

**American Brain Coalition
Spring Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 3, 2006
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Mission Hills Room
San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina
San Diego, CA**

- I. Welcome & Introduction of Board Members – Francis I. Kittredge Jr., MD, Chair

Dr. Kittredge asked the present Board members to sit in the front row, and introduced each one to the Membership. Those in attendance include:

- Dr. Francis I. Kittredge Jr., MD (Chair)
- Dr. Mahlon DeLong, (Advocacy Committee Chair & SfN representative)
- Robin Elliott, Parkinson's Disease Foundation (ABC Secretary & Sustaining Member representative)
- Dr. Jeffrey Samuels, American Society of Neurorehabilitation (Treasurer & Associate Member representative)
- Dr. David Treiman (American Epilepsy Society representative)
- Monica Coenraads, Rett Syndrome Research Foundation (Associate Member representative)

- II. Approval of Board Minutes – Robin Elliott, Secretary
***Action Required: VOTE**

- a. Fall 2005 Meeting in Washington, DC
- b. January 2006 Conference Call

The Fall 2005 board meeting, and January 2006 board conference call minutes were unanimously approved.

- III. Membership ***Action Required: VOTE**

- a. Reaching Minimum Threshold for ABC Operations – Jeffrey Samuels, MD, Treasurer

Dr. Samuels explained to the Board that the ABC has almost reached its minimum operating budget goal of \$100K (currently at \$96,500 for 2006). Dr. Samuels made a recommendation to the Board to contact our five Associate

members with large operating budgets asking that they consider changing their membership to Sustaining member, and contacting the remaining Associate members asking that they consider providing in-kind support.

The Board approved all Associate members contributing \$1,000 per year in membership dues, with the stipulation that if \$1K is too extreme of a commitment they can provide what their organization can afford. If they are unable to provide any contribution, the ABC chair will need to approve their request. The Board also agreed to write two separate letters – one to the Associate members with larger operating budgets, encouraging them to change their membership to Sustaining member. The second letter will go to the remaining Associate members asking them to provide a \$1,000 2006 dues payment with the stipulation as listed above.

b. Formal Approval of Pending Memberships

The three pending associate members – Hydrocephalus Association, National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, and Parkinson Foundation of the Heartland – were approved as Associate members during the Membership Meeting.

IV. 2007 Advocacy Strategy – Mahlon DeLong, MD, Advocacy Committee Chair

a. Maintain Current Legislative Activities

Staff will look into which ABC members have Government & Public Affairs departments.

Staff will determine a mechanism, perhaps a survey to gauge interest, for encouraging members to advocate for their own issues.

b. Legislative Alert Software

The Board approved purchasing the legislative alert software, Capwiz, once the ABC reaches its minimum operating budget. Staff will look into how Capwiz can best serve the needs of all members.

V. ABC Bank Account – Mary Post, American Academy of Neurology COO
***Action Required: VOTE**

Mary Post, AAN's COO recommended to the Board that an ABC bank account be selected as the depository of funds and an ABC checking account be established. The Board approved this recommendation.

VI. Future of Post Marketing Surveillance Meeting – Request for co-sponsorship ***Action Required: VOTE**

Ronnie Wilkins Ed.D., Executive Director of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and ABC Organizing Board Member, submitted a proposal for the ABC to co-sponsor a 'Future of Post Marketing Surveillance Meeting', which will be held in Washington, DC. The ABC's role in co-sponsorship would be to help to identify the key Congressional members and their staff members who should be invited and encouraged to attend the meeting, and by helping with media and public relations efforts. The Board approved co-sponsoring this meeting.

VII. Other Business

Staff will distribute addresses and email address of all ABC members.

The Board will try to conduct monthly conference calls.

Staff will notify the Board of the Fall Meeting as soon as the exact date is set.

VIII. Adjournment