Minutes

UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Medical Education and Research Committee
June 9, 2008 at 5:00PM – Room 4201 Health Sciences Learning Center

Members Present: Sanjay Asthana, Bill Busse, Molly Carnes, Cindy Czajkowski, Paul DeLuca, Norm Drinkwater, Tom Grist, Jeff Grossman, Rick Moss, Greg Nycz, Mary Beth Plane, Patrick Remington, Gordon Ridley, Susan Skochelak, Rod Welch, George Wilding

Members Absent: Susan Goelzer, Cindy Haq, Javier Nieto, Jeff Stearns,

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

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

1. Approval of May 12, 2008 minutes

Busse moved approval of the May 12, 2008 minutes. Nycz seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. Announcements

DeLuca reported that the SHOW Symposium on May 14 was a productive and well-attended event. The symposium explained SHOW in the context of population health research and explored its potential contributions to the health of state residents. Experts shared their experiences in using data collected by population health surveys like SHOW. DeLuca noted on June 8 there was a front-page article on SHOW in the Wisconsin State Journal.

Frey reported that the Wingspread Conference entitled “The Wisconsin Infant Mortality Summit” successfully convened state and national experts to discuss infant mortality and created a coalition of partners to support an action plan for improving birth outcomes in Wisconsin. The conference included presentations by three national experts: Michael C. Lu, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of California, Los Angeles; Mario Drummonds, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, Inc.; and, Jeannette E. South-Paul, Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. The conference resulted in the development of an action plan with seven priority areas that include specific recommendations, evaluation criteria, and potential partners and resources. The OAC will discuss this action plan at its next meeting and will begin planning a comprehensive, multi-year strategy.

The web-based 2008 New Investigator Program (NIP) Request for Proposals was released on June 2. Targeted emails were sent to eligible applicants, as well as SMPH
Department Chairs and Center Directors. An announcement on release of the RFP was also included in the June issue of the SMPH Update. An orientation will be held for potential applicants on June 26. Applications are due on August 15. Top ranked applicants will be interviewed by MERC in November, and awards will be made in December.

The joint OAC/MERC meeting will take place on June 18. The agenda includes opening remarks from Dean Golden followed by presentations by the UW Survey Center on the Stakeholder Interview Report and by WPP staff on the Public Comment Survey. Following the presentations, OAC and MERC will discuss their efforts in developing the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan.

In order to align with the University’s annual requirement for faculty and academic staff to file an Outside Activities Report, notice was recently sent by Tonya Mathison to MERC members asking them to complete a MERC Conflict of Interest Questionnaire. Members must also provide a copy of their 2008 Outside Activities Report. This must be completed by June 30.


The MERC Five-Year Plan Subcommittee, which was convened to develop a draft of the MERC section of the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan and is made up of Busse, DeLuca, Drinkwater, Goelzer, Haq, Remington, and Skochelak, met for the first time on May 29. The subcommittee discussed the major recommendations of the Education, Research, and Community Engagement Strategic Plan Subcommittees, including: faculty expansion and development, education, research, community engagement, OAC/MERC collaboration, and MERC governance and membership. The Five-Year Plan Subcommittee will review an initial draft of the MERC section in July. The draft will be circulated to MERC soon thereafter.

4. MERC Executive Subcommittee report

The Executive Subcommittee discussed the interim report for the *Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW)* and was impressed with the substantial progress of the project over the past year, including establishment of the major components of SHOW’s infrastructure. DeLuca will follow-up with Javier Nieto regarding several recommendations before Nieto’s presentation to MERC in August. Remington added that Nieto’s presentation should include an explanation of what is done when an urgent health care need is identified during a patient exam.

DeLuca indicated that the remaining topics discussed at the June Executive Subcommittee meeting, including the no cost extension requests, the NIP final reports, and the Collaborative Health Sciences Program awards, will be covered later during today’s meeting.
5. Discuss requests for no cost extensions

Mount presented overviews of the following requests for no cost extensions:

Jennifer Eddy, MD, requested an extension of $38,841 for *Topical Honey for Diabetic Foot Ulcers* for the period 4/1/08 to 3/31/09. Due to problems in recruitment, Eddy’s team has been able to run the complete protocol with only seven patients. The protocol must be completed on 40 patients. The unspent funds will be used to continue the current strategy of having Dr. Mack see patients at Eau Claire Family Medicine, and to recruit a high-volume podiatry clinic to participate.

Robert Kalejta, PhD, requested an extension of $29,607 for *Cellular and Viral Determinants of HCMV Lytic and Latent Replication Cycles* for the period 2/1/08 to 8/31/08. The unexpended funds balance resulted due to delays in getting a research assistant assigned to the project. The extension will support continuation and wrap-up of the technical aims as described in the original proposal.

Nancy Sweitzer, MD, PhD, requested an extension of $79,318 for *Effects of Statin Therapy on Vascular Properties & Outcomes in Diastolic Heart Failure* for the period 4/1/08 to 3/31/10. Multiple delays were encountered: 1) Negotiations with Pfizer for study drug and with the GCRC delayed initial enrollment; 2) Time consuming process of executing an agreement for the tissue analysis; 3) Difficulty obtaining necessary support for cardiac and vascular ultrasound imaging; 4) Resignation of the study coordinator; and, 5) Difficulty identifying eligible subjects. Sweitzer expects to use the extension to successfully complete enrollment in the study during the next 12 months and complete follow-up within 18 months.

DeLuca reported that the Executive Subcommittee recommended approval of all three extension requests. In addition, the Executive Subcommittee will review Sweitzer’s next progress report since she requested a two-year extension. Busse moved approval of the no cost extension requests. Grist seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. Discuss New Investigator Program final reports

Drinkwater presented an overview of the final report for Douglas McNeel’s NIP grant, *Androgen receptor as an immunological target for the treatment of prostate cancer*. Drinkwater reported that the Executive Subcommittee was impressed that the promising results put Dr. McNeel well on his way toward translating his laboratory findings to exciting clinical applications. The Subcommittee noted the following accomplishments: 1) DOD Laboratory-Clinical Transition award, 2) application for a patent, 3) two presentations at the national meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, 4) a publication in the journal Prostate, and two additional manuscripts to be submitted this year.

Drinkwater presented an overview of the final report for Vladimir Spiegelman’s NIP grant, *GLI2 Protein Stabilization in the Activation of Hedgehog Signaling Pathway in*
**Prostate Cancer.** Drinkwater reported that the Executive Subcommittee was favorably impressed by the outcomes of the project and noted the publication of the results in the Journal of Biological Chemistry and Cancer Research, as well as an application for a patent. In addition, the PI has established a new collaboration with Dr. Anne Traynor and they are working on a project that received intramural support from the Investigator Initiated Trials program of the UW Comprehensive Cancer Center. WPP staff will follow-up to determine Dr. Spiegelman’s plans for obtaining extramural funding for future studies.

7. **Adjournment-Closed Session:** Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to consider the faculty recipients for the competitive Medical Education and Research Committee Collaborative Health Sciences Program awards. The meeting in not expected to reconvene into open session.

Remington moved that MERC adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1) (c), (e) and (f) to consider the faculty recipients for the competitive Medical Education and Research Committee Collaborative Health Sciences Program awards. Drinkwater seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

After considerable discussion regarding the applicants’ proposals and the scores and comments provided by the expert reviewers, Remington moved that MERC enter into open session. Plane seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

After returning to open session, Czajkowski moved reaffirmation of the motions made in closed session, including the agreement to interview the applicants who ranked in the top 11. Busse seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Interviews will take place on July 14.

DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison