

## **School of Medicine Research Coordinating Council (RCC)**

Minutes for Thursday, March 9, 2006

7:30-9:00 a.m., 251 BRB II/III

Present: Gaulton, Strom, Gur, Rader, Sehgal, Winston, Gocke

Absent: Drebin, Lazar, Metlay, Johnson, Schnall, Kaestner

### **Agenda**

- Cardiovascular Institute Presentation (Michael Parmacek, MD)
- Stem Cell Presentation (Stephen Emerson, MD, Ph.D.)

Prior to the start of the meeting, RCC members discussed different ways to provide institute or center members the ability to respond to the operational aspects of the center/institute. It was decided to convene lunch meetings with several center/institute members and a few RCC committee members to discuss the functionality of each center/institute. Joan Gocke will coordinate this activity with centers/institutes and RCC members.

### **Cardiovascular Institute Presentation (M. Parmacek)**

Dr. Michael Parmacek presented an update on the Cardiovascular Institute (CVI) (slides attached), and discussed the mission and progress of the CVI. Dr. Parmacek presented an internal assessment, focusing on strengths and weaknesses with regard to research, funding, and space. He noted that CVI clinical programs are poised to ascend to the top tier of national programs, but that a lack of connection exists between clinical faculty and basic and translational research faculty. Dr. Parmacek noted that the senior leadership of the Advisory Board had been vital in providing expert guidance and wisdom. Advantages of CVI membership were discussed, and responsibilities were specifically reviewed, as all members were required to participate in CVI educational and research programs. Dr. Parmacek presented a detailed organizational plan, noting areas where greater development and targeted recruitment will be required. Grants administration was discussed, and Dr. Parmacek noted difficulties between center and departmental grants' administration. This item, as well as concerns involving Penn "branding" will be discussed at April 6, 2006 RCC meeting. Finally, Dr. Parmacek noted that some specific issues such as a lack of wet and dry space and receiving credit for grants remain unresolved.

### **Stem Cell Presentation (S. Emerson)**

Dr. Stephen Emerson focused his presentation on the stem cell initiative at Penn, and called for the creation of a new institute. Dr. Emerson noted that stem cell biology remains the most important areas of biomedical research, and Penn has major competitive advantages. Institutional support for stem cell research remains high, and he encouraged Penn's research leadership to create this institute for stem cell excellence at Penn.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Gocke

***The next RCC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2006 in 301 BRB II/III from 7:30-9:00 am.***