

Scientific Education Council Meeting Minutes

Date Wednesday, September 13, 2023
Time 2 pm CT

IN ATTENDANCE	
Scherezade K. Mama, DrPH (Chair)	Jessica Gorzelitz, PhD
Kellie Cooper	Erica Soltero, PhD
Stephanie Goldstein, PhD	Andrew Schmidt (staff)

**quorum = 5, excluding staff*

REGRETS	
Mei-Wei Chang, PhD, FSBM	Heather J. Leach, PhD
Jessica LaRose, PhD	Jacob Meyer, PhD

Welcome and Minutes

Dr. Mama welcomed Dr. Gorzelitz as a new member of the council.

MOTION: Dr. Goldstein moved to approve the minutes from the July Scientific Education Council meeting. Ms. Cooper seconded. The motion carried.

Membership Survey

Dr. Mama reported that the membership survey opened earlier in the month and was scheduled to close on September 28th. The council discussed whether it would be possible to do additional promotion for the survey in SBM's weekly digest email or on social media, in addition to any reminder emails that were already scheduled.

ACTION: SBM staff will continue to monitor survey responses and circulate survey reminders to the membership.

Bridging the Gap Research Award

Dr. Mama thanked the council for their review of the 2024 Bridging the Gap Research Award applications and reported that both winners had been notified, matched with their mentors, and would be announced to the SBM membership in the coming days.

Grand Rounds Webinar Series

The council continued its discussion of potential changes to the webinar series, beginning with an analysis by Dr. Leach and Dr. Myer examining trends in webinar attendance by topic. This analysis found that webinars focusing on research methods, funding mechanisms, and general career development topics were the most well-attended. However, the majority of webinars planned by SBM's SIGs, especially in recent years, have addressed topics with less relevance for the membership as a whole, and have consequently seen low attendance and recording views.

To combat low interest among the membership in SBM webinars, the council considered several changes to the webinar series, including limiting the total number of webinars presented each year, cancelling webinars with low registration numbers, and updating the webinar proposal and approval process to give more oversight to the SEC and limit accepted webinars to certain topics.

Dr. Gorzelitz shared that in her experience as SIG Chair, the perception among the SIGs is that SBM encourages as many webinar submissions as possible, with little to no guidance on recommended topics. The Annual Report that SIG chairs complete each year also implied that hosting at least one webinar was an annual requirement for all SIGs.

ACTION: Mr. Schmidt will provide a copy of the current SIG Annual Report template, and the council will consider revisions to the webinar proposal guidelines for SIGs and Annual Report requirements as part of any changes to the webinar program.

Dr. Gorzelitz and Dr. Soltero volunteered to take the lead on incorporating some potential changes into a proposal, with revisions by the council over the coming months as the results of the membership survey become available. Once finalized, the proposal will be submitted to SBM's Executive Committee for review and approval before being announced to the SIGs. Dr. Mama offered to provide examples of previous council proposals and connect with Dr. Leach and Dr. Myer after the call.

ACTION: Dr. Gorzelitz and Dr. Soltero will prepare a draft proposal of changes to the webinar series for review by the council during its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. CT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrew Schmidt on September 15, 2023.