



## Minutes of the TARA 2020 Annual General Meeting

**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**14:30 – 16:00**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic this year's meeting was held as a networked meeting via Zoom with all participants connecting remotely from their home computers or other devices. There was an initial "reception" period from **14:10 – 14:30** during which TARA members could join the meeting, resolve any connection problems, and exchange random greetings. There were 43 people attending, slightly higher than last year's in-person gathering, and the proceedings ran very smoothly with virtually no technical issues of any note.

The meeting was led by TARA Chair Jean-Michel Poutissou, and the Executive members present were: Roy Moore, Corrie Kost, Andy Hurst, Mike Brigham, Nicole Bienvenu, and Fred Jones (recorder). Dana Giasson organized and managed the Zoom configuration.

### **14:30 - 15:30 Meeting presentations**

#### **Reiner Krueken –**

##### **Status of TRIUMF**

- COVID-19 restrictions remain in place, with only essential staff and a few contractors on site.
- Production of medical isotopes has continued unabated.
- Lab operational work was resumed in June, with many staff working from home and only occasionally being on site.
- Highlight: "Mechanical Ventilator Milano", in which TRIUMF was a partner, now approved and in production.
- This is the first year of the 5 Year Plan 2020-2025 funded at \$267.3M + \$25M one-time infrastructure grant. Some priorities are: ARIEL, IAMI, TRIUMF Innovations, Actinium-225 development, infrastructure upgrades.
- Others: In-House science, external Particle Physics, Hyper-K, h EXO, ALPHA, new ERP system, TRIUMF Central Control system. Investing in people, skills and outreach.

##### **Status of ARIEL**

- CFI project completion in late 2026 with e and p targets operational.
- Extensive construction underway in Target Hall, despite COVID impacts.
- RIB from electron target expected in late 2024.



- ARIEL front end (CANREB spectrometer, EBIS ion source, beam line switchyard) working well and taking beam from ISAC!
- Emerging new e-Linac applications: FLASH tumor therapy, beam dump experiments (fifth force, dark photons), photon-nucleus cross sections.

### **Other developments and plans**

- Incorporation of TRIUMF on track for 1 April 2021.
- U of Waterloo joined as 21<sup>st</sup> member, with affiliations to Perimeter Institute and Institute of Quantum Computing.
- Actinium-225: production on BL1A target station and progress in radiopharmaceutical development.
- Industrial partners: ideon (muon tomography) and artms (nuclear medicine)
- TRIUMF 20-Year Vision: phased development of a document to be delivered to the TRIUMF Board in Winter 2021. A long-term vision in the context of Canadian and international planning exercises.

### **Esther Schirmacher – Status of IAMI**

- A center for research in disease pathophysiology using radioisotopes.
- Examples: C-11 (Parkinsons, neurology), Tc-99m (cardio), F-18 (breast cancer diagnosing/staging, oncology), Ac-225 (prostate cancer treatment, oncology)
- The R&D process involves organic chemistry, computational chemistry and radiography.
- Production facility: TR-24 cyclotron with 2 solid and 2 switchable liquid/gas targets.
- Building structure will include a GMP-compliant (sterile high containment) laboratory space.
- Five research programs: (1) Radiopharmaceutical development, (2) Isotope supply including support for new PET scanners, (3) Clinical imaging, (4) New targeted therapeutics, (5) Drug development.
- Building construction is proceeding with expected completion in Summer 2022.

### **Connie Hoehr – Radiotherapy at ARIEL**

- X-rays (6-18 MeV) generated by compact electron accelerators are the most commonly used radiotherapy, with many techniques to spare healthy tissue.
- Treatment typically given in 20-30 fractions at  $\sim 0.03$  Gy/s.
- FLASH effect: a single dose of 50-60 Gy delivered at  $< 40$  Gy/s. Lower toxicity in healthy tissue but same tumor control.
- Achieving higher X-ray dose rates will be investigated using the intense electron beam available at up to 10 MeV in the ARIEL e-Linac medium energy beam dump.



- The test target and associated equipment will be retrofitted into the beam dump as a retractable module.
- Manufacture, installation and testing winter/spring 2020/2021
- Experiments with biological samples fall 2021

### **Ian Doyle – Human Resources Status Update**

- Updates to the Org Chart
- Retirements: Anne Trudel and Davis Swan.
- New hire: Rock Nuveau, Chief Safety Officer, starting January 2021.
- New hire: Shari Wallace, Chief Information Officer, starting in December 2020.
- With the departure of TRIUMF Director Jonathan Bagger at the end of 2020, the search for a new Director is proceeding. A “long list” of about 200 candidates under consideration will be completed shortly, and the Search Committee process has been expedited to produce a result by the end of the year.

### **15:30 – 16:00 TARA business:**

#### **Pacific Blue Cross Report – Lucy Sousa (Dehoney Financial)**

- Negotiations have been made with PBC for 2021 rates.
- 0% increase in Extended Health (negotiated down from 1.4%)
- 4% increase in Dental (negotiated down from 10%)
- PBC considered to be a leader in flexibility of health plans.
- Out of country travel: 100% coverage up to \$50k lifetime maximum, **except** during COVID quarantine. Pre-existing conditions must be stable and controlled with medication.
- Worldwide Assist: provisions usually allow direct payment of fees to medical practitioners, so no up-front payments required from the claimant.
- Reminder that there are two age groups and automatic shift of your plan on reaching the age of 70.
- Generic vs name-brand drug coverage is under discussion with TRIUMF.

#### **Approval of last year’s AGM minutes**

- The minutes of the 2019 AGM were prepared by Nicole Bienvenue and made available to the membership in November. They were approved by a 100% vote.



### **Report from Jean-Michel Poutissou, Chair of TARA**

- Executive meetings since last AGM: in-person meetings were held in November 2019 and January 2020. Zoom meetings were held in September and November 2020.
- The planned review with TRIUMF management of the TARA Terms of Reference has been curtailed due to COVID and also Jim Hanlon has recommended that we should wait for the current re-organizations at TRIUMF to be complete before proceeding.
- A Celebration of Life for Gerardo Dutto has been proposed and some planning for this has been done, including for a possible Science Week event, but unfortunately that was not possible. Stay tuned for further news.
- Jean-Michel has been active in seeking new members to expand the TARA Executive, and he welcomed Tamara Hurtado and Franco Mammarella as new nominees for the Executive.
- After continuing to lead TARA during this challenging year, Jean-Michel again indicated that he would like to pass on the leadership role to a new person, and invited the membership to consider eventual nominations for the Chair position.

### **Membership report from Roy Moore, Secretary**

- There are 169 active members.
- Nine new members have joined since the last AGM
- There is no public membership list but there is a “member email lookup” available on the web site: <http://alumni.triumf.ca/cgi-bin/TARA-lookup.pl>

### **Election of the new Executive**

- The proposed new members Tamara Hurtado and Franco Mammarella were elected with 97% approval.
- All the existing members of the Executive indicated that they are willing to continue to serve for another term.
- We are grateful to TRIUMF members Dana Giasson (Administrative Assistant to TARA) and to Jim Hanlon (Management Liaison) for their continuing service.

### **Closing**

- The meeting agenda being concluded, and no other business raised, adjournment was moved by Andy, seconded by Nicole, and approved by a show of hands.
- A special thank you to Dana for handling communications, Zoom configuration, and expert management of a very successful online meeting!