Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
June 14, 2010 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Betty Chewning, Marc Drezner, Norm Drinkwater, Robert Lemanske, Pat McBride, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington

Members Absent: Susan Goelzer, Craig Kent, Paul Moberg, Rod Welch

Staff: Chris Blakey, Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Mike Mirer, Ken Mount, Dick Reynolds, Eileen Smith, Karla Thompson

Guests: Nichelle Cobb, UW Health Sciences Institutional Review Board

1. Call meeting to order

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

2. Announcements

Legislative Audit Bureau audit
Smith reported that the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) audit report was released on May 12. A response from the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) was included in the final report. Jan Mueller, State Auditor, presented the report to the UW System Board of Regents on June 10. Dean Golden was given an opportunity to share a statement in response to the report. In July, WPP leadership and staff plan to meet with the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. and the Insurance Commissioner to discuss LAB’s recommendations to the Insurance Commissioner suggesting clarification of certain components of the Order.

Annual Conflict of Interest Questionnaire
Mathison reported that there are several outstanding annual MERC Conflict of Interest questionnaires. She requested that those who had not done so already must review the policy and complete the related annual questionnaire. A University Outside Activities Report will be filed with the questionnaire.

Wisconsin Public Health Association awards to Wisconsin Partnership Program grantees
Remington reported that several WPP grantees received 2010 awards from the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA). Geoff Swain, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Population Health Sciences, received the Presidential Citation Award. Katharine Konkle, a Population Health Fellow, received the New Public Health Worker of the Year Award. Bridget Booske, Director of the “Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State” project, received the Excellence in Public Health Research Award. The awards were recently presented at the annual conference of the WPHA and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB). The WPP was a gold sponsor of the conference and a co co-sponsor with the Medical College of Wisconsin of a day-long pre-conference session, “Honoring our Common
Differences: Creating Inclusive Partnerships and Organizations”. There were exhibits at the conference on the Community-Academic partnership Fund and on the Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families.

**WIPOD/WI PAN conference, “Linking Research, Community Action and Policy to Prevent Obesity”**

Remington reported that the WPP contributed to support of the June 2, 2010 “Symposium on Linking Research, Community Action and Policy to Prevent Obesity”. The symposium brought together the University of Wisconsin’s Wisconsin Prevention of Obesity and Diabetes (WIPOD) and the Department of Health Services’ Wisconsin Partnership for Activity and Nutrition (WI PAN). This well-attended event aimed to provide opportunities to foster networking and linkages between community coalition members, researchers and other partners working to prevent obesity; promote collaboration among basic, clinical and community-based researchers; and increase awareness of UW-Madison research and community projects related to the prevention of obesity.

3. **Approval of April 12, 2010 draft minutes**

Remington seconded a motion by Drezner to approve the draft April 12, 2010 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) update**

Nycz reported on the May 19, 2010 OAC meeting. Representatives from the Stateline Community Foundation and the Beloit African American Infant Mortality Coalition presented an overview of the revised Beloit Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF) Community Action Planning Grant, “Pathways to Healthier African-American Families in Beloit”. The presentation included a detailed response to the issues raised by the reviewers. There was a consensus by OAC that the response to the reviewer comments was comprehensive and thoroughly addressed the issues raised by the reviewers.

The coalition was awarded nearly $200,000 to set a course toward improving access to maternal and child health resources and tailoring community-specific action plans that use evidence-based practices to close the racial disparity in birth outcomes in Beloit. The initiative will also assist in the collection of city-specific data. The OAC plans to review a proposal from a coalition in Milwaukee in June.

5. **MERC cash flow and financial projections**

Mount presented the financial projections for the Wisconsin Partnership Program through May 31, 2010. The projected value of the endowment is $295 million with a remaining cash balance of $24.6 million. Following poor performance in the financial markets recently, the value of the endowment has decreased. WPP leadership and staff continue to carefully monitor the value of the endowment given the continued volatility in the financial markets. And, they will work
with the UW Foundation to request a more responsive turnaround of needed financial information.


Moss asked for feedback on the draft Wisconsin Partnership Program 2009 Annual Report. There was consensus by MERC that the report provides expansive information in a concise manner. Nycz shared a recommendation on the description of the governing committees’ roles related to the allocation percentage, which will be incorporated into the final version of the report. Smith reported that ABC for Health, Inc. submitted a letter in response to the public posting of the draft report on the Wisconsin Partnership Program web site. The letter was included in today’s meeting materials. MERC’s approval of the report, including an extensive appendix with the outcome reports of concluded grants, will be sought in July.

7. New Investigator Program 2010 Request for Proposals

Overview of preliminary applications
MERC received 51 preliminary applications for the New Investigator Program from a diverse group of applicants. The Assistant Professors come from 17 different departments in the School. 54% are on the Tenure Track, 44% Clinical Health Sciences, and 2% Clinician-Teachers.

Procedure for evaluation of preliminary applications
Rick Moss and Norm Drinkwater presented the review process for the preliminary applications. MERC members will review each application, and determine if it ranks in the top-half or bottom-half of the 51 submissions. A ranked list will be discussed at the July MERC meeting, when the committee will make a decision on which applications warrant further development as full applications. Full applications are due in September, and will undergo expert review. Following interviews of the finalists, MERC will make up to three awards in December.

8. Update on Health Sciences Institutional Review Board

Nichelle Cobb, Director of the Health Sciences Institutional Review Board (IRB), provided an update on the IRB process. She commented on: (1) an expanded scientific review process in response to recommendations by the IRB’s accreditation body, (2) IRB staff pre-review of protocols ensuring that protocols are well prepared before being advanced to IRB review, (3) the new ARROW system for electronic submission and tracking of protocols which is expected to decrease turnaround time, and (4) deferral agreements through the Wisconsin IRB Consortium (Marshfield, MCW, Aurora) and with Meriter Hospital. Cobb noted that the mean number of days for a MERC protocol is 97.9 days with a minimum of 32 days and maximum of 380 days. She concluded by noting some challenges, including the quality of applications, the complexity or novelty of the study, the number of sites involved, and the number of changes to a protocol. MERC will discuss this further at a future meeting.
9. Review of New Investigator Program interim progress and final reports

*Partnering with Quit lines to Promote Youth Smoking Cessation in Wisconsin* (Sims, final)

Chewning and Remington presented their review of Tammy Sims final report for the 2006 New Investigator Program award, *Partnering with Quit Lines to Promote Youth Smoking Cessation in Wisconsin*. Since the report lacked detail on outcomes and accomplishments, MERC determined that the report was unacceptable and delayed acceptance of the report pending submission of a revised report. Rick Moss and Eileen Smith will discuss the best approach to working with Dr. Sims.

*Positron Emission Tomography Imaging of Tumor Angiogenesis* (Cai, interim)

Drinkwater presented his review of Weibo Cai’s interim report for the 2008 New Investigator Program award, *Positron Emission Tomography Imaging of Tumor Angiogenesis*. Dr. Cai is making good progress on the project. One PET tracer for imaging new blood vessels in tumors has already been developed and preliminary results will be reported at an upcoming international imaging meeting. Dr. Cai also reported the publication of five peer reviewed articles related to this project. Dr. Cai indicated that he has submitted multiple grant applications over the past year, but he did not specify the funding sources or the outcome. Nycz seconded a motion by Drinkwater to accept the report with a request for detailed information from Dr. Cai on the grant applications. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjourn – next meeting July 12, 2010

Moss adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison