



SOCIETY OF
BEHAVIORAL
MEDICINE

**ETCD Council Conference Call
MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

11:00 a.m. PT/12:00 p.m. MT/1:00 p.m. CT/2:00 p.m. ET
bluejeans.com/580906236

In Attendance

Valerie Myers, PhD (chair)
Jamie Bodenlos, PhD
Courtney P. Bonner, PhD
Andrea Kozak, PhD
Morgan Lee, PhD, MPH
David Conroy, PhD (staff)
Michael Diefenbach, PhD (guest)
Carina Mnich, MSc (guest)
Lindsay Bullock, CAE (staff)
Andrew Schmidt (staff)

Regrets

Vicki DiLillo, PhD
Amy Huebschmann, MD
Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin, PhD

Welcome and Minutes

The July 2020 ETCD Council call minutes were approved as written.

Study Section Reviewer Nominations

Dr. Myers provided a brief recap of the new procedure from NIH's Center for Scientific Review (CSR) to involve scientific societies in the recruitment of study section reviewers, and SBM's process for collecting self-nominations from members.

Dr. Diefenbach thanked the council for their effort reviewing the first batch of member applications, noting that this initiative was a crucial one for SBM to participate in, as certain Scientific Review Officers (SROs) have felt that behavioral medicine expertise was noticeably absent from the reviewer pool.

Dr. Conroy echoed Dr. Diefenbach's thoughts, adding that he also strongly advocated for SBM to become involved with this new reviewer recruitment pipeline, particularly to promote behavioral medicine researchers from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. When discussing this further with the SROs, they mentioned that new reviewers wouldn't necessarily need to have long histories of NIH experience, with diversity of background and research focus being potentially more significant. As such, SBM's wouldn't be required or expected to limit the number of candidates they pass on, and could best help the SROs looking for reviewers by casting as wide a net as possible among the

members. Still, if SBM moves to erring on the side of approval CSR will still have the final say on which nominees are actually brought on as reviewers, and members shouldn't expect to be selected just because SBM forwards their name.

With the goal of expanding diversity in mind, Dr. Myers asked what the minimum requirements for SBM nomination would be. Dr. Diefenbach and Dr. Conroy recommended withholding graduate students or postdoctoral fellows who might self-nominate, but that members at the assistant professor stage or later should most likely be moved forward to CSR. A lack of direct NIH experience would not represent an automatic disqualification for most members at that stage.

The presidents also recommended that reviewers consider potential changes for members to make to their applications rather than rejecting their self-nominations outright. For those applicants whose nomination materials needed improvement, ETCD could suggest some changes to their applications to better highlight their strengths as a prospective reviewer before inviting them to resubmit. For those applicants who are too early-career for SBM to recommend at this stage, ETCD could encourage applying directly to the Early Career Reviewer program.

Next steps:

- Staff will contact the applicants with unanimous recommendations to inform them of their reviews and forward their names to CSR. Council members will be asked to re-evaluate the applicants with mixed reviews or non-recommendations, and provide suggestions as to how those members can prepare more effective applications before SBM passes them on to CSR.

Early-career Mentoring Program Proposal

Ms. Mnich shared the Student SIG's thanks for the ETCD's feedback from last month's council call, and reported that the SIG has been further considering the application procedure and requirements. In particular, the SIG felt that requiring potential participants to submit a full plan for their capstone project at the time of application might place too much of a burden on students. In addition, it would be excessive to require students to commit to a reception/presentation for their projects at the following year's Annual Meeting, as the mid-career Leadership Institute does.

The council agreed overall with the Student SIG's points, with Dr. Myers suggesting that participants could be encouraged to draft a brief paper or *Outlook* article summarizing their mentorship experience if a project is found to be too restrictive or too onerous. Dr. Lee recommended that participants still be asked to develop a tangible product in some form by the end of the program, rather than merely listing broad goals for mentoring.

Ms. Mnich noted that the other next step for the program at this stage is recruiting senior SBM members to serve as mentors, and asked the council for any recommendations regarding potential prospects. SBM's Fellows were identified as likely the best targets for mentorship roles, however Ms. Mnich noted that the roster on the SBM website does not include an indication of individual Fellows' current involvement with SBM or SIG membership.

Next steps:

- Mr. Schmidt will generate a list of current Fellows that Ms. Mnich and the Student SIG can use to identify mentor prospects.

Other Business

Dr. Myers asked the council to consider potential candidates for new council members. Current members were encouraged to send any recommendations to Dr. Myers before next month's call, at which point the council can discuss nomination of suggested candidates to SBM's Executive Committee.

Next Meeting

September 8, 2020; 2 p.m. ET