ARO Council Meeting
April 24, 2025

Attendees: Kate Fernandez, Ronna Hertzano, Sunil Puria, Mike Bowl, Yuri Agrawal, Avril Genene Holt, Radha Kalluri, Anna Lysakowski, Jesse Howard, and Kristin Johnson

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **Summary:** Ronna Hertzano welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- **Decisions Made:** None.
- **Action Items:** None.

2. JARO Presentation

- **Summary:** JARO Editor Dr. Christopher Cederroth presented some ideas on potential partnerships with Shelly Chadha at WHO and Simona Negrini of WE Science. Dr. Negrini saw an increase in journal score and meeting attendance after implementing similar partnerships. Dr. Cederroth suggested quoting a consultancy service by Dr. Negrini to explore how JARO and ARO might achieve the same success. Dr. Cederroth explained that editorials can be published in JARO with no fees but there are no free open access articles available in JARO due to Springer rules (publisher). Dr. Cederroth also suggested implementing opportunities for sponsorship to pay for open access article fees.
- **Decisions Made:**
    - None.
- **Action Items:**
    - Dr. Cederroth is to put the proposal in writing and submit it to the Council for further consideration.

3. Introduction to Council Resources

- **Summary:** Kristin Johnson provided an overview of the Council and Committee Portal which can be accessed by logging in at aro.com with your member account and then clicking the red Committee Portal button once your log in landing page loads. You can find minutes for Council and committees here, financials, the bylaws, the policy manual, the yearly MidWinter Meeting Evaluation Summary. It was clarified that the portal is only accessible to members assigned to the Council or a committee in our system. Financials and audit reports are only accessible by members assigned to the Council or the Finance & Investment Committee.
- **Decisions Made:** None.
- **Action Items:** None.

4. Review of Post-Conference Feedback Document

- **Summary:** Ronna Hertzano provided an overview of the feedback compiled on the document so far and requested that everyone be sure to add to it as this document is used year over year to provide guidance and determine necessary improvements for the next year's meeting.
- **Decisions Made:**
    - None.

- **Action Items:**
    - Council members will visit the document to provide individual feedback if they have not already done so.
    - Awards Ceremony improvements will be discussed at a later meeting.

5. Proposal to Extend a Council seat for the ARO Scholars PI

- **Summary:** Kristin Johnson provided an overview of a proposal to extend the Council in order for the ARO Scholars grant application PI to sit on the Council. The seat will be occupied by the PI for a 3-year term. This will also coincide with a 3-year term as co-chair of the Diversity & Minority Affairs Committee (DMAC). This framework has proven successful with the Program Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Chair, and Communications Committee Chair seats and allows the PI to directly access guidance and input from the Council as well as the DMAC ARO Scholars Task Group. This arrangement also serves our students and early career DMAC members as they will gain greater exposure and experience with grant writing and application processes. It was noted that approval of this proposal will initiate a vote of membership to amend the bylaws which currently do not permit this position. The Council agreed to review the bylaws at a later meeting in order to identify all the bylaw updates needed and to execute one vote that includes all proposed changes. The ARO Scholars PI is currently Avril Genene Holt. She will attend the Council meetings as an ex-officio (non-voting) member until membership has voted. If the membership does not vote in support of this proposal, the Council will revisit how to move forward.
- **Decisions Made:**
    - The Council voted unanimously in support of this proposal.
- **Action Items:**
    - The Council will review bylaws and compile all needed updates prior to executing the membership vote.

6. 2026 MWM Site overview

- **Summary:** Kristin Johnson provided an introduction to this year's Council and an overview of the meeting site and hotels for the upcoming MWM via a slideshow which can be viewed here.
- **Decisions Made:**
    - None.
- **Action Items:**
    - EO working to secure government room blocks at the contracted hotels. This is the last contract that was signed before the requirement to include government room blocks was implemented. We will negotiate with each hotel as much as we can.

7. Vote on Multi-year Contract with PMG

- **Summary:** Council discussed the proposed contract and voted unanimously in support of signing the contract contingent on the following updates to the contract language: delineation of time commitments from the Executive Office and the same level of support for the ARO Scholars R25 that is provided for ARO's existing

R13. The Council also wanted to ensure that the MWM session recordings will continue to be provided, though this is in the annual audio/visual vendor contract, not the PMG contract. The Executive Office understands that the recordings are required.

- **Decisions Made:**
  - The Council voted unanimously in support of signing the contract.
- **Action Items:**
  - PMG is to make the requested updates and send to Ronna Hertzano for signature.

Adjournment

- **Summary:** The meeting was adjourned with a completed agenda.
- **Decisions Made:** None.
- **Action Items:** None.