Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH)
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
November 8, 2010 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Betty Chewning, Marc Drezner, Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Craig Kent, Paul Moberg, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington (phone)

Members Absent: Byron Crouse, Robert Lemanske, Tom Oliver, Rod Welch

Staff: Cathy Frey, Mary Jo Knobloch, Tonya Mathison, Mike Mirer, Eileen Smith

Guests: David Kindig (Population Health Sciences)

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

2. Announcements

Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. meeting, November 12
Smith reported that Dean Golden will be presenting the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) 2009 Annual Report to the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. on November 12. WPP leadership and the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) will be present to respond to questions by WUHF following the presentation.

WPP strategic planning meeting, November 17
Moss provided an overview of the agenda for the joint strategic planning meeting of the MERC and OAC on November 17. The agenda includes an update on the WPP’s financial status and the implementation of the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan. Most of the meeting is devoted to discussion of the WPP’s impact and future directions and opportunities.

UW School of Medicine and Public Health Transformation Implementation Steering Committee and Subcommittees
Remington presented an overview of the charge to and membership of the Transformation Implementation Steering Committee and the Research, Education and Service Subcommittees. The subcommittees are each being asked to prepare a plan of no more than three pages that contain “SMART objectives” (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-delimited). In addition, the subcommittees will recommend people or programs to lead the development of specific objectives. A Steering Committee will provide advice and guidance on development of the overall plan, including setting priorities for implementing the recommendations of the three subcommittees.
3. Decision on October 11, 2010 draft minutes

Moberg seconded a motion by Drinkwater to approve the draft October 11, 2010 minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Targeted interim progress report presentation, Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State

David Kindig, MD, PhD, presented an interim progress report on “Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State”. The 2010 Health of Wisconsin Report Card is under development with acquired data being analyzed. The team is also considering ways to make the What Works for Health Database more useful, interesting and accessible to a wide range of users. The team is identifying best practices in reducing health disparities; however, evidence on the impact of programs and policies on health disparities thus far is sparse. The project is engaged with the Division of Public Health and was extensively cited in the 2020 State Health Plan. Dr. Kindig gave several examples of how the project is also better integrated with the Population Health Institute’s mission. He concluded with plans of a major initiative to develop a communications plan to disseminate the results of the project.

Following questions, Dr. Kindig left the room. Remington, who was on the phone, indicated a conflict of interest as he works closely with Dr. Kindig and his team. Remington left the meeting.

Goelzer and Nycz presented their review of the progress report. Outstanding progress has been made with national recognition for the Health of Wisconsin Report Card. There was also excellent progress on the What Works Database with easy web accessibility. The coordination with the state on Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 was great and very evident in the final product. Goelzer noted the importance of getting this information into Wisconsin communities. She recommended that the WPP consider requiring applicants to use the Healthiest State resources in preparing applications for funding. These resources should also guide the WPP’s future investments. Goelzer seconded a motion by Nycz to accept the report. The motion passed with nine affirmative votes. Remington was not present for the vote.

Remington returned to the meeting after discussion and vote had concluded.

5. Decision on MERC’s revised conflict of interest policy

Moss indicated that the conflict of interest policy had been further revised and clarified given input from the UW-Madison Office of Administrative Legal Services. Nycz seconded a motion by Drinkwater to approve the policy with the recommendation to replace “potential conflict of interest” with “apparent conflict of interest”. The motion passed with seven affirmative votes. Goelzer and Remington were not present for the vote.
6. **MERC cash flow and financial projections**

Smith presented the financial projections for the Wisconsin Partnership Program through October 31, 2010. The projected value of the endowment is $297 million with a related cash balance of $31.7 million. WPP leadership and staff continue to carefully monitor the value of the endowment given the continued volatility in the financial markets.

7. **Closed Session: Adjournment**

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to consider the faculty finalists to be invited for interviews for the competitive Medical Education and Research Committee New Investigator Program awards. The meeting is expected to reconvene into open session.

Chewning seconded a motion by Drinkwater to adjourn the meeting pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to consider the faculty finalists to be invited for interviews for the competitive Medical Education and Research Committee New Investigator Program awards. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

After thorough discussion of the review process and the scoring and ranking of the applications, Moberg seconded a motion by Drinkwater to return the meeting to open session. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Nycz seconded a motion by Drinkwater to confirm the motion made in closed session to invite the top seven ranked applicants for interviews in December. The motion passed unanimously.

The seven finalists will be asked to present an overview of their projects at the December 13 MERC meeting.

8. **Discussion and decision on Collaborative Health Sciences Program 2010-11 Request for Proposals**

Kent seconded a motion by Nycz to approve the 2010-11 Collaborative Health Sciences Program Request for Proposals (RFP). Drinkwater clarified that a subcommittee representative of MERC will review the preliminary applications. The subcommittee will independently evaluate the preliminary applications and then meet to discuss the applications. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The RFP and the preliminary application will be released on December 17, 2010. Preliminary applications are due in February 2011. Those invited by MERC to submit full applications must do so by May 20, 2011. MERC expects to make two awards in September, 2011.
9. Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) report

Nycz reported on the September 15, 2010 OAC meeting. In September, the Board of Regents confirmed Pat Remington’s appointment to the OAC as a SMPH representative replacing David Kindig. Phil Farrell and Lorraine Lathen provided an update on the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF). They informed OAC of the death of one of the LIHF Steering Committee members, CC Henderson. He was CEO of Milwaukee Health Services, and valuable member of the committee. Farrell and Lathen have been presenting on LIHF at various events in an effort to raise awareness. Following a review of 110 Notices of Intent for eligibility and viability, the OAC invited 31 applicants to submit full applications for the Community-Academic Partnership Fund (CAPF).

Smith reported on the October 20, 2010 OAC meeting. In October, the Board of Regents confirmed the appointment of Cindy Haq as a SMPH representative, and the reappointments of Susan Goelzer as a SMPH representative, and Katherine Marks and Doug Mormann as public members for four year terms. OAC approved the revised Conflict of Interest policy. However, since three members were absent, the policy will be reintroduced for vote by the full committee on November 10. Rick Moss gave a quarterly MERC report. As part of their regular LIHF report, Lathen and Marks reported on the Legislative Council Study on Infant Mortality. Farrell gave a presentation at the first meeting of the Council in September. The OAC also heard two final CAPF progress reports presentations: (1) “Wisconsin Partnership for Childhood Fitness” by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Wisconsin, and (2) “Coordinating Partnerships to Improve Access to Public Health Coverage” by Covering Kids and Families. Both programs submitted competitive 2010 proposals for three-year continuation grants. The OAC will make award decisions at the December meeting.

10. Discuss interim progress and final reports

New Investigator Program

A new diagnostic test to monitor regression and recurrence of epithelial ovarian cancer (Patankar, Final Report)

Drinkwater and Remington presented their review of Dr. Patankar’s final report on “A new diagnostic test to monitor regression and recurrence of epithelial ovarian cancer”. Dr. Patankar was successful in achieving the primary goals of the project. His work will continue with a grant from the National Institutes of Health. The project also resulted in one published and one submitted manuscript. Nycz seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
**Computed Tomography with Reduced Radiation Dose Using Prior Image Constrained Compressed Sensing Reconstruction (Francois, Interim Report)**

Drinkwater presented his and Welch’s review of Dr. Francois’ interim progress report on “Computed Tomography (CT) with Reduced Radiation Dose Using Prior Image Constrained Compressed Sensing Reconstruction”. Dr. Francois has made excellent progress toward meeting the objectives of the project. He modified the approach to reconstruct CT images so that existing equipment can be used. This modification should significantly accelerate the translation of the results of the study to clinical use. Preliminary results indicate that a 90% dose reduction for lung CTs should be possible. The results of the project will be presented at an upcoming national meeting. Nycz seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Evaluation of Cuidandome: A Communitywide Intervention to Promote Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Among Latinas (Martinez-Donate, Interim Report)**

Chewning and Moberg presented their review of Dr. Martinez-Donate’s interim progress report on “Evaluation of Cuidandome: A Communitywide Intervention to Promote Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Among Latinas”. Despite several challenges resulting in delays, Dr. Martinez-Donate is making acceptable progress toward achieving the goals and aims of the project. The PI has made poster presentations, submitted two abstracts, and published a peer-reviewed article on the project. The reviewers shared several follow-up questions for the PI to address in the final report. Moberg seconded a motion by Chewning to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Falls Risk Detection and Gait Instabilities in Older Adults (Heiderscheit, Final Report)**

Moberg presented his and Oliver’s review of Dr. Heiderscheit’s final report on “Falls Risk Detection and Gait Instabilities in Older Adults”. Overall, the project was successful in identifying determinants of older adults’ risk for falls. However, the intervention aimed at reducing risk for falls did not prove effective across the study population. The project will continue with funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The PI also has plans for a grant submission to the NIH. Results have been disseminated at several conferences, and an article submission is underway. The research team has also received awards for their work. Nycz seconded a motion by Moberg to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Collaborative Health Sciences Program**

**Wisconsin Infectious Disease Drug Discovery (Klein, Interim Report)**

Drinkwater and Moss presented their review of Dr. Klein’s interim progress report on “Wisconsin Infectious Disease Drug Discovery”. The PI and his team are making excellent progress toward the principal aims of the project. The work is exciting, highly innovative and
The project has resulted in a NIH Challenge grant, and a pending RC4 NIH grant. In addition, a planning group is meeting for the development of a Program/Project grant. Findings by two of the investigators have led to invention disclosures. Drezner seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Targeted RFA**

*Master of Public Health (MPH) Program (Oliver, Interim Report)*

Chewning presented her and Crouse’s review of Dr. Oliver’s interim progress report for “Master of Public Health (MPH) Program”. The MPH Program is making good progress in meetings its goals with 40 graduates, five approved dual degree programs, and a curriculum to educate students in core public health concepts and skills. The program was accredited in 2009 and a follow-up report to its accrediting organization was submitted last summer. The Program has built relationships with the other two MPH programs in the state at the Medical College of Wisconsin and UW-La Crosse, and with the new UW-Milwaukee School of Public Health. This collaboration resulted in a Public Health Training Center grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. Drezner seconded a motion by Chewning to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

*Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control (Cleary, Final Report on Initial Award, Interim Report on Current Award)*

Chewning and Remington presented their review of Dr. Cleary’s final report on the initial award and the interim progress report on the current award for “Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control”. The goal of the initial grant was to understand the burden of cancer and barriers to cancer care in underserved populations. Two assessments were conducted with partnering communities to gain a better understanding of resources, traditions, access and barriers to cancer care. On the current grant, Dr. Cleary has made acceptable progress towards achieving the project aims for both the rural and the Milwaukee components of the project. The reviewers shared several questions for the PI to address in his progress report presentation to MERC in January 2011. Chewning seconded a motion by Remington to accept both the final and interim progress reports. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

*Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW) (Nieto, Interim Report)*

Nycz presented his and Crouse’s review of Dr. Nieto’s interim progress report for “Survey of the Health of Wisconsin”. SHOW is the premier program of the WPP and MERC, and its implementation seems to be going well at this time. This success is highlighted by the acquisition of a NIH Grant Opportunities grant. Although enrollment has been a challenge, there has been considerable effort put into addressing enrollment rates. The reviewers shared several questions for the PI to address in his progress report presentation to MERC in January 2011.
**Wisconsin Center for Infectious Disease (WisCID) (Klein, Interim Report)**

Remington and Moss presented their review of Dr. Klein’s interim progress report for “Wisconsin Center for Infectious Disease”. WisCID is making acceptable progress toward its goals. Despite progress in four of the five thematic areas, the Center has not made progress in public health/epidemiology, an area considered vital by MERC. A notable achievement is the development of a pilot grants program, which attracted 12 applications and resulted in funding of three campus projects in the areas of drug discovery, global health, and beneficial microbiology. Work in the area of drug discovery has resulted in successful grant applications for stimulus funds. The project also set up a website for WisCID, and supports trainees in the focus areas.

The reviewers shared several areas needing clarification by the PI. The training activities of WisCID are principally supported by an NIH T32 training grant, which amounts to matching funds to this project. It would be helpful to better understand the distribution of WPP funding and T32 funding used in the support of trainees. The remaining budget for WisCID, which is well over half the initial award, gives rise to concerns that the pace of development could be faster and should in any case be accelerated in the third year to be certain that all thematic areas are developed during the four-year project period. Acceptance of the report was deferred. Dr. Moss and WPP leadership will meet with Dr. Klein to discuss the issues of clarification.

**Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR) (Bailey, Final Report)**

Drinkwater presented his review of Dr. Bailey’s final report for “Wisconsin Network for Health Research”. Despite many obstacles related to institutional legal issues and the involvement of multiple Institutional Review Boards, the network is now firmly established and has already undertaken six trials. One noteworthy trial focuses on Mycoplasma and Preterm labor, and involves four institutions and has accrued 500 of 800 projected subjects from across Wisconsin. This study would not have been possible without WiNHR. Kent seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**11. Adjourn – next meeting November 17, 2010 (Noon-4pm, Fluno Ctr.)**

Moss adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison