ARO Council Meeting

Date: February 6, 2026

Attendees:
Kristin Johnson, Alain Dabdoub, Ronna Hertzano, Jeff Holt, Sunil Puria, Anna Lysakowski, Mike Bowl, Radha Kalluri, Lisa Cunningham, Katharine Fernandez, Mike Bowl, Avril Genene Holt

Editor in Chief Job Description

The council reviewed the draft Editor in Chief job description and found it to be too long, redundant, and boring. Kristin will update and draft a new version for input via email. The council also agreed that Anna Lysakowski would support the Executive Office in exploring alternative publisher and journal agreements to evaluate whether ARO needs to reconsider its current contract and relationship with Springer Nature.

SWOT Analysis and Strategic Planning Workshop

The Council began reviewing the attached SWOT analysis, focusing primarily on the threats section before pivoting to a workshop designed to encourage strategic thinking. The Council reviewed the existing strategic plan and examined an inventory of all programs and initiatives. There are almost 40 active programs & initiatives currently with several more proposed or in development. The complexity of the existing strategic plan was also noted as it includes almost 40 individual charges. There was extensive discussion about bandwidth constraints and the need to conduct an analysis of initiative and program impact to sunset the least impactful and effective offerings. There was also discussion surrounding the need to simplify and narrow the focus of the next strategic plan. The focus for the next few years must be on how ARO supports its members, especially trainees and early career members. The Council expressed unanimous support for this approach.

Committee Chair Engagement

The Council approved by majority vote a proposal to begin inviting committee chairs to the Council dinner the night before the MidWinter Meeting begins. This

dinner will have a pre-determined theme of conversation and agenda for topics Council wants to engage the chairs on. There will be a follow-up virtual meeting in April every year to provide updates, ask follow-up questions, and maintain ongoing engagement.

Clinician Scientist Initiative

The Council approved by majority vote that Ronna Hertzano will champion an initiative to increase clinician scientist attendance and membership. Council agreed to commit at least three years to this effort to allow sufficient time to see measurable results.

Fundraising and Sponsorship

The Council approved by majority vote that a fundraising and sponsorship liaison position be developed and implemented to own the responsibility of increasing and maximizing this revenue stream with Executive Office support.

spARO Chair Inclusion

The Council approved by majority vote that the spARO chair be invited to Council meetings as a non-voting member as part of an overall effort to better include and support trainees.

Virtual Meeting Offerings

The Council approved by majority vote to follow up with the Long Range Planning Committee to ask them to consider our current virtual offerings for the MidWinter Meeting and to poll membership to determine what degree of virtual participation would best suit their needs for the next few years. It was noted that too much virtual participation could be a detriment to the in-person meeting environment and the overall culture of the meeting, so care should be taken to weigh possible outcomes of any additional virtual participation options.

Action Items:

- Kristin to draft a revised Editor in Chief job description and distribute for email input

- Anna Lysakowski to work with the Executive Office to explore alternative publisher and journal agreements
- Executive Office to develop proposal for committee chair engagement dinner and follow-up meetings
- Ronna Hertzano to develop and lead the clinician scientist initiative
- Executive Office to develop and implement the fundraising/sponsorship liaison position
- Executive Office to invite spARO chair to future Council meetings