



**The MSMR Annual Meeting of Members
Business Meeting**

June 17, 2022

Boston Marriott Newton Hotel, Newton, Mass. and via Zoom
10:00 am to 2 p.m.

Members in attendance included:

William Barbo
Michael Wadanoli
David Lee-Parritz
Jim Fox
Lynn Jackson
Charlie Alagero
John Erwin
Brian Corning
Kerry Ressler

Toni Albanese
Denice O'Connell
Kirby Johnson
Deb Siwik
Sera Perrota
Damodaran Annamalai
Pat Preisig
Holly Modafferi
Raja Sriperumbudur

Call to order

Call to order – William Barbo, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:14 a.m.

As the first order of business, Chairman Barbo recognized the 2022 Annual Meeting sponsors:

Gold – Boston Children's Hospital

Silver – Charles River Laboratories

Bronze – Boston University

Copper – MIT Division of Comparative Medicine

Massachusetts Medical Society

Harvard University

Tufts University

Friends – Patricia A. Preisig, PhD

Mispro

Levenson Award Sponsor – Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Meeting minutes from the prior Annual Meeting of Members – Chairman Barbo noted that the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting had been provided to the Board of Directors for review at the August 2021 Board meeting and had been posted in advance on the members' only website. He asked for a motion to approve. John Erwin moved to approved; Charlie Alagero seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of New Members – Chairman Barbo then moved onto the approval of new members. President Jim O'Reilly noted that with the two proposed new members, he had had initial on-board dialogues with each, but initial dues checks were still technically awaited, due to technical or bureaucratic

requirements that were being fulfilled. Therefore, conditional membership approval was sought on the proviso that the dues payments for each are received before they are to be considered full members. The proposed new members were:

- Joslin Diabetes Center
- Bayer Pharmaceuticals / Research and Innovation Center (Cambridge)

Charlie Alagero moved to approve; John Erwin seconded. The new members were unanimously approved.

Election of Board Members – Chairman Barbo moved onto the election of new members of the Board of Directors. He also noted MSMR’s newest Board member, Holly Modafferi of Alkermes, who had joined the board in the fall of 2021, replacing Connie Sanchez-Morillo. He also noted the resignation of Board member Paul Clark, who stepped down from the Board in January after retiring from his law firm, Clark & Elbing. Chairman Barbo noted MSMR’s gratitude to Mr. Clark for his longstanding service to the Board and to MSMR.

The following Board members were then presented for election or re-election:

Election of Board Members – 2-year term (to 2024) or change of affiliation

- Toni Albanese, Bristol Myers Squibb
- Jim Fox, MIT
- Bill Barbo, Charles River Labs
- Charlie Alagero, Mass. Medical Society
- David Lee-Parritz, Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
- Patricia Preisig, Yale University
- Marsha Moses, Boston Children’s Hospital
- Kirby Johnson, Tufts University
- Mark Johnson, University of Connecticut
- John Erwin, UMass Chan School of Medicine
- Lynn Jackson, consulting veterinarian

The slate was approved unanimously.

Chairman’s Report – Chairman Barbo then presented his report, noting how pleased he was that we were once again able to gather in person after two years of remote annual meetings due to the pandemic. He noted that he had prepared his report in advance and circulated it to the members.

He noted the performance of and thanked the MSMR staff; noted the return to the organization’s in-person conferences and events; the renewal of both the Levenson Award and Student Competition; the popular Lab Chat Cafes, which were borne out of the pandemic; the continuation of the sold-out online IACUC training sessions, and the new IBC online training; ongoing legislative efforts; plans to revive Biomedical Research Day, which will be combined with an in-person Board meeting. He also noted changes in meetings to make in-person meetings worth the time and effort, but others will remain remote. He emphasized the continuation of the mission of MSMR and that he was looking forward to “another great year.”

Legislative/regulatory/security report – President Jim O’Reilly asked to move the agenda (as CPA Daniel Friel was not yet present) to present the legislative/regulatory/security report slightly out of order. He

then summarized the annual legislative/regulatory/security report, which had been written in advance and provided to members via the members' only section of the MSMR website.

He noted particularly that MSMR's legislative focus over the last year had been on the dog/cat adoption bills in Massachusetts, which were still pending, but expected to be passed by the end of the legislative session in July. He also noted two other pieces of legislation – one requiring alternative testing to animal models and one that would create a veterinary technician registry – but noted both had been committed to study committees and were dead for the current legislative session. He also noted a bill in Rhode Island that would have banned the use of animals in medical training, but that it, too, had been sent to a study committee and killed for the legislative session.

He noted that in Massachusetts, the formal legislative session ends July 31, and the informal session on through Dec. 31, and so he would continue to monitor any and all legislative developments. Additionally, he noted that he was representing MSMR in working with a number of national partners on the U.S. Openness Initiative, which the members had been briefed on previously, and which sought to encourage greater openness and transparency among those institutions using animals in medical research.

Denice O'Connell asked whether the product testing bill in Massachusetts could gain new traction given movement on the national level to enact a so-called modernization bill with regard to FDA drug testing. Jim noted that he remains in close contact with allies at the national level (such as the National Association for Biomedical Research) to watch any such movements and plan accordingly should that occur. As of yet, there hadn't seemed to be any impact on the state level.

David Lee-Parritz asked if any of the animal activist groups had been promoting the product testing bills. Jim replied that they had not, and had instead been much more focused on the adoption bills.

Sera Perrotta raised the fact that the MSPCA had just taken in several beagles for adoption, and asked if that would change any of the direction or strategy on the dog/cat adoption bills. Jim noted that it likely wouldn't have any additional effect, as MSMR had already gotten out in front by working with the sponsors to make the bill language acceptable to biomedical research institutions.

Jim also made special mention of the vet tech registration bill, but noted that it didn't appear to have much momentum behind it for action.

He also noted the medical training bill in Rhode Island, which was placed in legislative study, and likely dead for the year.

He then suspended that portion of the discussion to welcome Daniel Friel, MSMR's auditor, to present the annual audit report.

Auditor's Report – Daniel F. Friel, CPA, presented the report on the audit of MSMR's finances for the fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), which had been made available in advance via the members' only section of the MSMR website, and had also been reviewed and discussed at the Feb. 25, 2022 Board of Directors meeting. He noted that "the organization has never been in more solid financial position than it is this year."

Jim also noted that MSMR had granted Daniel Friel power of attorney to deal with the Internal Revenue Service regarding filing deadline disputes. Dan Friel noted labor shortages at the IRS which have created

many problems for many filers, and noted MSMR has many, many years of filing on time, and expects that any open issues will be settled satisfactorily.

Raja Sriperumbudur asked whether the forgiven Payroll Protection Loan was the largest factor in relation to the surplus revealed in the audit and Dan noted that it accounted for approximately half of the surplus, with the rest resulting from increased membership revenue.

Raja then moved that the audit report be accepted as presented, and it was unanimously accepted.

Financial Condition and Proposed FY2023 Budget – President Jim O’Reilly then presented the organization’s financial position as of June 1, 2022, as well as the preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). A draft copy of the budget was provided in advance via the members’ only section of the MSMR website.

He noted that the organization was in a “strong” financial position as of June 1, as follows:

PayPal:	\$ 655
Santander Bank	
Checking	\$ 17,004
Money Market	<u>\$ 436,143</u>
	\$ 453,802

He also noted that the Preliminary P&L analysis showed that income was running ahead of budget, and that expenses were controlled well and under budget. He cautioned that there were still almost two weeks left in FY22, so all indications are preliminary. Of particular note, he said that the organization’s conferences and events had performed well financially, even with one remaining entirely remote, while the second was run as a hybrid (remote and in-person) event. He noted some other savings that were realized, including some deferred meetings and office expenses, since the two staff members were still principally working remotely.

With regard to the proposed FY2023 budget, Mr. O’Reilly noted that he anticipated that the two signature events (the annual Three I’s Conference and the annual Lab Animal Enrichment Symposium) were still being offered in a hybrid format, but that MSMR still expected that income would offset all expenses and add to revenue, per usual practice.

He also noted that they continue to anticipate savings in some office expenses (primarily in heat and electricity), but increases in others (i.e., a cost increase in common area maintenance fees on the office at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 311 in North Chelmsford, Mass. were recently increased).

He also noted that he was in discussions with the office equipment lessor to renegotiate the lease on the printer/copier to a lower rate, but that the final costs were still to be determined.

Explaining the budget, he noted that the majority of costs continue to be in:

- Payroll (two full-time employees and related costs) and office expenses (rent, utilities, equipment). With regard to payroll, he noted the chair had endorsed and he was asking for a small cost of living adjustment to reflect the increase in the consumer price index for the Greater Boston area.

- Events, but noted that events always run as at minimum break-even events, while the larger events (the Three I's Conference and Lab Animal Enrichment Symposium) generally make money.
- Approximately 15 percent of the budget expenses were in professional services (a lobbyist, bookkeeper, auditor, webmaster, web writer, etc.)

Lastly, he noted that in developing the budget, he assumed membership dues consistent with FY22, but that the organization was, of course, always seeking to add new members. He noted the organization had lost one member during the year (the University of Vermont) but that with new members, membership had remained very consistent, even during the pandemic.

Lynn Jackson asked about Charles River Laboratories having acquired Explora Biolabs, and whether that would result in an increase to CRL's annual dues. Bill Barbo noted CRL was increasing its membership dues. Lynn also noted a merger involving Dicerna and whether that would allow for a different membership arrangement, which Jim noted he would investigate.

Pat Preisig moved that the FY2023 budget be accepted as presented, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Jim then resumed the discussion of the legislative/regulatory/security update, focusing specifically on updates related to animal activist attacks on biomedical research institutions. He noted particularly the support of several organizations, including the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He also noted that he provides training – both in-person and remotely – for member institutions regarding crisis communications preparations and response strategies.

Deb Siwik of Boston University asked about some recent attacks against the institution, which Jim said he had been in contact with BU personnel on.

Priorities for FY2023 – President Jim O'Reilly and Chairman Bill Barbo then addressed the organization's priorities for FY2023. They noted that we would use the Strategic Plan as a guide but will also be deliberate in understanding that we will likely never return to the "pre-COVID" way of doing things, so we will continue to adapt to the "new normal."

For example, they noted that MSMR would still plan to conduct the February and August board meetings via Zoom but will try to hold the October Board meeting in conjunction with an in-person Biomedical Research Day to evolve back into some in-person events.

Jim O'Reilly also noted that MSMR was planning a revamp of the Student Competition program to not only drive greater participation, but also try to supplement our teacher/school membership ranks to reach more educators and young people. He noted that this process had already begun with input from the Board's Education Committee.

As always, Jim noted that he would seek help from the Board in identifying potential new membership targets, to make introductions for him to be able to "close the deal" with.

He also noted that MSMR will continue its collaborations with other organizations in order to leverage limited resources among groups with like interests and common goals, including continuing to enhance its collaboration with the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research; the Maine Research Training and Ethics Council and the FBI with regard to the annual 3I's and Research Integrity Conference.

In conclusion, Bill Barbo noted that he thought “the future looked bright,” and thanked Jim O’Reilly and Lynne Walsh for their efforts.

Denice O’Connell asked about the U.S. Openness Initiative and whether there are conversations about or opportunities to leverage connections between research institutions with those of MSMR and other organizations to maximize the effect. Jim noted there are, and explained how, for example, he is serving in the Openness Initiative on a committee charged with developing a concise and effective marketing piece that can be shared within institutions about the potential benefits of openness. Some of those materials should be available later in the year for sharing.

Sera Perrotta also mentioned that at Charles River Labs, the issue of openness and transparency has been an issue in recruitment, so that the company has included it as part of their on-boarding process.

2022 Student Competition Results – Jim O’Reilly noted how pleased all were to return to the Student Competition, and highlighted the winners of the 2022 competition, who will be honored at the luncheon portion of the meeting immediately following the annual business meeting:

	Student	School	Teacher	Project
HM	Destinie Russano	Norfolk County Agricultural High School	Lisa Garrett	Poster: Scoring a Discovery
HM	Sivapriya Marimuthu	Acton Boxborough Regional High School	Brian Dempsey	Essay: Hidden Curses: Rise of Neuro-Enhancing Drugs
3	Henry Liu	Mass. Academy of Math and Science	Kevin Crowthers	Poster: Machine Learning Method
2	Alexandra Monteiro	Norfolk County Agricultural High School	Lisa Garrett	Poster: Harvard Reverses Aging in Mice
1	Anushri Pal	Acton Boxborough Regional High School	Brian Dempsey	Poster: Discovery of an Oral Drug Candidate for COVID

New business – Pat Preisig asked about whether there were still any plans to hold MSMR meetings somewhere outside of Boston, which are difficult to attend for those from outside the Greater Boston area, such as herself, coming from New Haven, Ct. Jim thanked her for the reminder and noted that he would begin thinking about opportunities, including for the fall board meeting to coincide with Biomedical Research Day.

Hearing no further questions nor requests to take up new business, Charlie Alagero moved to adjourn the meeting, and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:42 a.m.