Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH)
Wisconsin Partnership Program Education and Research Committee
May 9, 2011 at 4:30PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Marc Drezner, Norm Drinkwater, Jenny Gumperz, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington, James Shull

Members Absent: Betty Chewning, Byron Crouse, Craig Kent, Rob Lemanske, Paul Moberg

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

Guests: Maureen Smith

1. Call meeting to order

Moss called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

2. Decision on draft minutes of April 11, 2011

Oliver seconded a motion by Shull to approve the draft minutes of April 11, 2011. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Discussion and decision on MERC name change

The Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC) continued its discussion of a possible name change to be more descriptive of the comprehensiveness of its investment portfolio, encompassing the spectrum from basic science to applied public health research and public health education. The committee considered the evolution of the Wisconsin Partnership Program’s (WPP) support for public health education and research, looking at annual awards and grant expenditures by type (OAC, and MERC applied public health, public health education, clinical and translational science, and basic science). There was general agreement that the committee’s name should be changed to more clearly reflect its activities directed toward improving the health of the people of Wisconsin. Nycz seconded a motion by Remington to rename the committee the “Wisconsin Partnership Program Education and Research Committee”. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Interim progress report presentation, Health Innovation Program

Maureen Smith, MD, MPH, PhD, presented an interim progress report on the “Health Innovation Program” (HIP). HIP has successfully leveraged an increasing amount of federal grant funds annually in its capacity as a collaborator or consultant to the Principal Investigator (PI). In 2010, approximately half of HIP funding was from external grants, with the remaining half as core funding primarily from ICTR-CAP, the WPP Education and Research Committee, and other sources. There is a focus on dissemination through posters, presentations, and abstracts; and peer-reviewed journal articles and editorials. Future plans include developing collaborative learning tools with the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ), which is made
up of 26 statewide physician groups, and conducting comparative effectiveness research through a partnership with Marshfield Clinic.

Remington clarified the total amount of core funding provided by the WPP via both ICTR-CAP and the Education and Research Committee. In response to a question by Oliver, Dr. Smith clarified that the WCHQ has decided to make diabetes a focus area. HIP has yet to determine its role related to an existing diabetes collaborative. Moss indicated that a written interim report on HIP is expected later this month. The report will be forwarded to two committee members for review, and then go to the full-committee for discussion at a future meeting.

5. Discussion and decision on MERC New Investigator Program 2011 Request for Proposals

Drinkwater provided an overview of the revisions to the 2011 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the New Investigator Program. The RFP was revised to clarify the eligibility requirements of the Principal Investigator. Also, the application process will be entirely web-based. Oliver seconded a motion by Nycz to approve the New Investigator Program 2011 RFP with the inclusion of the committee’s new name, “WPP Education and Research Committee”. Remington noted that the SMPH Transformation Implementation Subcommittees had considered revising the research and education taxonomy. Although it is premature to include this taxonomy in the New Investigator Program RFP, it should be considered by the committee as a part of future strategic planning activities. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The RFP will be released on May 12, with preliminary applications due June 9. MERC’s review subcommittee –made up of Norm Drinkwater (chair), Betty Chewning, Byron Crouse, Rick Moss, and Rob Lemanske– will evaluate the preliminary applications and make a determination regarding which applications warrant further development as full proposals.

6. Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) report

Nycz reported on the April 20, 2011 OAC meeting. Lorraine Lathen, Project Leader for the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF), provided an update on progress, strengths, and weaknesses of each of the four Community Action Planning Grant projects (Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Beloit). All four sites are making progress towards their deliverables, but each has faced unique community challenges. Given those challenges, OAC is considering implementing cooperative agreements with each site to provide more closely guide their work, and to ensure consistency across the sites. OAC also agreed on the importance of meeting with the state’s Medicaid Director to discuss the LIHF. Nycz added that the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel recently initiated a series on Wisconsin’s infant mortality crisis called “Empty Cradles”. A link to the articles will be shared with the committee.

In April, the OAC also approved the 2011 Request for Partnerships (RfP) for the Community-Academic Partnership Fund. The RfP was revised to place more emphasis on evidence-based information, project sustainability, dissemination of project outcomes, and measurable
7. 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)

Moss presented an overview of a no cost extension request for Tim Kamp’s 2008 Collaborative Health Sciences Program award, “Patient-Specific Induced-Pluripotent Stem Cell Models for Human Disease”. The focus of the no cost extension will be to create patient and disease specific iPS cell lines. With an increasing focus on the development of the cell lines, Moss proposed reducing the remaining budget by $100,000 for a year-long extension of $124,963. Remington seconded a motion by Drezner to approve the no cost extension of $124,963 from September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

8. Discuss MERC interim progress and final reports:

Targeted RFA

*Engineering Effective Interventions for Tobacco Use: A Translational Laboratory*

Remington presented his review as well as Lemanske’s review of Michael Fiore’s interim progress report for his 2009 Targeted RFA grant, “Engineering Effective Interventions for Tobacco Use: A Translational Laboratory”. Overall, the reviewers were impressed with the progress made over the past year, but acknowledged the issues related to participant recruitment. The reviewers were optimistic that these issues will be resolved given recent changes to the recruitment protocols. Nycz seconded a motion by Remington to accept the report. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

New Investigator Program

*The Relationship between Asthma and Obstructive Sleep Apnea*

Moss presented Crouse and Moberg’s written reviews of Mihaela Teodorescu’s final report for her 2007 New Investigator Program grant, “The Relationship between Asthma and Obstructive Sleep Apnea”. The reviewers indicated that Dr. Teodorescu was successful in achieving the first aim of the project with the completion of a questionnaire based study of asthma patients. This work resulted in several publications, and a collaboration through the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Asthma Clinical Research Network.

The reviewers reported on continuing issues related to patient recruitment, which prevented the completion of three of the project’s aims. Remington seconded a motion by Shull to accept the report with the request for Dr. Teodorescu to report on her plans to continue the work related to the three incomplete aims. Drezner recommended that the committee have a future strategic discussion about requirements for projects involving patient recruitment, such as uploading data to ENCORE for timely identification of less than
adequate patient recruitment. He added that it would be helpful for the committee to set a timeline by which the Principal Investigator must meet certain recruitment objectives. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. **Adjourn – next meeting June 13, 5-7pm**

Remington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison