

Nevada Consortium on Dementia Research (NCDR)

Friday, October 13, 2017

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

World Market Center – A246 Conference Room

Note taker – Samantha Slinkard

Attendance: Charles Bernick, LeeAnn Mandarino, Samantha Slinkard, Cheyenne Pasquale, Ritter, Aaron Andrew Murtishaw, Amanda L, Choi Tsang, Chelsea Tran, Andrew Ortiz, Logan Myers, Megan McPherson, Hailey Bergman, Emily Chau, Arnold Salazar, Jeffrey S. Duncan, Jennifer Keene, Mary Johlfs, Ronald R. Fiscus, Sandra Owens, Isaac Santa Ana.

Dr. Aaron Ritter: COBRE Presentation

- Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, NIH provides research funding to underfunded states and new researchers. The funding is renewable for 15 years.
- Center for Neurodegeneration and Translational Neuroscience (CNTN) – collaboration between Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center and UNLV.
 - One goal is to expand ADNI, a database with images and biomarkers of neurodegenerative diseases.
 - Creating a database/clinical cohort (n=120 currently) with mild cognitive impairment, mild dementia, Parkinson's disease, as well as cognitively normal controls.
 - Cognitive testing and other testing/imaging will be done on members of the clinical cohort.
 - Neuropsych battery of tests and resting state MRI, amyloid PET, structural MRI
 - APOE genotyping and other biomarker testing in conjunction with Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine (NIPM) at UNLV
 - CTSC database will be potentially available as a web-based database (OpenClinica) for junior researchers
 - Project 1: Alzheimer's Disease – Water Maze, microglial imaging, structural imaging
 - Project 2: Dr. Bluett – Parkinson's Disease – freezing of gait, effects of medications on freezing of gait, neuroimaging, neuropsychology
 - Project 3: Animal models (mice) – GABA and microglial inflammation
- Clinical Core – collaborations and OpenClinica database, recruitment to cohort (number of participants, diversity of participants, participant satisfaction)
- Areas of emphasis: attracting investigators for amyloid research and Phase II of COBRE funding, increasing/continuing recruitment to the clinical cohort
- Process to access COBRE CTSC data is in the works, may be available within the next 6 months
- Social/qualitative research is a potential for this cohort

Nevada Care Connection website update: <https://www.nevadaadrc.com/alzheimer-s-research/nv-dementia>

- NCDR information is housed under programs on this site
 - Research projects are searchable by Diagnosis or Researcher
- Suggestions:
 - Make the projects easier to find and search. Can find the researcher or project by Googling it, but cannot find some information through the website
 - Only studies that are currently enrolling are included on this site
 - Potentially make a central homepage?
 - COBRE has a central site
 - State page is very restricted in what can be posted and how the page can be formatted
 - Write a grant to gain funding for individual website?
 - Creating a tab for research on DementiaFriendly Nevada webpage?
 - Categorizing the studies
 - Animal and Human, or more specific categories (imaging, social, etc.)
 - Include more of the Consortium members and their projects
 - Including more information on the study pages (researcher biosketches, publications, etc.)
 - Possibly create a heading specific for clinical trials
 - Potential “members only” section on website for Consortium members?
 - Creating an entry under Nevada 211 for clinical trials? (For recruitment, information, etc.)

Open Forum

- Recruitment to COBRE cohort or development of new projects
 - Possibly reaching out to PR reps at the different hospitals?

Future meetings:

- Friday, January 5, 2018 – 12:00PM-1:30PM
- Friday, March 30, 2018 – 12:00PM-1:30PM
- Friday, July 13, 2018 – 12:00PM-1:30PM
- Friday, October 5, 2018 – 12:00PM-1:30PM

Meeting adjourned 1:09 PM