

School of Medicine Research Coordinating Council (RCC)

Minutes for Thursday, April 6, 2006

7:00-9:00 a.m., 301 BRB II/III

Present: Drebin, Gaulton Gur, Kaestner, Metlay, Rader, Schnall, Strom, Gocke

Absent: Johnson, Lazar, Sehgal, Winston

Agenda

- Discussion—IDOM presentation
- Discussion and Review—Current Listing of Centers and Institutes, reviewing disease- or discipline-based designation and supported cores
- Discussion of the process for reviewing proposed Centers and Institutes
- Review of Proposed Centers
 - Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET) Trevor Penning
 - Comprehensive Neuroscience Center
 - Center for Digestive, Liver and Pancreatic Medicine (Anil Rustgi)

Requested Conversion from Type I Center to a Type II Center

- Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research (V. Lee)

Prior to the start of the meeting, RCC members discussed the impact that informal meetings with center/institute membership and RCC committee members would generate. Following a discussion, it was decided instead to convene a meeting with all center and institute directors to discuss system-wide concerns and issues.

Discussion—Institute for Diabetes, Obesity, and Metabolism (IDOM)

RCC members discussed Dr. Mitch Lazar's presentation (slides attached) on the status of the Institute for Diabetes, Obesity, and Metabolism (IDOM). The Committee felt that the IDOM is progressing well under Dr. Lazar's leadership, and noted the challenge of integrating the different groups into a single organization. RCC members noted that the IDOM offers a great capacity for collaboration, and urged Dr. Lazar to focus the building of the IDOM using new, translational initiatives and recruited faculty.

Discussion and Review—*Current Listing of Centers and Institutes, reviewing disease- or discipline-based designation and supported core*

RCC members began a general discussion regarding SOM centers and institutes and supported cores. It was noted that the SOM does not make a large financial investment in cores (\$200,000 for all cores per year), and there is a potential for inefficiency and a lack of uniqueness for the cores. A detailed discussion of all SOM cores will be held following a full center and institute review.

Discussion of the process for reviewing proposed Centers and Institutes

Dr. Gaulton reviewed the process for proposed Type-2 and 3 centers and institutes. Following a positive recommendation from the RCC, a proposed center/institute will make a formal presentation to the Standing Committee for approval. Proposed center and institute directors will be asked to make a 15-minute presentation, focusing their comments to include new developments since the proposals was submitted, with time for questions from the RCC members. The RCC will begin reviewing the

proposed institutes in the next few weeks, ideally starting the process with the Comprehensive Neuroscience Center. This proposed center was generated following a review of the mission, structure and programmatic direction of the Institute of Neurological

Sciences. It was noted that while Neuroscience is strong on campus, the institute lost some of its focus following the creation of the Department of Neuroscience. Following this presentation, Dr. Virginia Lee will be invited to present her request to convert her Type I Center, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research, to a Type II Center. The remainder of the proposed centers/institutes will be scheduled in subsequent meetings. It was noted that all of the currently proposed centers and institutes will be severely limited by a lack of SOM space.

Finally, the RCC discussed the serious issue of disenfranchised faculty in the SOM who feel distanced from critical decisions made by SOM and UPHS. Both Drs. Gaulton and Strom noted their concern and desire to examine this issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Gocke

The next RCC meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2006 in 301 BRB II/III from 8:00-9:00 am.