

Business Consortium

Alzheimer's Association Business Consortium (AABC) Meeting Notes

Teleconference

February 1, 2017

2:00 pm ET / 11:00 am PT

Attendees:

Kira Sheinerman, DiamiR, AABC Co-Chair
Charles Stacey, Accera, AABC Co-Chair
Jim Hendrix, Alzheimer's Association
Michael Goy, Brain Bits
Lisbeth Kattenhøj, Brain Reader
Judith Kelleher-Andersson, NeuroNascent
Andreas Köpke, SynAging
Dawn Matthews, ADM Diagnostics

Kim McDowell, Proclara Biosciences
Jerry McLaughlin, Agene Bio
John Osth, NanoSomix
Michael Ryan, Asceneuron
Eliav Shaked, RetiSpec
Sharon Rosenzweig-Lipson, Agene Bio
Jim Thacker, Therimunex

Review of 2016 Activities

- Jim reviewed the AABC 2016 Activities.
 - Biotech Showcase - Alzheimer's disease: Has the tide turned? This panel was held in San Francisco on January 11. The panel was moderated by Charles Stacey and included Guy Seabrook - VP, Neuroscience Innovation, Johnson & Johnson Innovation; Andrew Fein – Senior Biotechnology Analyst, HC Wainwright; Neta Batscha – Analyst, RA Capital Management; and Jim Hendrix.
 - Two Educational Webinars were held on February 24 and November 2
 - What does pharma look for in evaluating companies as potential partners?
Date: February 24 at 11 am ET / 8 am PT.
Speaker: Declan Jones, Vice President, Neuroscience Lead, J & J Innovation Center
 - SBIR/STTR funding for Alzheimer's disease. Speakers: Larry Refolo, Michael-David Kerns, NIH; Sharon Rosenzweig-Lipson, Agene Bio; Kira Sheinerman, DiamiR
 - Two face-to-face meetings were held. One meeting was a networking event at AAIC in Toronto and the second was a business breakfast at CTAD in San Diego.
 - It was suggested that future networking events could benefit from having pictures and affiliations of AABC members posted on the web-page. Jim will explore this proposal.
 - Two AABC Newsletters were published in 2016 as a way to further build the AABC community. The Newsletters included news items from the member companies and job openings. The members are encouraged to send along news items and job openings to Jim for future Newsletters.

Planning for 2017

- Potential Webinar Topics
 - Charles reviewed 4 proposed topics: Regulation A+; Crowdfunding; Angel investors; Academic/ clinical collaborations. These webinars would be 1 hour long including time for Q & A.
 - A fifth topic was proposed on translational models for Alzheimer's drug discovery. This topic will be further explored and potential speakers identified.
 - Ideas for further topics were requested, both after this call but also on an ongoing basis throughout the year.
- Ask the Expert Sessions
 - Kira described the potential to hold 30 to 60 minute Q & A sessions with experts in specific topics. These topics could include: Regulatory expert for diagnostic companies in AD space; Regulatory experts for therapeutics development; Legal: Corporate, IP, Securities, Litigation; Business development experts; Statistics in AD; and Grant writing.
 - Like the webinar topics, ideas for further topics were requested, both after this call but also on an ongoing basis throughout the year.
 - While these sessions might have some overlap with the Webinars, these Q & A only session could be equivalent to free consulting from well-respected experts.
- Workshops
 - Kira described a proposal to hold a Face-to-Face Workshop on focused on the innovation from growing companies. These Workshops could produce a White Paper for publication further increasing the visibility of the AABC and the member companies.
 - The idea of focusing on drug discovery Alzheimer's disease was again mentioned as a potential topic for a Workshop.
 - Specific conferences were mentioned as potential places to hold a Workshop or Face-to-Face AABC meeting. SfN (Washington, D.C.); AD/PD (Vienna); BIO (Boston) were all suggested. It was also suggested that a calendar of Alzheimer's related conferences might be a useful addition to the AABC web-page. Jim will explore this option.
- General Face-to face meetings
 - Jim mentioned that AAIC 2017 is scheduled for London in July. He acknowledged that for many US-based companies, this meeting could present a challenge to attend. As such, he suggested that the AABC members would be invited to the ISTAART or other Alzheimer's Association sponsored social events as another way to network.
 - It was suggested that SfN in Washington, D.C. which is held in November could also be targeted for a Face-to-Face meeting. The format and specific topics could be determined at a later date.
 - Smaller informal F2F meetings were also suggested at some of the other meetings throughout the year especially those in Europe. Jim proposed developing a calendar of events that could be posted on the AABC website.
- ISTAART PIA Connections
 - Jim discussed the Alzheimer's Association ISTAART organization that has over 3500 members. He further discussed how the AABC could raise their visibility with this group and enable connections.

- One proposal mentioned is to hold webinars where AABC companies high-light their technology and innovation. All ISTAART members could be invited and specific PIA's could be targeted to encourage participation.
- Several potential topics were discussed including a diagnostic session, a therapeutics session and a drug discovery / pre-clinical session. Jim will work with the ISTAART organization to schedule 1-2 webinars this year.
- AABC Web-Page Improvements
 - Jim mentioned that the AABC web-page is no longer a 'hidden' page but is now visible under the Research tab on Alz.org.
 - Jim requested that all members look at their one-page summaries and send in updates if needed. Also, any company without a one-page summary was requested to provide one for posting on the web-site.
 - Jim will explore other possible enhancements mentioned in the meeting such as a conference calendar and member pictures.

Next Steps:

- Kira, Charles and Jim will take feedback from this meeting and develop a list of events for 2017.