Minutes
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
July 13, 2009 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Paul DeLuca, Marc Drezner (phone), Craig Kent, Robert Lemanske, Pat McBride, Greg Nycz, Tom Oliver, Pat Remington, Clive Svendsen, Rod Welch

Members Absent: Betty Chewning, Susan Goelzer, Paul Moberg

Guests: Bill Busse, Tracy Cabot, Norm Drinkwater, Robert Golden, Cindy Haq, Rick Moss, Gordon Ridley, Kris Sorkness

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

1. Call meeting to order

DeLuca called the meeting to order at 5:10pm. The meeting opened with a surprise celebration of Paul DeLuca’s contributions to the Wisconsin Partnership Program as the Chair of MERC since June 2004. DeLuca accepted a position as UW-Madison’s Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

2. Announcements

Rick Moss as Chair
Golden announced the appointment of Rick Moss, Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research, Biotechnology and Graduate Studies, as chair of MERC. Moss is filling an unexpired term through June 30, 2011.

Strategic award for Reducing Cancer Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control
Dean Golden awarded $399,079 over three years to James Cleary, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, for the Strategic Initiatives Allocation reapplication for Reducing Cancer Health Disparities through Comprehensive Cancer Control to test a navigator-directed cancer information intervention designed to improve patient-centered outcomes among rural lung and colorectal cancer patients.

Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. meeting
Dean Golden will be presenting the 2008 Annual Report to the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. (WUHF) on September 2. Rick Moss is attending on behalf of the MERC.

3. Approval of June 8, 2009 and June 17, 2009 Joint OAC/MERC minutes

There was unanimous approval of the draft minutes of the June 8, 2009 MERC meeting and the June 17, 2009 joint OAC and MERC meeting.
4. **Discussion and decision on targeted reapplication for the *Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award***

Remington provided an overview of MERC’s discussion in June of the targeted reapplication for the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award. A funding decision was made later in the meeting.*

5. **Oversight and Advisory Committee report**

Nycz provided an overview of the May 11, 2009 OAC meeting. The committee welcomed Christine Holmes, President and CEO of the Penfield Children’s Center, as a new public member. Holmes is an advocate for child health and well-being with nearly three decades of national leadership and advocacy experience in health and human services. There was an announcement that Tom Oliver assumed leadership as faculty director for the *Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute* and *Population Health Fellowship Program*, formerly held by Pat Remington, who stepped down due to his new role as Senior Associate Dean for Public Health.

The Healthy Birth Outcomes Steering Committee met in May and continued to discuss its three major goals: coordinating a public awareness and media campaign, engaging funding partners, and releasing a Request for Applications (RFA) for community organizing and planning. On May 27, Phil Farrell, Chair of the Steering Committee was interviewed on the national public radio show *The Takeaway* by WNYC in New York City – the program was titled *Keeping Babies Alive: What worked in Wisconsin*. Smith added that an event is being held by the University of Wisconsin Foundation on September 17 at Discovery World focused on the work of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) in Milwaukee. The event will feature the Healthy Birth Outcomes Initiative along with several other UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) initiatives in Milwaukee.

OAC continued with its strategic planning discussion, which will continue monthly through October. The committee is working through a series of targeted questions as we consider priorities for the initiatives set-forth in the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan. Barbara Bowers from the UW School of Nursing presented information on the Community-Academic Partnership Evaluation.

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

Smith provided an overview of the review process for grantee progress, financial status and final reports. Two MERC members will be assigned by the Chair to review the interim progress reports for projects of $500,000 and above, and all final reports. The reviews will then be discussed by the full committee, in some cases in conjunction with a progress report presentation by the Principal Investigator. WPP staff review the remaining reports and notify MERC of any concerns. All reports will be made available to MERC via the restricted website.
7. **Financial reports**

**MERC cash flow and financial projections**
Mount presented the financial projections for the Wisconsin Partnership Program through June 2009. Mount clarified that the decrease in the value of endowment does not impact the value of MERC’s spendable reserves of $20 million.

**2008 Annual Report MERC non-supplanting attestation**
Mount presented his annual attestation of non-supplanting for MERC initiatives. All MERC initiatives listed on the attestation document, including the Strategic Initiatives Allocation, 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 initiatives does not result in supplanting and recommended approval of the attestation by MERC. Nycz moved approval of the non-supplanting attestation as distributed. McBride seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Mount reported that non-supplanting attestations will also be signed by Dean Golden on behalf of the SMPH and by Darrell Bazzell on behalf of the UW System and UW-Madison.

8. **Discussion and decision on Wisconsin Partnership Program 2008 Annual Report**

Smith presented an overview of the 2008 Annual Report. Since the committee was reorganized and many members were not on the committee in 2008, Smith asked for acceptance of the report. Nycz commented on the comprehensiveness of the report and made a motion to accept it as distributed. McBride seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

9. **Presentation and decision on Human Proteomics Program targeted reapplication**

Rick Moss, PhD, presented an overview of the targeted reapplication for the Human Proteomics Program (HPP), including a progress report since inception. $200,000 is requested over two years to provide service contracts for the mass spectrometers and to cover supplies used for proof-of-concept and feasibility studies involving new investigators. The overall mission of the HPP is to improve the health through a program of research dedicated to understanding the basis for human health and disease, identifying potential molecular targets for the treatment of disease, and developing high-throughput assays for early detection of disease and risk of disease.

Nycz and Remington commented on the new shared service model of the HPP. In response to questions, Moss clarified that the HPP provides hands-on training for users of its mass spectrometers. By training users, the instruments can be utilized at all times. Moss noted that through a relationship with Molecular Diagnostics, HPP will continue to work towards identifying biomarkers.

A funding decision was made by MERC later in the meeting.*
10. Discussion of 2005 New Investigator Program grant, Effects of Statin Therapy on Vascular Properties and Outcomes in Diastolic Heart Failure Patients*

Discussion and a funding decision on the 2005 New Investigator Program grant, Effects of Statin Therapy on Vascular Properties and Outcomes in Diastolic Heart Failure Patients, was discussed later in the meeting.*

*Adjournment-Closed Session: Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to make a recommendation concerning the awarding of a competitive targeted grant and a request from a Principal Investigator regarding a competitive grant. If adjournment is necessary, the meeting is expected to reconvene into open session.

DeLuca asked members to indicate any conflicts of interest on the applications under consideration. There being none, Lemanske moved adjournment of the meeting 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 and a request from a Principal Investigator regarding a competitive grant. Oliver seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Oliver made a motion to return to open session after considerable discussion of the two competitive targeted reapplications, the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science Award and the Human Proteomics Program, as well as discussion of the 2005 New Investigator Program grant, Effects of Statin Therapy on Vascular Properties and Outcomes in Diastolic Heart Failure Patients. Remington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

After returning to open session, MERC reaffirmed a decision made in closed session to discontinue the 2005 New Investigator Program grant, Effects of Statin Therapy on Vascular Properties and Outcomes in Diastolic Heart Failure Patients.

Remington moved approval of the competitive targeted reapplication for the Institute of Clinical and Translational Science Award with a request for additional budget information related to in-kind contributions of key personnel on the grant. McBride seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Drezner will receive $10,185,996 over three years. The reapplication budget was reduced by 25% and included the incorporation of the Wisconsin Network for Health Research program.

McBride moved approval of the competitive targeted reapplication for the Human Proteomics Program. Remington seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Moss will receive $200,000 over two years. When MERC’s funding ends, the Human Proteomics Program is expected to be financially independent through support from fee-for-service income and extramural grants, including R01, P01, and center grants.
11. Next meeting – September 14, 2009

DeLuca reported that the August 10 MERC meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will take place on September 14. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison