

The Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center

September 14, 2021

General Meeting via Webex

I. Welcome

Cindy Mancillas

The meeting began at 10:05 and Cindy welcomed everyone. Cindy introduced Dr. Omar Lateef and Dr. Amina Ahmed.

II. RUMC Update and Project Proposal Presentation

**Dr. Omar Lateef &
Dr. Amina Ahmed**

1. Medical Center Update

Dr. Lateef demonstrated the efficacy of the Covid vaccine with a chart showing the inverse relationship between vaccination rates and Covid infections. If we can get to a 70-90% rate of vaccinations in the country, Covid will be gone. Until that time, masking will remain as an important protective measure. He recommends that eventually everyone should get a 3rd booster shot eight months after the second dose.

RUMC lost \$242 million last year due to Covid, but the recovery has been very strong. Rush was able to build a strong reputation and brand through the Covid experience and has seen an increase in patients, however, the hospital is very affected by labor shortages, and is in a tenuous time of staffing right now. The hospital has engendered good will with its employees by reversing the Covid pay cuts and retirement benefit cuts as quickly as possible.

The FY21 Strategic Initiative focuses on quality as the RUMC brand. RUMC has called out equity and focused on racism. The hospital's people and its engagement with employees generates positive value.

2. Campaign

Dr. Lateef discussed the new Capital Campaign: “From Excellent to Extraordinary”. The campaign includes the launch of the BMO Institute for Health Equity. It also started the new Rubschlager building with the largest single gift in Rush’s history. The campaign has raised a total of \$386,342,415 so far, 59% of its \$650 million goal. The hospital leverages philanthropy to care for its patients. The campaign’s strategic priority areas are: Bone & Joint, Brain Health/Neurosciences, Cancer, Health Sciences Education, Health Equity, and Innovation and Discovery.

3. Rush Cancer Center Update

Mia Levy will transition from the Cancer Center Director role to private practice. She will retain her adjunct faculty appointment at Rush. Dr. Ahmed is the Director of Clinical Operations at the Cancer Center and the search for a new Cancer Center Director is taking place. New visits to the center are up 23%, and new treatments are up 42%. 75% of patients are seen within seven days and patient satisfaction scores are very high.

4. Principal Project Options

Project One: The Woman’s Board Fund for Excellence in Cellular Therapy

New cellular therapy approaches, which allow us to re-engineer a person’s own cancer-fighting cells to attack tumors more effectively, have already broken new ground in the way lymphoma, leukemia and other hematologic malignancies are treated at Rush. Now Rush is poised to become one of the nation’s first clinical trial sites for tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes, or TIL, therapies for lung cancer and melanoma. This project will help us introduce these exciting — but complex — immunotherapy treatments into care while advancing research. *The Woman’s Board Fund for Excellence in Cellular Therapy* will...

- Provide for a cellular therapy manager to coordinate the episode of care for patients and help overcome the logistical complexity of treatment delivery
- Propel cellular therapy research by facilitating the collection and storage of specimens from the initial patients treated with TIL therapy
- Strengthen Rush’s current position as a destination program for lung cancer, melanoma and hematologic malignancies — areas where cell therapies are rapidly advancing
- Assist patients and families traveling to Rush from around the Midwest to obtain these cutting-edge treatments with temporary lodging and other minor supports

Project Two: The Woman’s Board Clinical Trials Expansion Fund

As we set out to raise the bar on cancer and neurological care in Chicago, we need to transform our excellent clinical trials program into an extraordinary one. The project will help Rush accelerate efforts to double the number of clinical trials available to our patients, including greater access to early-phase clinical trials of the newest investigational therapies — the types of trials typically only available at elite

cancer centers like MD Anderson or Dana-Farber and rarely in Chicago. *The Woman's Board Clinical Trials Expansion Fund* will...

- Help our clinical research team fully equip a new central processing laboratory in the Joan and Paul Rubschlagler Building
- Ensure the success of a major organizational restructuring affecting 300 employees that aims to optimize our clinical trials program
- Provide start-up staffing support for clinical research specialists during the ramp-up period
- Enable Rush to better support participants in clinical trials by covering costs for parking, lunch and other minor conveniences

Project Three: The Woman's Board Fund for Nanobody Research in Cancer

Nanobodies — antibody fragments that are 10 times smaller than monoclonal antibodies — are a highly exciting development in cancer treatment and diagnostics because they can squeeze into tight spaces and thus penetrate dense tumors. Dr. M. Saleem Bhat's laboratory at Rush is pioneering this field, called nanotheranostics, with its discoveries offering new hope in the fight against aggressive prostate cancer. This project would expand the lab's innovative nanobody research into invasive breast cancer. *The Woman's Board Fund for Nanobody Research in Cancer* will...

- Help Dr. Bhat's lab pilot new laboratory studies of nanobodies targeting invasive breast cancer, including in vitro cell culture studies and in vivo studies in sophisticated mouse models
- Support research into nanobodies' ability to improve the detection of metastatic breast cancer on imaging tests
- Promote the development of a "liquid biopsy" that could help physicians better evaluate the aggressiveness of each patient's cancer
- Build on the Woman's Board's current precision oncology project and support the exploration of nanobody therapies for other cancers

III. Proposal Discussion and Selection

Cindy Mancillas

Due to the virtual format of the meeting, members will vote on the principal project through Survey Monkey. All votes must be received by Tuesday, September 21.

IV. Approval of May Minutes

Cindy Mancillas

As there were no corrections to the minutes, the May minutes stand approved.

V. 2021 Fall Benefit: Be a Game Changer

**Sarah Alshouse &
Bethany Crocker**

The Fall Benefit team has been flexible, thoughtful and hardworking, as the event transitioned from live to virtual. There will be amazing gift bags, thanks to Erin Ritchie, which will include food and alcohol. The raffle and auction is incredible and will go live on September 24th through October 1st. We are still seeking underwriting for several packages, and also need help delivering the gift bags on September 29th and 30th.

This will be a live event, not recorded. It will be interactive and funny! The three Game Changers who will be honored are:

1. Mia Levy, MD, PhD
2. Angelique Richard, PhD, RN, CENP
3. The Road Home Program

Dr. Brian Klassen will be the individual highlighted.

VI. Nominating

Mary McCarthy

Mary presented the new slate of officers:

Term Ending in 2023:

Mary Anne Martin – EVP, Administration
Mary Pearlman – EVP, Finance
Samantha Schwalm – VP, Community Activities
Ann Potter – VP, In-Service Activities
Elizabeth Bigelow – Corresponding Secretary
Elizabeth Denison – Finance Secretary

Term Ending in 2022:

Cindy Mancillas - President
Susan Matejka – EVP, Fundraising
Pamela Fitzgerald – EVP, Membership
Melissa Hennessy – VP, Gift Shop
Susie Healey – VP, Medical Center Activities
Wendy Herb – Treasurer
Amy Brock – Recording Secretary 2021-22

VII. Introduction of Madelyn Matzuka, Woman’s Board Intern Cindy Mancillas

Madelyn is an intern who will be working in the WB office through October, doing administrative work.

VIII. Committee on Committees

Adrienne Weisenberger

Adrienne thanked the following members for agreeing to serve as Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs:

Term Ending in 2023

Cancer Treatment Center – Chair: Anne Loucks, Vice Chair: Stephanie Henry
Clinical Nursing – Chair: Marianne Berger, Vice Chair: Jean Brennan
Long Range Planning – Chair: Debra Beck
Member Stewardship – Chair: Meg Sauer, Vice Chair: Wentworth McGovern
Mental Well-Being – Chair: Adrienne Weisenberger, Vice Chair: Kate Peterson
Revisions – Chair: Jennifer Keenan, Vice Chair: Lenore Macdonald
Social Services/Care Management – Chair: Beth Myers, Vice Chair: Suzanne Nelson
Women’s & Children’s Hospital – Chair: Sarah Alhouse, Vice Chair: Stevie Boggess

Term Ending in 2022

Annual Appeal – Chair: Emily Reynolds, Vice Chair: Jennifer Rice
Child Psych/Rush Day School – Chair: Melinda Hurley, Vice Chair: Elinor Jannotta
Community Outreach – Chair: Melissa Iserloth, Vice Chair: Eileen Kasten
Historical – Chair: Mary McCarthy, Vice Chair: Sarah Bogan
Sponsor Development – Chair: Gigi Johnson, Vice Chair: Ruthie Beam
Veterans – Chair: Barbara Steinhauser, Vice Chair: Lenore Macdonald
Volunteer Activities: Chair: Michelle Worth, Vice Chair: Sally Brown Thilman

IX. Treasurer’s Report

Wendy Herb

Wendy gave an update on the board’s financial accounts:

- The JP Morgan Investment Management account has a value of \$2,226,525.39.
- The Wintrust Operating Account has a value of \$824,899.65.
- The total assets of the Woman’s Board are \$3,051,425.04.

X. Winnetka Auxiliary & Junior Board

Jeanne McAtamney & Heather Pigott

The Cooks’ Tour will be held on Wednesday, September 22nd, showcasing gardens in Winnetka. The ticket sales will be limited and will close the weekend prior to the event. All the information about the event is available on the website.

The Junior Board earned \$35,000 on their car wash versus \$16,000 last year. The Holiday Tea will be held on December 12 and the Fashion Show will be held on May 1, 2022. The Junior Board is also helping with the Fall Benefit by assembling gift bags.

XI. Announcements

Cindy Mancillas

- Contact the office this week to sign up to deliver Fall Benefit gift bags on *Wednesday, September 29 or Thursday, September 30*
- 2022 Principal Project Voting will take place from *Tuesday, September 14 – Tuesday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. CDT*
- Committee lists due to Kelly Lynch by *Friday, September 17*
- Dues, Committee Chairs Reports & Officers Reports are due by *Friday, September 17*
- Contact Information Updates for Yearbook are due by *Friday, September 17*
- The Auxiliary Board Cooks' Tour – *Wednesday, September 22*
- 2021 Fall Benefit: Be A Game Changer – *Friday, October 1 (Virtual)*
- Executive Committee Meeting – *Monday, October 4 at 10 a.m. (Virtual)*
- No October General Meeting
- Dr. Larry Goodman is the inaugural recipient of the John F. Benjamin Service Award presented by Michael Reese Health Trust (virtual event invite to follow) – *Wednesday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m.*
- Officers' Council Meeting (Incoming and Outgoing) – *Wednesday, October 13 ~~14~~ 10:00 a.m. (Location TBD)*
- Annual Meeting – *Monday, November 12-at Rush University Medical Center*

XIII. Adjournment

Cindy Mancillas

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM.

Addendum:

After tabulating all the board member votes for the 2022 Principal Project, Project One was chosen: The Woman's Board Fund for Excellence in Cellular Therapy.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Martin
Recording Secretary