

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 5, 2021

AGENDA NO. 12

PROPOSAL: Annual Meeting of the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation

SYNOPSIS: This item is to conduct the annual meeting of the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation. The Foundation staff will present an annual report detailing the research supported by the Foundation over the past year, the Foundation's plans for the future, and a financial report.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Receive and file the annual report and ratify the Foundation's disbursements described in the annual report.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

BTG:RL:LAL

Background

In February 2003, the South Coast AQMD Board directed staff to establish the Brain Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation to implement an initiative by the Board Chairman to fund research into the potential connections between air pollution and brain cancer. After years of supporting research related to the impacts of air pollution on brain tumors, in March 2017 the Board changed the Foundation's name to the Health Effects of Air Pollution Foundation and expanded the Foundation's mission to support research on the incidence, detection, and causes and cures of various health conditions that may be caused or aggravated by air pollution. To date, the Foundation has received contributions of almost \$9 million and has funded studies with leading medical and public health researchers in Southern California.

Directors and Officers

The Directors of the Foundation are: Ben Benoit, Chairman
Dr. William A. Burke, Vice Chairman
Dr. Clark E. Parker, Sr.
Michael Cacciotti

The Foundation's staff is: Wayne Nastri, Chief Executive Officer
Denise Whitcher, Secretary
Sujata Jain, Treasurer
Susanna Leung, Assistant Treasurer

Report on the Foundation's Activities

Current Research Projects

The following four research projects in progress that are currently being funded by the Foundation:

- “Do Changes in Amount and Composition of Ambient PM Influence Induction or Exacerbation of Brain and Lung Tumors?” (HEAPF012)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Arthur Cho (University of California, Los Angeles)
Approved Funding: \$979,182
- “Impacts of Ambient Air Pollution on the Risk and Survival of Breast Cancer in Los Angeles County: The Multiethnic Cohort Study” (HEAPF014)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Anna Wu (University of Southern California)
Approved Funding: \$804,189
- “Ameliorating Alzheimer’s disease by targeting miRNAs in the brain to normalize synthesis of extracellular matrix and ribosomal proteins” (HEAPF015)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Keith Black (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center)
Approved Funding: \$2,250,000
- “Adverse Health Effects of Volatile Organic Compounds” (HEAPF016)
Principal Investigator: Dr. Art Cho (University of California, Los Angeles)
Approved Funding: \$471,000

Financial Report

The Foundation's fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. Financial statements were prepared by staff and audited by BCA Watson Rice, LLP (Auditor). Total expenses for the fiscal year were \$1,016,029 and included grant (\$1,014,819), audit fees (\$1,200) and other fees/taxes (\$10). The Auditor issued an unmodified opinion, indicating that the financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

As of December 31, 2020, the Foundation had a cash balance of \$3,747,852. Following is an accounting of the Foundation's operations since its inception (7/23/03):

Revenue from Operations	
Contributions	\$12,472,568
Interest Income	47,157
<i>Total Revenue from Operations</i>	\$12,519,725
Operating Expenses	
Grants	
-Cedars-Sinai	\$6,785,607
-UCLA	898,258
-USC	1,065,169
Corporation Filing Costs	1,755
Bank charges	598
Professional fees-audit	20,487
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	\$8,771,874
Cash Balance	\$3,747,852

Plans for the Upcoming Year

The Foundation will continue monitoring the progress of the existing research projects and will provide an update to the Board when the projects have final results to report.