Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
June 8, 2009 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Betty Chewning, Marc Drezner, Susan Goelzer, Robert Lemanske, Paul Moberg, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington, Clive Svendsen, Rod Welch

Members Absent: Paul DeLuca, Craig Kent, Pat McBride

Guests: William Agger, Howard Bailey, Dennis Baumgardner, Laila Borokhim, Jim Burmester, Byron Crouse, David DeMets, Muriel Nagle, Paul Smith, Chris Sorkness, Tobias Wolf

Staff: Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Ken Mount, Eileen Smith, Karla Thompson

1. Call meeting to order

Remington called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

2. Announcements

Joint OAC/MERC meeting – June 17, 1:00-3:00pm
Smith reported that a joint meeting of the OAC and MERC is scheduled on June 17. Dean Golden will chair the meeting which will include two continuation implementation grant presentations as well as a presentation on the UW Foundation’s investment portfolio and the Wisconsin Partnership Program’s endowment.

Wisconsin Partnership Program 2008 Annual Report
Smith presented the outline and timeline for the Wisconsin Partnership Program 2008 Annual Report. MERC members will have an opportunity to review the draft report in June. Anticipating approval of the report by OAC and MERC in July, the report will be forwarded for review by the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. (WUHF) and the UW System Board of Regents. Although WUHF’s review is not yet scheduled, the Board of Regents will review the report on September 10.

Collaborative Health Sciences Program
Smith reported that the new web-based application for the Collaborative Health Sciences Program was released on June 5 for completion by the 10 finalists selected by MERC. It is expected that MERC will make one award in January 2010.

3. Approval of May 11, 2009 minutes

Moberg indicated that the draft May 11, 2009 minutes must be revised to reflect his conflict of interest as a Co-Investigator on a grant proposal related to the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin. Oliver moved approval of the minutes with the revision. Chewning seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
4. **Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) report**

The OAC report was deferred until July.

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

Mount presented the financial projections for the Wisconsin Partnership Program through April 2009. The UW Foundation closed its books for the year ending December 31, 2008 and reported a 25% decrease in the value of the endowment. In the first quarter of 2009, UWF estimated an additional 6.75% decrease, which was followed by an increase of 2.42% in April. Mount clarified that the losses do not impact the value of MERC’s spendable reserves of $34.5 million. In order to meet existing obligations through calendar year 2010, current grants were reduced to 75% of the original annual award, and reapplication budgets must be proposed at no more than 75% of the original award.

6. **Presentation and discussion of reapplication for the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award**

Marc Drezner, Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean for Translational and Clinical Research, presented an overview of the reapplication for the *Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award*, including a progress report since inception. This was followed by presentations by Maureen Smith on the Community-Academic partnership Core and David DeMets on the Biostatistics and Biomedical Informatics Core.

$10,185,996 is requested over three years with the continued goal of creating an environment, which facilitates the transformation of research at the University into a continuum extending from investigation through discovery to translation into practice, thereby linking basic research to practical improvements in human health.

Mount noted that the reapplication budget was reduced by 25% and included the incorporation of the *Wisconsin Network for Health Research* program.

Questions and discussion by MERC focused on the following topics:

**Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE):** Nycz highlighted that the CCHE grant will enable the School to work more closely with the state’s community health centers. Drezner noted the importance of new legislation being proposed to better fund community health centers.

**“Evidence Base for Improvements in Clinical Practice and Community Health” Pyramid:** Nycz noted that the pyramid, which includes making connections, formative collaborations, full project collaboration, and successful sustainable research, must also convey what occurs when collaborators reach the top. ICTR must not only determine why some knowledge is not being used in the community, it must also get the knowledge into communities for application in practice. Maureen Smith reiterated that the long-term goal is to build partnerships and support
research that is closer to being applied, as well as to help to identify partners and disseminate knowledge.

Svendsen wondered if there was an example of a pilot project that had gone through the entire pyramid. Maureen Smith clarified that the pilots began in mid-2008 and that many are still in the lower sections of the pyramid. She is confident in the long-term trajectory of projects achieving the top tier with successful, sustainable research.

Oliver indicated the importance of establishing an academic home including the dissemination of knowledge through practice and policy, and a budget to support the “so what” once collaborators reach top of pyramid. Maureen Smith noted the required budget reduction and highlighted WREN as an active dissemination resource with two annual forums with information on project accomplishments. Oliver questioned if WREN is being evaluated. Maureen Smith indicated that WREN has not to date been studied by ICTR. Chewning added the School of Pharmacy is studying WREN to establish a similar practice-based research and indicated that without WREN, Pharmacy would not be as far in development.

Policy Change: Remington questioned if resources are being committed to policy change. Maureen Smith indicated that resources support the development of policy-ready research, and further dissemination of the research findings. Efforts focus on building strong community partnerships with dissemination that is policy ready.

Data Warehouse: Nycz asked about HIPAA barriers in creating a virtual data warehouse. DeMets clarified that the system is designed to be HIPAA compliant.

7. Consider response to MERC questions and discussion of reapplication for Transforming Medical Education: Integrating Public Health in the Curriculum

Byron Crouse, Associate Dean for Rural and Community Health and Interim Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, presented on behalf of Christie Seibert an overview of her response to MERC’s feedback and questions on the reapplication for Transforming Medical Education: Integrating Public Health in the Curriculum.

8. Discussion of 2005 New Investigator Program grant, Effects of Statin Therapy on Vascular Properties and Outcomes in Diastolic Heart Failure Patients

Discussion of the 2005 New Investigator Program grant, Effects of Statin Therapy on Vascular Properties and Outcomes in Diastolic Heart Failure Patients, was deferred until July.
9. **Adjournment-Closed Session**: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to make a recommendation concerning the awarding of competitive targeted grants and a request from a Principal Investigator regarding a competitive grant. The meeting is expected to reconvene into open session.

Remington asked members to indicate any conflicts of interest on the applications under consideration. The following two members indicated conflicts of interest on the *Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award*: Betty Chewning as Director of the Sonderegger Research Center, and Paul Moberg as an Evaluator with .18 FTE on the grant. According to MERC’s conflict of interest policy, members with conflicts of interest are able to participate in the discussion of the proposal, but are not allowed to vote on the proposal.

Lemanske moved that the meeting be adjourned into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to make a recommendation concerning the awarding of competitive targeted grants. Oliver seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

After considerable discussion of the competitive reapplications as well as the scores and comments of the expert reviewers, MERC unanimously agreed to return to open session. After returning to open session, MERC reaffirmed the following decision on *Transforming Medical Education* made in closed session.

MERC awarded $2,504,333 over three years to Christine Seibert for *Transforming Medical Education: Integrating Public Health in the Curriculum* with the following two recommendations: (1) Determine an acceptable outcome measure on the proportion of medical students completing dual MD-MPH, and (2) Incorporate a public health dentistry perspective.

After the vote on *Transforming Medical Education*, the quorum was lost. Therefore, an award decision on the *Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award* proposal was deferred until July.

### 10. Discussion and decision on revised review process for grantee progress, financial status and final reports

Discussion of the revised review process for grantee progress, financial status and final reports was deferred until July.

### 11. Next meeting – July 13, 2009

Remington adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

*Recorder, Tonya Mathison*