Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH)
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
January 10, 2011 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Betty Chewning, Byron Crouse, Marc Drezner, Norm Drinkwater, Rick Moss, Paul Moberg, Greg Nycz (phone), Tom Oliver, Pat Remington, Rod Welch

Members Absent: Susan Goelzer, Craig Kent, Rob Lemanske

Staff: Chris Blakey, Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Mike Mirer, Ken Mount, Eileen Smith

Invited guests: Jim Cleary (Medicine), Kristin Malecki (SHOW), Javier Nieto (Population Health Sciences), Kathy Roberg (SHOW)

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

2. Announcements

Letter from Alderman Murphy, Milwaukee Common Council
Smith reported that Alderman Murphy, Chair of the Milwaukee Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee, is interested in meeting with WPP leadership to discuss the findings of the Legislative Audit Bureau and the activities of the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP). The meeting will likely take place in early-February. The Medical College of Wisconsin is also planning to meet with the Alderman. Alderman Murphy’s letter was distributed.

Letter from Wisconsin Public Health Council
Eileen Smith and Patrick Remington will be meeting with the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Public Health Council (WPHC) later this month to respond to a recent letter from the Council regarding the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) audit report. The letter was distributed.

Membership terms ending in March, 2011
Membership terms for Norm Drinkwater, Susan Goelzer, Greg Nycz, and Rod Welch end in March, 2011. Welch, who has served on MERC in his capacity as a Basic Sciences Chair since 2007, has indicated that he is not interested in being considered for reappointment. His replacement will be appointed by the Basic Sciences Chairs’ Caucus. Norm Drinkwater has served on MERC since the committee’s inception in 2004, first as a Basic Sciences Chair, then as a Basic Faculty Representative. The Basic Faculty position is an elected position. MERC’s chair in consultation with Dean Golden will develop a slate of candidates for election by the SMPH faculty. Susan Goelzer and Greg Nycz serve as representatives of the OAC. OAC will consider appointments to MERC at the February meeting.
3. Decision on December 13, 2010 minutes

Remington seconded a motion by Drezner to approve the draft minutes of December 13, 2010. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Interim progress report presentations

Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW)
Javier Nieto, MPH, MD, PhD, presented an interim progress report on the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin. Following the presentation, Drezner asked about the status of the development of a virtual data warehouse at Marshfield Clinic. Nieto confirmed that he is working with Dr. Greenlee to develop the virtual warehouse. Moss noted that the written progress report was accepted by MERC in November, 2010.

Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control
Jim Cleary, MD, presented a final report on the initial award and an interim progress report on the current award for Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control. Following the presentation, Oliver questioned the impact of health literacy on participation in clinical trials. Cleary acknowledged that the data is quite complicated, but that the main issue is that many doctors are not telling eligible patients about open clinical trials. Moss noted that the written progress reports were accepted by MERC in November, 2010.

Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award
Marc Drezner, MD, presented an interim progress report on the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award. There was general agreement by MERC that the format of the presentation was very helpful as it highlighted MERC’s funding of the Community Academic Partnership, Wisconsin Network for Health Research, and Biomedical Informatics cores. The committee asked that future written progress reports follow a similar format to the presentation. MERC was interested in receiving additional detail on the pilot grants, i.e. identification of the communities and organizational entities which are involved in and impacted by this research.

Remington seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the written presentation with the PowerPoint as an addendum to the report. The motion passed with seven affirmative votes. Chewning, Drezner and Moberg declared conflicts: Drezner as the Principal Investigator, and Chewning and Moberg as paid staff on the project. The three conflicted members were all present during the presentation, but absented themselves during the vote and any related discussion.

5. Financial report on MERC endowment value and cash balances

Mount presented the financial projections for the Wisconsin Partnership Program through December 31, 2010. The projected value of the endowment is $305 million, 8.3% above the
historical value, with a related cash balance of $31.8 million. WPP leadership and staff continue to carefully monitor the value of the endowment.

6. Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) report

Nycz reported on the December 15, 2010 OAC meeting. As required in the addendum to the first Five-Year Plan and the Grant Agreement, the OAC annually reviews and assesses the allocation percentage for public health and health care provider education and research initiatives. In December, OAC deferred a decision on the allocation percentage for six months, or until discussions by the UW Foundation and the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. regarding the 1% annual fee have concluded, whichever is sooner.

The OAC also awarded a total of $2.1 million to 14 Community-Academic Partnership Fund grants – 4 Implementation grants, and 10 Development grants. He directed MERC to a press release describing the grants on the WPP website.

7. Discuss MERC interim and final reports:

New Investigator Program

*Genetic and environmental predictors of serum levels of 25-hydroxyvitamin D*
Crouse presented his and Kent’s review of Corinne Engelman’s interim progress report for *Genetic and environmental predictors of serum levels of 25-hydroxyvitamin D*. The survey tool has been developed and recruitment of participants is underway with 120 subjects enrolled through the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW). Enrollment is slower than expected, and is reportedly related to delays in SHOW’s overall enrollment. This issue will be rectified with federal funding to SHOW. Overall, the research seems to be going well and the PI’s progress is good. Drezner seconded a motion by Crouse to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

*A new diagnostic test to monitor regression and recurrence of epithelial ovarian cancer*
Drinkwater and Remington presented their review of Manish Patankar’s final report for *A new diagnostic test to monitor regression and recurrence of epithelial ovarian cancer*. The PI successfully developed a novel test for detecting and monitoring ovarian cancer. This work resulted in a publication in Molecular Cancer and a patent application, and is being advanced with a funded R21 grant from the National Institutes for Health. An unexpected result of the project was that the test may also be useful for identifying pregnant women at risk of preeclampsia. A publication on this work is under review. The reviewers recommended that the PI consider collaborating with population health sciences faculty to determine the sensitivity, specificity, predictive value of a positive test, and cost effectiveness. Overall, the PI has been highly successful in achieving the objectives of the grant. Remington seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
Magnetic resonance imaging in a study of prolotherapy for knee osteoarthritis

Crouse presented his and Kent’s review of David Rabago’s final report for Magnetic resonance imaging in a study of prolotherapy for knee osteoarthritis. The goal of this project was to assess changes in anatomic structures associated with knee osteoarthritis using two magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) protocols, a standard MRI protocol and the much faster Vastly Undersampled Isotropic Projection Reconstruction (VIPR) MRI pulse sequence. Initial and follow-up scans were completed on 42 of 46 subjects. An abstract comparing the two scanning techniques was presented at an international conference. Data analysis is underway, but not yet complete, on the project’s three secondary aims looking at the longer term effect of prolotherapy, and assessing other MRI scoring methodologies. MERC deferred acceptance of the report pending receipt of the completed data analysis. In the meantime, a status update from the PI on the data analysis would be helpful.

Collaborative Health Sciences Program

A Comprehensive Approach to Insomnia

Drezner and Drinkwater presented their review of Ruth Benca’s interim progress report on A Comprehensive Approach to Insomnia. The PI has made significant progress toward the proposed aims. Technical issues related to the analysis of sleep in insomniacs have been resolved and the study received IRB approval. Recruitment of subjects is underway. The intervention trial has recruited all necessary subjects and collection of data is expected to be completed shortly. Drinkwater seconded a motion by Drezner to accept the report with a request that the PI’s final report include the following information: (1) The project’s 1st aim, including details on the causes of the delays, collection of data from patients with insomnia, and likelihood of completing this work by the project end date; (2) The project’s 2nd aim, including the progress on investigating the prevalence and natural history of insomnia, as well as comorbidities of the disease; (3) Plans for publication of the studies, and (4) Timeline for pursuing extramural support to sustain the project. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Patient-Specific Induced-Pluripotent Stem Cell Models for Human Disease

Moss and Welch presented their review of Tim Kamp’s interim progress report on Patient-Specific Induced-Pluripotent Stem Cell Models for Human Disease. This is a highly innovative, but underdeveloped project with the continuing problem of low enrollment. Acceptance of this report was deferred by MERC, and the reviewers will meet with the PI to discuss feasible outcomes given the upcoming end date.

Wisconsin Children’s Lead Levels and Educational Outcomes

Chewning and Nycz presented their review of Marty Kanarek’s interim progress report for Wisconsin Children’s Lead Levels and Educational Outcomes. Despite persistent and serious challenges, the PI is making adequate progress toward achieving its primary goal to investigate the association of moderate blood lead levels and education achievement of elementary children. There is a possibility that the project may not achieve the full sample and power
needed, but the PI remains dedicated and is making progress. The second year of the project has focused on developing the sample design, and creating and revising recruitment methods. The team is working diligently to locate the parents and guardians, having established good working relationships with key staff at Wisconsin’s Department of Health Services and Division of Public Instruction. Nycz seconded a motion by Chewning to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

*Closing the Gap on Pediatric Health Disparities: Discerning the Causes and Consequences of Iron Deficiency in Infancy*

Drezner presented his and Lemanske’s review of Pamela Kling’s interim progress report for *Closing the Gap on Pediatric Health Disparities: Discerning the Causes and Consequences of Iron Deficiency in Infancy*. The PI has been adequately responsive to MERC’s input and previous suggestions, and her progress in recent months has been appropriate. Recruitment of subjects and dropout remain active problems, albeit less so than previously, and it is difficult to ascertain the current status of these important variables. It would be helpful to receive from the PI a table or timeline correlating changes in strategy with these variables. Drinkwater seconded a motion by Drezner to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

*Reducing Infant Mortality Disparities in Wisconsin*

Remington presented his and Goelzer’s review of Gloria Sarto’s interim progress report for *Reducing Infant Mortality Disparities in Wisconsin*. Progress during the second year of the project has not been adequate, as reflected in a significant reduction in spending. Asset mapping, clinical chart and death records reviewers, and surveys are underway. However, two of the project’s five aims have not yet been implemented with an approaching end date of September 30, 2011. There seems to be a lack of collaboration between the PI and the collaborators, which is a concern that must be addressed. Oliver seconded a motion by Remington to accept the report with the requirement that the PI focus on successfully completing one of the five aims before the September 2011 end date. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The reviewers will meet with the PI to discuss their concerns and MERC’s requirement related to completing the project.

*Menominee Smoking Cessation Clinical Trial*

Moberg and Nycz presented their review of Stephens Smith’s interim progress report for *Menominee Smoking Cessation Clinical Trial*. After meeting regulatory requirements, including a cross-institutional IRB review, the PI and his team have made progress on the project’s two aims. An inclusive effort to develop the culturally tailored cessation treatment was completed. An R01 grant through the National Cancer Institute is being considered to continue this work. The Co-PI, Dr. Leah Arndt, leveraged her work on this project with a National Cancer Institute-funded U54 grant. It is likely that a no cost extension will be needed to complete this project. Nycz seconded a motion by Moberg to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
Targeted RFA

Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM)

Crouse declared a conflict of interest as the PI, and left the room during discussion of the report, and the vote.

Chewning and Oliver presented their review of Byron Crouse’s interim progress report for Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM). WARM has made adequate progress with the development of a multi-faceted educational program, including curriculum, clerkships, mentoring, and other activities. The first two WARM students will graduate in Spring 2011, and WARM will admit its first full class of 25 in Fall 2011. Sustainability seems feasible through a recapture of 75% of student tuition. WARM has been well publicized, and has gained UW recognition with benefits to the UW SMPH-supported Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH). Oliver seconded a motion by Chewning to accept the report. The motion passed with nine affirmative votes. Crouse was not present for the vote.

Human Proteomics Program

Moss declared a conflict of interest as the PI, and left the room during the discussion of the report, and the vote.

Drinkwater and Welch presented their review of Rick Moss’ interim progress report for Human Proteomics Program. The Program has made substantial progress toward achieving its goals of providing education and training in proteomics and directly supporting the research of many laboratories across campus with high quality proteomics services. More than 30 research labs have been provided services. The Program provides graduate and postdoctoral students direct, hands-on training in the acquisition and analysis of proteomic data. Significant progress has been made toward making the Program self-sufficient with approximately $100,000 in user fees collected over the past year. However, the plan for full financial self-sufficiency was not described. It would be helpful to see a list of publications using data generated by HPP. Welch seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the report. The motion passed with nine affirmative votes. Moss was not present for the vote.

Start-up Funding to Recruit Faculty Member Specializing in Genetic Epidemiology

Remington presented his review of Javier Nieto’s final report for Start-up Funding to Recruit Faculty Member Specializing in Genetic Epidemiology. The project resulted in the successful recruitment of Dr. Corinne Engelman, one of the WPP’s 2008 New Investigator Program grantees. Drinkwater seconded a motion by Remington to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
Recruitment of Middle-Aged African-Americans for Studies of Preclinical Alzheimer’s Disease: Development of a Minority Recruitment Model in Milwaukee

Oliver and Nycz presented their review of Mark Sager’s interim progress report for *Recruitment of Middle-Aged African-Americans for Studies of Preclinical Alzheimer’s Disease: Development of a Minority Recruitment Model in Milwaukee*. Following delays due to IRB review, the project has successfully met its intended objectives and serves as an exemplary model of community-based research with fully operational minority recruitment efforts. The PI and his team are working with the Center for Urban Population Health and Milwaukee Health Services. It would be helpful to have more details on the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer’s Prevention (WRAP), including number of participants by race. The reviewers questioned whether outreach efforts will continue after the grant period, and whether the diagnostic services at Milwaukee Health Services will be maintained. Nycz seconded a motion by Oliver to accept the report. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. **Adjourn – next meeting February 14, 2011**

Moss adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison