work and getting smaller victories now rather than larger policy changes. S. Murthy agreed.
- CANTRAIN- Has multiple pieces to it, one of which is funding for trainee awards and internship programs for BC. Trainee awards have been increased from 6-16. 6 Masters, 8 Doctoral, and 2 Post-doctoral. We will also fund 6 internship placements as a rolling application. BC showed up as #3 for applicants in the competitions for trainees.

5. Discussion

A. Orth confirmed that CANTRAIN does not currently involve academic curriculum. It is meant for those just entering clinical trials, or to assist established trialist further.

S. Murthy added that he did an external review in Carlton University that is setting up a master's program for regulatory training in clinical trials which is being marketed as a national leader. Perhaps B.C. can advocate their role to build capacity and their role for leaders in capacity development.

6. Presentation & Discussion- *E6-R3- Summary of proposed ICH guidance and expected impact.*

Jean presented and shared a slide deck. A discussion occurred.

S. Murthy shared that in the PEI meetings for the consortium, this was heavily discussed with some angst about the wording and changes coming. G. Stuart asked what the council should be focused on.

J. Smart advised that the document will change what is considered to be core training. We need credit for the Quality & Risk Management pieces. The training on the principle and the whole of GCP will have to be rewritten for training. A. Orth built upon that adding that quality management system need support that and other resources across the province and how Clinical Trials BC can assist.

K. Keetch is happy to report that she received approval for a Clinical Research Quality Assurance Specialist. This is going to be a long-term strategy but this is being resourced S. Manusha acknowledged that this will be work, but they will be emphasizing the need for change while continuing to work with Clinical Trials BC.

7. Agenda Review & Input

Nov 29th Roundtable Meeting- Advancing the Clinical Trials Vision in BC

A. Orth introduced Greg Tooke from Light Trail who is helping us with the facilitation of Advancing the Clinical Trials Vision in BC.

G. Tooke walked the council through the agenda for the meeting. G. Tooke & A. Orth asked the council if anyone would be happy to present on the different priorities at the meeting. W. Hurlburt brought up the question, are these still the right priorities? A. Orth suggested W. Hurlburt speak to one of the priorities that embodies this question.

D. Lavallee added that all the priorities may not be equal in terms of actionability. Some priorities are easier to address than others. J. McFarlane is in favor of this idea and thinks part of the work will be evening the priorities out over the different organizations.

G. Tooke suggested adding a short panel discussion before lunch, he will discuss further with A. Orth.

W. Hurlburt noted that we need to be cognizant and conscience about what has been agreed to in the meeting before walking away. D. Lavallee added that we need to have a way to track ownership and decision making.

M. Reid shared a link to an article that T. Bubela has written, she would like to see this incorporated in the vision. <https://healthresearchbc.zoom.us/j/82963283485?pwd=dnNjMlc2a3NCSE1pWEZtWnRtOGNSQT09>

Any questions please reach out to A. Orth or G. Tooke.

8. Renewal of AC Membership

G. Stuart has agreed to extend his membership as Chair. A. Orth thanked the council and advised we are hoping that in February 2024 you will all decide to continue as council members.

D. Lavallee thanked the council and supported Alison's comments. M. Dawes suggested adding someone from an Indigenous background to engage their voice at these meetings.

D. Lavallee answered that we recently hired two new employee, Gillian Corless and Ashlyn Jensen Fisk, to help build our Indigenous relationship profile.

H. Jones-Eriksson added that there's an emphasis to Indigenize the way we do research ethics and there's hope that spreads to other areas in research.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by A. Orth at 4:00pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: February 13th, 2024