AUA Staff Liaison  Vanessa Cramer

Chair  Michael Hsieh, MD, PHD

Terms of Office  Chair: 3 years (non-renewable)
                Members: 3 years (renewable once)

Committee Makeup  Composed of approximately 12 members. Non-voting members include the Public Policy Chair and a liaison from the Research Council.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Research Appropriations Committee (RAC) is to effectively champion for public, private and philanthropic support of urologic research by energizing and synergizing with all stakeholders.

These efforts shall include legislative advocacy efforts working with the AUA Public Policy Council, Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC), and Annual Urology Advocacy (AUA) Summit planning committee as appropriate, and patient advocacy organizations working with the Urology Care Foundation, as well as building relationships with federal funding agencies and non-federal funding organizations. In addition, the RAC will maintain a strong working relationship with the Research Council to ensure adequate communication and collaboration with the AUA’s primary research-related governance body.

Committee Meetings
The Research Appropriations Committee shall meet by teleconference/videoconference on a monthly basis, or as deemed necessary by the RAC Chair, and Public Policy Council Chair, with one to two in-person meetings per year typically at AUA Headquarters. A representative of the RAC (Chair or appointed member) is expected to attend in-person meetings of the Research Council as the RAC’s liaison to the Research Council.

Time Commitment
Chair: 3-4 hours per week (average)
This includes teleconferences and meetings with staff, various committees and representatives of external organizations/agencies. The Chair also travels up to 10 days annually for attendance at the AUA advocacy conferences and meetings, leadership meetings with federal agencies, and meetings with other AUA or Urology Care Foundation committees supporting research.

Member: 2 hours per week (average)

Responsibilities
Chair: In executing responsibilities, the Chair will report to the Public Policy Council Chair and the Public Policy Council as a whole and oversee any workgroups or subcommittees that may be created. The Chair is expected to commit 3-4 hours per week working independently and in collaboration with staff, various committees and representatives of external organizations/agencies.

Members: Committee members must 1) be available to participate in Committee meetings, advocacy meetings, and leadership meetings and 2) serve as active liaisons between the RAC and federal agencies and
other organizations.

Qualifications

Chair:
- Must be an AUA member and active in urologic research at the start of the term
- Must be a urologist or researcher with a strong track record of achievement in urologic research and training.
- Must possess familiarity with NIH institute (e.g., NIDDK, NCI, NIA) operating procedures and leadership.
- Possess experience in advocacy at the community, state, or federal level.
- Must be available for communication with members of the Committee, Council, Board of Directors, and staff.
- Preferable: History of productive interaction with consumer advocacy organizations, as well as relationships with urologic research funders whether federal or non-federal.

Members:
- Must be an AUA Member and active in urologic research at the start of the membership term.
- Must have a strong track record of achievement in urologic research and/or research advocacy.
- Must be active in research-related service in research-related associations, organizations, and societies.
- Preferable: History of productive interaction with consumer advocacy organizations, as well as relationships with urologic research funders whether federal or non-federal.

Recent Accomplishments 2022
- As part of the 2022 AUA Advocacy Summit Strikeforce Meeting Series, the RAC met with key NIH agencies to highlight the relevance of urologic conditions to their specific agencies and how advocates for urologic research funding have contributed to recent gains in NIH funding, as well as the challenges presented in urologic research funding. Meeting agencies included: National Cancer Institute (NCI); National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK); National Institutes on Aging (NIA); and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NAID).
- In spring 2022, RAC members participated in a briefing about the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). This timing aligned with a critical inflection point in the FY2023 congressional appropriations process. The aim of the briefing was to educate patient advocacy groups and congressional staff working for influential appropriators about the vital and unique role of CDMRP and why robust funding is needed to help drive prostate, kidney, and bladder cancer research.