Long Range Planning Committee Meeting

May 6, 2026, 1:30 PM EDT

Attendees: Matt Kelly (Chair), Bonnie Lau (Past-Chair), Kristin Johnson, Allison Johnson, Melinda McPherson, Brandon Paul, Heidi, Patrick Kanold, Larry Hoffman, Dave Raible, Ayden Chavez, Domenica Karavitaki, Charanjeet Kaur, Suhua Sha, Ross Williamson, Bjorn Herrman, Hideko Nakajima

1. 2026 Mid-Winter Meeting Evaluation

Summary: The committee reviewed the evaluation data from the 2026 Mid-Winter Meeting in Puerto Rico. The post-meeting survey yielded a 40% response rate, a significant increase over previous years, indicating high overall attendee satisfaction. Challenges discussed included poor ratings for the mobile app, with Kristin Johnson noting that the current app costs $3,500, while a high-quality external replacement could exceed $10,000. Additionally, international and Canadian attendance dropped, potentially due to visa/immigration concerns and general travel difficulties. The Executive Office noted that it continues to train Council members to direct all verbal feedback into the formal survey system to better track quantitative data.

Decisions Made:

- None.

Action Items:

- Review 2026 survey raw data to correlate schedule preferences with job titles/degrees (Long Range Planning Committee Members).
- Share a table of the registration breakdown by country/location with the committee (Kristin Johnson/Executive Office).

2. Strategic Planning and New Survey Responsibilities

Summary: Council requested that the committee gather data on five key areas: barriers to in-person attendance, supporting early career scientists, international engagement, clinician participation, and committee efficiency. The committee discussed the necessity of distributing this strategic survey prior to the abstract deadline to capture feedback from recent non-members and those currently deciding whether to attend. Matt Kelly noted that he will coordinate with Mike Bowl (Communications Committee Chair) to draft the initial survey questions and distribute them to the committee for review.

Decisions Made:

- None.

Action Items:

- Draft strategic survey questions with Mike Bowl (Matt Kelly).
- Provide Matt Kelly with access to the Google Doc for survey drafting (Kristin Johnson/Executive Office).

- Provide draft templates of sponsor/exhibitor surveys from other societies to the committee (Kristin Johnson/Executive Office).

3. Meeting Duration and Scheduling

Summary: The committee evaluated the optimal duration and scheduling of the annual meeting. Survey responses indicated a strong member preference for maintaining the Saturday through Wednesday schedule. The committee acknowledged the inherent conflict between potentially shortening the meeting and retaining the six podium sessions typically scheduled for Wednesday. It was noted that clinicians prefer weekend dates, and shifting to a Monday through Friday schedule would likely precipitate a drop in clinical attendance.

Decisions Made:

- None

Action Items:

- None.

4. Memorial and Honorary Sessions

Summary: The committee addressed attendee feedback regarding the timing and management of memorial sessions. Attendees reported feeling rushed when sessions ran over their allotted times, which disrupted subsequent programming. Kristin Johnson reported that the Program Committee is currently investigating how to shift the submission and scheduling process to avoid back-to-back conflicts and improve the experience for sensitive sessions.

Decisions Made:

- None.

Action Items:

- None

Meeting Summary

The Long Range Planning Committee reviewed the successes and operational challenges of the 2026 Mid-Winter Meeting, highlighting a record 40% survey response rate and high overall satisfaction despite travel and visa barriers for international attendees. The committee evaluated the ongoing necessity of maintaining the Saturday through Wednesday meeting schedule to support clinician attendance, while balancing the scheduling complexities of memorial and late-breaking sessions.

Looking forward, the committee initiated planning for a new strategic survey mandated by Council to investigate in-person attendance barriers, international engagement, and early career support. The Executive Office will provide the necessary historical data and templates to assist committee leadership in drafting this survey before the upcoming abstract deadline.

Decisions Made (Consolidated)

- None

Action Items (Consolidated)

Matt Kelly

- Draft strategic survey questions with Mike Bull.

Kristin Johnson/Executive Office

- Share a table of the registration breakdown by country/location with the committee.
- Provide Matt Kelly with access to the Google Doc for survey drafting.
- Provide draft templates of sponsor/exhibitor surveys from other societies to the committee.
- Send out a scheduling poll for the next committee meeting (targeting late June or July).

Long Range Planning Committee Members

- Review 2026 survey raw data to correlate schedule preferences with job titles/degrees.