Minutes
Executive Subcommittee of the
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
March 2, 2009 at 5:00pm – Room 4250 HSLC

Members Present: Bill Busse, Norm Drinkwater, Jeff Grossman, Cindy Haq, Pat Remington, George Wilding

Members Absent: Paul DeLuca, Susan Goelzer

Staff: Tonya Mathison, Ken Mount, Eileen Smith

The meeting was called by order by Jeff Grossman, vice chair, 5:00 p.m.

1. Approval of February 2, 2009 minutes

The minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Announcements

Legislative Audit Bureau audit
Smith provided the list of MERC grants which will undergo an in-depth review by the Legislative Audit Bureau.

Collaborative Health Sciences Program
Smith reported that the preliminary applications for the Collaborative Health Sciences Program have been sent to the ad hoc review subcommittee. The subcommittee will meet on March 31 to develop a list of applicants to be invited to submit a full application. The list will be recommended to MERC. However, submission of full applications will be delayed because of the financial issues facing the Wisconsin Partnership Program.

Reorganization of MERC
Smith reported that the election of the three faculty positions and one academic staff is proceeding. Voting ends on March 11. It is expected that the new committee will be appointed by the end of March.

Nancy Sweitzer New Investigator Program grant
Due to questions raised regarding Dr. Sweitzer’s request, Smith was asked to contact Dr. Sweitzer for clarification.

3. Discuss New Investigator Program final reports

Molecular Mechanism of Lung Organogenesis, Tumorigenesis, and Asthma
Smith reported that Xin Sun had provided the additional information requested by the Executive Subcommittee at the February 2 meeting and Sun’s final report for her project,
Molecular Mechanism of Lung Organogenesis, Tumorigenesis, and Asthma, has been revised and clarified in accordance with the subcommittee’s request. Her project is now completed.

Epidemiology of antibiotic resistance in Wisconsin nursing homes
Bill Busse and Pat Remington reviewed Chris Crnich’s final report on his project, Epidemiology of Antibiotic Resistance in Wisconsin Nursing Homes. The objective of this research was to better understand the scope and patterns of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in nursing homes, as a necessary step towards developing interventions for control of these pathogens in the nursing home setting.

Busse and Remington reported that Crnich was successful in assessing the prevalence of antibiotic resistance in four nursing homes with work planned in an additional twelve facilities. Dr. Crnich has preliminary data to estimate the incidence of transmissions as well as characterize determinants of transmission. He is moving forward with recruitment of additional nursing facilities with funding from the Infectious Disease Society of America, a National Institutes of Health KL2 grant, and the Department of Medicine. He is also seeking two R01 grants to extend this work. Furthermore, he has presented this research in poster and oral presentations, prepared three abstracts and is preparing to submit a paper to the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

4. Update on budget reductions of current grants
Smith reported that all targeted Principal Investigators (PI) were notified to reduce their grant budgets by an additional 5% for a total reduction of 25%. And the Collaborative Health Sciences Program PIs have been asked to reduce their budgets by 25%. Reduced budgets are due March 9.

5. Discuss no cost extension requests and reapplications
Smith reported that the no cost extension request from the Institute of Clinical and Translational Research in the amount of $3,237,468 was submitted with $2,930,179 already committed and expected to be expended by June 30, 2009. A recommendation will be made to reduce the remaining amount of $307,289 by 25%.

Smith also reported that Education, ICTR, and the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin will be reapplying in May and June and have been informed that their budgets must be reduced by 25% from their original awards.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Recorder, Eileen Smith