Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
January 11, 2010 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Betty Chewning, Marc Drezner, Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Pat McBride, Paul Moberg, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington, Rod Welch

Members Absent: Craig Kent, Robert Lemanske

Invited Guests: Aaron Carrel, Daniel Greenspan

Other Guests: Alex Adams, David Allen, Will Burlingham, Melanie Dart, Sarah Esmond, Ewa Jankowska Gan, Suzanne Gaulocher, Partha Gutta, Lynn Haynes, Guorui Huang, Melissa Keller, Alison Muir, Jeff Sledge, James Stein, Jose Torrealba, Ying Zhou

Staff: Chris Blakey, Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Mike Mirer, Ken Mount, Dick Reynolds, Eileen Smith, Karla Thompson

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

2. Announcements

Health Innovation Program
Moss reported that a small group of MERC members will be meeting with Maureen Smith later this month to share MERC’s perspective on several issues related to her renewal targeted grant, Health Innovation Program.

UW Foundation management fee
Moss reported on a recent meeting of WPP leadership with the UW Foundation (UWF) President, Vice President for Health and Life Sciences, and Chief Financial Officer. The discussion focused on the 1% of endowment income retained by UWF for management and investment of the Wisconsin Partnership Program’s (WPP) endowment. Further discussion with the UWF will take place later this year.

Interim progress and final report review assignments
Smith will follow-up with several interim progress and final report assignments each to be presented by two MERC members for full committee discussion in February.

2009 Wisconsin Partnership Program Annual Report outline and timeline
Smith presented the draft outline and timeline for the 2009 WPP Annual Report.
3. Approval of December 14, 2009 draft minutes

Drinkwater seconded a motion by Drezner to approve the draft December 14, 2009 minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Oversight and Advisory Committee update

Nycz reported on the December 16, 2009 Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) meeting. Rick Moss presented a quarterly report on recent MERC activities and awards. There was general agreement that the next joint meeting should focus on collaborative and joint initiatives.

OAC completed its annual assessment of the 35% allocation for public health and 65% allocation for health care provider education and research. OAC voted unanimously to retain the allocation for the coming year.

The OAC appointed Katherine Marks, CEO of the United Way of Kenosha County, as the co-chair along with Phil Farrell of Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF) Steering Committee. LIHF Community Action Planning Grant proposals from the four targeted communities, Beloit, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine, are expected by January 31, 2010.

The OAC also discussed revisions to the Request for Partnerships (RFP) for the Community Academic Partnership Fund for release on March 1, 2010. OAC agreed to incorporate the following changes: (1) promote partnership development, and the implementation of evidence-based, best or promising practices, or on expanding those practices, (2) implement a competitive pre-screening process for the notices of intent (3) require outcome-based evaluations, and (4) invite applications for projects that address OAC’s new health focus area of “promoting healthy weight, physical activity, and good nutrition, and reducing the incidence and severity of overweight and obesity”. Further discussion of the RFP will take place in January 2010.

5. Adjournment-Closed Session: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to interview the faculty finalists and to determine the grant award for the competitive Collaborative Health Sciences Program. The meeting is expected to reconvene into open session.

Aaron Carrel, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, presented an overview of the full application, *Effects of environmental opportunities and barriers on physical activity, fitness, and health in Hispanic children in Wisconsin*. Working with a single school community (Bruce-Guadalupe Community School, a public school operated by the United Community Center of Milwaukee: 790 children, 98% Hispanic), Dr. Carrel and his collaborators propose to analyze the physical activity promoting and inhibiting aspects of the community, and then assess children’s actions and choices for physical activity and food intake using GIS and participatory photo mapping (PPM). The team aims to measure children’s health using a combination of fitness
score, BMI, and family history and analyze the separate components that affect children’s decisions about health.

Daniel Greenspan, PhD, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, presented an overview of the full application, *Coronary Vascular Disease and Th17 Autoimmunity to Type V Collagen*. Dr. Greenspan and his team propose testing the hypothesis that responses to Type V Collagen (col(V)) are involved in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis, the most prevalent pathologic process leading to cardiovascular disease. Heart disease and stroke are the main components of cardiovascular disease and are the leading causes (representing 33% of all deaths in 2003) of death for men and women in Wisconsin. Successful implementation of the proposed studies has the potential to redirect treatment toward the autoimmune component of the disease and will form the basis for a clinical trial of col(V) reactivity in relation to development of coronary artery disease and other forms of atherosclerotic disease, and for trials of col(V) desensitization for preventing disease morbidity.

Drinkwater seconded a motion by Remington to adjourn the meeting into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to interview the faculty finalists and to determine the grant award for the competitive Collaborative Health Sciences Program. The motion was unanimously approved.

Drezner indicated a conflict of interest with Aaron Carrel’s proposal because the Wisconsin Prevention of Obesity and Diabetes (WIPOD) operates under the Center for Collaborative Health Equity within the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR). Drezner is Director of the ICTR. After responding to several questions, Drezner was excused from the meeting.

Remington made a motion to return to open session after considerable discussion by MERC of the two presentations, and consideration of the expert reviewer comments. McBride seconded the motion which passed with ten affirmative votes. Drezner was not present.

Remington seconded a motion by Drinkwater to confirm the motion made in closed session to award $291,882 over two years to Aaron Carrel for *Effects of environmental opportunities and barriers on physical activity, fitness, and health in Hispanic children in Wisconsin*. In response to concerns regarding the sample size and analysis methodology, MERC recommended that Dr. Carrel and his team work with Paul Moberg, an expert in evaluation research, to consider ways to address these concerns within the existing budget. The motion passed with ten affirmative votes. Drezner was not present. MERC also indicated the strength of Dr. Greenspan’s application and the high potential of his research to make a significant discovery.

**6. Discussion and decision on General Principles for Endowment Growth and Distributions**

Discussion of the revised *General Principles for Endowment Growth and Distributions* was deferred until February 2010.
7. Discussion and decision on interim progress report for 2008 Collaborative Health Sciences Program award, *Wisconsin Childhood Lead Levels and Educational Outcomes*

Discussion of Marty Kanarek’s response to MERC’s feedback on the interim progress report for *Wisconsin Childhood Lead Levels and Educational Outcomes* was deferred until February 2010.

8. **Adjourn – Next meeting February 8, 2010**

Moss adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison