

FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISABILITY

Annual Meeting

7:00 -9:00 PM, Friday, February 18, 2022

Zoom meeting, Philadelphia, PA

AGENDA

- Call to Order/Introduction
Yoshiko Miwa, Laureen Summers, Suzanne Thurston, Stephanie Bailey, Kumar David, and Richard Mankin each introduced themselves. Suzanne, Stephanie, and Kumar were welcomed as new attendees.
- Minutes - February 10, 2021 (Washington, DC)
The minutes had been posted previously at the foundation website (<http://stemd.org>), and in the 2021 Annual Newsletter (<https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARUserFiles/3559/FSDNewsletterAug2021.pdf>). No changes were requested.
- Treasurer's Report for 2021- Richard Mankin for Angela Foreman, Treasurer

Balance on January 1, 2021 12,721.07

Kyle Grosser: 2021 FSD Graduate Student Grant Award Winner	\$-1,000.00		\$11,721.07
Deposits: Membership dues and Donations		\$800.00	\$12,521.07
Balance on December 31, 2021			\$12,521.07

- Science Student Grant Committee Report – Angela Foreman and Richard Mankin, Chair
Juan Alarcon, a student in the Department of Chemistry, Florida International University, Miami, FL. was selected for the 2022 FSD Graduate Student Grant Award. Juan's dissertation research is titled "Molecular mechanisms of rocket fuel combustion," and combines empirical data from ultrafast laser spectroscopy of charge transfer processes in molecular dyes with theoretical understanding and predictions of combustion processes.

- New Business

Several potential areas of further exploration by FSD were discussed by attendees. Stephanie was interested in advocating policies that make it easier for persons with disabilities to enter and remain in the scientific workforce. Several members have conducted advocacy in previous years and there was interest expressed in developing new activities relevant to the post-pandemic workforce. Stephanie is hoping to interact with other FSD members in ramping up a project that will be developed over the next year.

In addition, as the current pandemic ends, FSD may wish to consider ways to assist those in the community who have suffered from long Covid. There is evidence from the 1918 pandemic (see article in Nature: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-00414-x>) that persons who survived bouts with 1918 influenza often developed a Parkinson's-like disease that caused disability later in life. Similar problems happened with polio survivors. Many persons in the scientific workforce who are not currently disabled remain at risk of developing disabilities in the future. Awareness of such risks may lead to advocacy for enhancement of previous legislation such as the Rehabilitation act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Finally, we keep in mind a continuing goal that led to the formation of FSD in the 1970s. Due to implicit biases in all humans, persons with disabilities who wish to enter and persevere in scientific careers must: 1) demonstrate consistently high levels of achievement themselves, and 2) provide effective mentorship and encouragement to others who follow them. Given the unchanged, relatively low percentage of persons with disabilities in the scientific workforce over the last 30 years, FSD and similar organizations should ramp up such activities to meet such goals effectively. Some, such as HIARO (<http://deafearsScientists.org/>), have made excellent progress in recent years, and FSD also has opportunity to do so.

- Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Mankin, February 19, 2022.