Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH)
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
April 11, 2011 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Byron Crouse, Marc Drezner, Jenny Gumperz, Craig Kent, Rob Lemanske, Paul Moberg, Rick Moss, Pat Remington (phone), James Shull

Members Absent: Betty Chewning, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver

Staff: Mary Jo Knobloch, Tonya Mathison, Mike Mirer, Ken Mount, Eileen Smith, Steve Smith

Guests: Bruce Klein

1. Call meeting to order

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

2. Announcements

Welcome new MERC members
MERC welcomed two new members: James Shull, Chair of Oncology, appointed by the Basic Science Chairs’ Caucus, and Jenny Gumperz, elected by the School’s faculty as a basic science representative. The Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) appointed as its representatives Pat Remington and Greg Nycz. These members are beginning three-year terms, effective April 1, 2011.

Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) 2010 Annual Report outline and timeline
Eileen Smith provided an overview of the proposed outline and timeline for development of the WPP 2010 Annual Report.

Collaborative Health Sciences Program Review Subcommittee report on invitations to submit full applications
After a review of the 23 preliminary applications for the Collaborative Health Sciences Program, MERC’s Review Subcommittee —Norm Drinkwater (chair), Betty Chewning, Byron Crouse, Rob Lemanske, and Rick Moss— invited 12 applicants to submit full applications, due May 20. Following an expert faculty review of the full applications, MERC anticipates inviting six or seven finalists for interviews in September leading to up to three awards.

Annual declaration of conflicts of interest
Tonya Mathison requested that committee members review the MERC Conflict of Interest policy and complete the related annual questionnaire. A University Outside Activities Report must be filed with the questionnaire by May 2, 2011.
3. **Decision on draft minutes of February 14, 2011**

Moberg seconded a motion by Remington to accept the draft minutes of February 14, 2011. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. **Interim progress report presentation on “Wisconsin Center for Infectious Diseases (WisCID)”**

Bruce Klein, Professor of Pediatrics, presented an interim progress report on the “Wisconsin Center for Infectious Diseases”. Klein reported on efforts to further advance two of the program’s five areas of emphasis, symbiosis (the beneficial role of microbes) and epidemiology of infectious disease. After Klein left the meeting, Moss noted that both areas are important to the project’s success. He added that Klein is a strong leader who has successfully engaged collaborators across campus to do work that otherwise would not have been possible. Remington seconded a motion by Moss to accept Klein’s presentation. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5. **Financial report on MERC endowment value and cash balances**

Ken Mount presented the financial projections for the WPP through March 31, 2011. The projected value of the endowment is $310.8 million with a remaining cash balance of $31.6 million. He also presented an analysis of the UW Foundation’s endowment distributions in 2010; distributions totaled $14.7 million.

6. **Discuss evolution of support for public health education and research**

MERC discussed the evolution of WPP’s support for public health education and research, looking at annual grant expenditures by type (OAC, and MERC applied public health, public health education, clinical and translational science, and basic science). The combined funding of MERC and OAC categorized as public health represents approximately two-thirds of the WPP awards. And, by adding Type 2 translational research, which involves partnerships with community organizations, the percentage is higher. This set the stage for a discussion of a possible change in MERC’s name to be more descriptive of the comprehensiveness of its investment portfolio, encompassing the spectrum from basic science to public health. MERC will continue this discussion in May.

7. **Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) report**

Eileen Smith reported on the February 16 and March 10, 2011 OAC meetings. In February, OAC elected three officers: Pat Remington as Chair, Doug Mormann as Vice Chair, and Chris Holmes as Secretary. The meeting included an update on the LifeCourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF). In January, the LIHF Steering Committee conducted a self-assessment discussion and considered accomplishments since its inception in 2009 and lessons learned for moving
forward. The Steering Committee also discussed transitioning from planning to implementation. OAC also reviewed a draft 2011 Request for Partnerships for the Community-Academic Partnership Fund. The OAC meeting concluded with reapplication presentations by Tom Oliver on the “Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute” and the “Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship”.

In March, OAC considered the reapplication for the “Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship”. OAC approved funding for one year at the current level of support for four new fellows. The committee also convened a subcommittee of members from the OAC and MERC to identify strategies to sustain the WPP’s commitment to address public health needs of communities, strengthen the public health workforce and establish alternative sources of funding. No later than December 31, 2011, the subcommittee will develop a recommendation to OAC and MERC for subsequent funding of the Fellowship Program through the end of the 2009-2014 Five Year Plan. OAC appointees: Doug Mormann, Chris Holmes, and Cindy Haq (chair). MERC appointees: Betty Chewning, Rob Lemanske, and Greg Nycz.

Marc Drezner, Rob Lemanske, and Craig Kent left the meeting due to other scheduling commitments.

8. Discussion and decision on no cost extension request for 2008 Collaborative Health Sciences Program award, “Patient-Specific Induced-Pluripotent Stem Cell Models for Human Disease” (Kamp)

Since the meeting lacked a quorum, discussion of the no cost extension for Tim Kamp’s 2008 Collaborative Health Sciences Program award, “Patient-Specific Induced-Pluripotent Stem Cell Models for Human Disease”, was deferred until May.

9. Discuss MERC interim progress and final reports:

Since the meeting lacked a quorum, discussion of the following reports was deferred until May:

- Interim progress report by Michael Fiore for “Engineering Effective Interventions for Tobacco Use: A Translational Laboratory”
- Final report by Mihaela Teodorescu for “The Relationship between Asthma and Obstructive Sleep Apnea”

10. Adjourn – next meeting May 9, 2011

Moss adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison