Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH)
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
July 12, 2010 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Betty Chewning, Marc Drezner, Susan Goelzer, Craig Kent, Pat McBride, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington, Rod Welch

Members Absent: Norm Drinkwater, Robert Lemanske, Paul Moberg

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

Invited Guests: Ricardo Lloyd (Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), Bill Schelman (Medicine), David Yang (Pathology and Laboratory Medicine)

Guests: George Wilding (UW Comprehensive Cancer Center), Dona Alberti (UW Comprehensive Cancer Center)

1. Call meeting to order

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

2. Announcements

Legislative Audit Bureau audit
Smith reported that the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. (WUHF) will hold a meeting on July 15 to hear a presentation of the LAB audit, to receive comments from the Insurance Commissioner, to seek the responses from the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and the UW SMPH to the audit report, and to provide a forum for public comments. Smith added that Bobby Peterson with ABC for Health, Inc. held a web cast in response to the audit report. Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) staff will forward the link to the web cast presentation.

Program Officer Appointment
Mary Jo Knobloch was recently hired as the new Program Officer for the WPP. She will provide oversight for the Community-Academic Partnership Fund grant program. Knobloch, MPH, CPH, has over 20 years of experience in project and program management and process development and improvement. She was most recently the Resident Research Facilitator with the Division of Education at Marshfield Clinic.

3. Approval of June 14, 2010 draft minutes

McBride seconded a motion by Chewning to approve the draft June 14, 2010 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Additional information on interim progress and final reports:

New Investigator Program

**Partnering with Quit lines to Promote Youth Smoking Cessation in Wisconsin**

Moss reported that Tammy Sims will work with her mentor, Dr. Mike Fiore, to revise the final report for her 2006 New Investigator Program award, *Partnering with Quit Lines to Promote Youth Smoking Cessation in Wisconsin*. In June 2010, MERC deferred acceptance of the final report.

**Positron Emission Tomography Imaging of Tumor Angiogenesis**

Moss reported that Weibo Cai was responsive to MERC’s request for more information after accepting the interim progress report for *Positron Emission Tomography Imaging of Tumor Angiogenesis*. Dr. Cai provided a detailed list of grant submissions over the past year.

Interim report on 2008 Collaborative Health Sciences Program award, *Reducing Infant Mortality Disparities in Wisconsin*

Remington presented an update on the 2008 Collaborative Health Sciences Program award, *Reducing Infant Mortality Disparities in Wisconsin*. Remington met with the Principal Investigator, Gloria Sarto, and her team to discuss the potential impact on the project’s goal and aims following a recent announcement that the African American infant mortality rates in Dane County seem to be increasing again. The group concluded that the available data on infant mortality rates in Dane County does not yet reveal a trend. Therefore, no changes in the project’s aims are needed. Oliver seconded a motion by Remington reaffirming MERC’s February 8, 2010 acceptance of the interim progress report.

5. Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) report

Nycz reported on the June 16, 2010 OAC meeting. David Kindig announced his resignation from OAC. He will continue to serve on the committee until the UW System Board of Regents appoints his replacement, most likely in August. Dean Golden will be nominating Pat Remington to fill Kindig’s unexpired term.

Representatives from the Planning Council for Health and Human Services and the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin presented an overview of the revised *Milwaukee Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families (LIHF)* Community Action Planning grant. OAC awarded the coalition $250,000 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 Milwaukee. This is the fourth and final coalition to receive funding from the WPP. In total, the WPP has provided $830,000 in grants to coalitions representing Beloit, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine. Outside agencies have pledged more than $280,000 to assist in planning efforts, including a full $177,000 match from the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread to support the *Racine Collaborative LIHF*. 
6. Financial reports

MERC cash flow and financial projections
Mount presented the financial projections for the Wisconsin Partnership Program through June 30, 2010. The projected value of the endowment is $284.9 million with a remaining cash balance of $27.4 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.

Presentation and decision on 2009 Annual Report MERC non-supplanting attestation
Mount presented his annual attestation of non-supplanting for MERC initiatives. All MERC initiatives listed on the 2009 attestation document were reviewed in detail to determine whether use of the WPP funds had complied with the supplanting prohibition in the Insurance Commissioner’s Order, as specified in the criteria set forth in the addendum of the 2004-2009 Five-Year Plan, and as approved by WUHF.

Mount determined that financial support by the WPP of the funded initiatives does not result in supplanting and recommended approval of the attestation by MERC. Remington seconded a motion by McBride to accept the non-supplanting attestation as distributed. The motion passed unanimously. Mount reported that non-supplanting attestations will also be reviewed and signed by Dean Golden on behalf of the UW SMPH and by Darrell Bazzell on behalf of the UW System and UW-Madison.

7. Discussion and decision on Wisconsin Partnership Program 2009 Annual Report
Moss presented the 2009 Annual Report for approval by MERC following considerable feedback from the committee over the past couple of months. Chewning seconded a motion by Nycz to approve the report. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Presentation and discussion of targeted reapplication for Development of a Centralized UW SMPH BioBank

David Yang, MD, Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Ricardo Lloyd, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and William Schelman, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, presented an overview of the targeted reapplication for Development of a Centralized UW SMPH BioBank, including a progress report since inception.

$521,714 was requested over three years to use the UW Comprehensive Cancer Center (UWCCC) BioBank as a platform to develop a single UW SMPH BioBank for current and future research at UW SMPH. The proposal included a business plan outlining the mission, goal and objectives of the UW SMPH BioBank, products and services, market assessment, 3-year expansion plan, management and organization, and financial plan.
Kent and Moss, although listed on the BioBank organizational chart as serving on the Executive Advisory Committee through their roles as the Chair of Surgery and the Vice Dean of Research, respectively, were not aware of this committee. Both confirmed that they have not participated in the development and implementation of the UWCCC BioBank or the targeted reapplication for the UWSMPH Biobank. Neither plans to participate on the Executive Advisory Committee since it would be in conflict with their roles on MERC.

MERC’s discussion focused on the following topics:

- Given the status of the financial markets, MERC has required budget reductions of 25% for all reapplications. For the BioBank, MERC agreed to consider a maximum annual budget of $168,790 over a period of no more than two-years. The second year of funding will depend on successful review by MERC of the first annual interim progress report.
- MERC is supportive of the collaboration of the BioBank and the UWCCC, in particular the important role of the BioBank in UWCCC’s core grant application in 2012.
- Further development of the business and financial plan for the BioBank is necessary, in particular to revise the financial plan to focus on a progressive reduction in MERC support as fees-for-service increase. Recommend partnering with a business expert to help further develop the business plan and to revise the cost recovery model.
- MERC agreed that it is premature to expand the BioBank beyond the UWCCC. If expansion is considered, which MERC discourages, limit to collecting blood specimen and DNA/RNA only. Due to concerns of supplanting current funding of independent biorepositories throughout the UW SMPH, any expansion of the BioBank must also incorporate the existing funding source for that biorepository. Also, before considering expansion, it will be important to consider related demand.
- Pursue potential collaboration with other MERC projects, such as the *Survey of the Health of Wisconsin*.

There was general agreement by MERC that a funding decision on the reapplication be delayed until August 2010. Moss and WPP leadership will meet with the Dr. Lloyd and his team to discuss MERC’s concerns and recommendations.

9. Adjournment-Closed Session: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to make a decision concerning the faculty finalists to be invited to submit full applications for the competitive New Investigator Program. The meeting is expected to reconvene into open session.

Nycz seconded a motion by Oliver to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to make a decision on the faculty finalists to be invited to submit full applications for the competitive New Investigator Program. The motion passed unanimously.
After considerable discussion of the New Investigator Program preliminary applications, Nycz seconded a motion by Chewning to exit closed session. The motion passed unanimously.

Remington seconded a motion by Nycz to reaffirm the motion made in closed session to invite full applications from 14 of the 51 applicants who submitted preliminary applications. WPP staff will notify applicants of their status.

10. Adjourn – next meeting August 9, 2010

Moss adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison