spARO Steering Committee July Meeting Minutes
Date: July 8, 2025

Attendees: Samantha Davis (chair), Michael Roberts, George Ordiway, Rania Sharaf, Paul Krumpock, Pankaj Bhatia, Bryce Hambach, Jessica MacLean, Emily Fabrizio-Stover, Thore Schade-Man, Shelby Payne, Sujata Pandey, Matsya Thulasiram, Charanjeet Kaur, Luberson Joseph, Afagh Farhadi, Ely Boussaty, Rose Rizzi, Shakila Mahmuda Fatima, Austin Huang, Leslie Gonzales, Sree Varshini Murali, Rhiannon McNeely (Executive Office)

Summary: The June meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without any objections. Rhiannon McNeely had sent the minutes to everyone prior to the meeting, and they can be accessed via the committee member portal.

Decisions Made:

- June meeting minutes were approved.

Action Items:

- None

Updates/Misc Discussion

Summary: The committee discussed clarifying the distinction between spARO and the spARO Steering Committee, and the possibility of promoting JARO research news through a spARO-specific newsletter.

Decisions Made:

- Clarify language in ARO policies and handbook regarding spARO and the spARO Steering Committee.
- Promote JARO research news through a spARO-specific newsletter.

Action Items:

- Samantha Davis to work with the Executive Council on clarifying language.
- Samantha Davis to coordinate the creation of a spARO-specific newsletter.

Committee Updates

Accessibility and Accommodations: No updates provided.

Clinician Scientist: The committee will meet next week and provide updates in the August meeting.

Communications: The committee is working on updates to the ARO Science Outreach program and ensuring all website links and wording are correct. They are also planning an outreach event at a middle school during the MidWinter Meeting.

Diversity and Minority Affairs: The committee is planning a coffee hour and is working on scheduling a meeting next Monday. They are also looking for funding to support more students for the ARO Scholar program.

Education: The committee is hosting a Seminar Series on Auditory Brainstem and Midbrain and planning a coffee hour on alternative career paths for young scientists. They are also working on a new initiative on cutting-edge techniques and models.

Long Range Planning: The committee has not received updates from the ARO about their assignment and will follow up.

Membership: The committee met last week, but they have not received the meeting minutes yet.

Program: The committee has completed reviewing symposium and young investigator submissions and will meet on July 25th.

Travel Awards: No updates provided.

Global Professional Outreach: The committee was unable to meet last month due to scheduling issues, but will meet soon.

JARO Research News: The committee is waiting for updates from the Editor-In-Chief, who is on annual leave until August 11th.

spARO Sessions: The group has not had a meeting yet, so no updates.

Mentorship Program: No updates provided.

Buddy System: No updates provided.

Young Investigator: No updates provided.