

School of Medicine Research Coordinating Council (RCC)

Minutes for Thursday, May 18, 2006

8:00-9:00 a.m., 301 BRB II/III

Present: Gaulton, Kaestner, Lazar, Metlay, Rader, Schnall, Sehgal, Strom, Winston, Gocke

Absent: Johnson, Drebin, Gur

Agenda

- **Presentation of the Comprehensive Neuroscience Center**

Dr. Gaulton presented RCC members with a historical perspective of the Institute for Neurological Sciences (INS) and the origin of the proposed Comprehensive Neuroscience Center. Representatives from the Neuroscience community, Drs. Irwin Levitan, Dwight Evans, Francisco Gonzalez-Scarano, and Sean Grady presented and discussed the proposal (attached) for a Comprehensive Neuroscience Center (CNC) which ideally will broaden the base of neuroscience in the School of Medicine. RCC members questioned how the proposed center would differ from the INS. The neuroscience group stated that the focus for the proposed center will be an increase in clinical and translational research, with an ultimate goal of improving neuroscience clinical care. It was noted that the INS has generally been seen as a resource for basic research. It is hoped that the INS would coordinate neuroscience research collaborations across campus as directed by the Office of the Provost, while the CNC would be focused on the SOM.

Following the presentation, RCC members discussed this initiative, noting that several strategic research initiatives, including the Institute for Aging (IOA) and the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research (CNDR) have not been included. RCC members noted that while there may be certain inherent tensions involved with central coordination of this center, it will be imperative to bring all groups together under one comprehensive umbrella to realize this cross-collaborative goal of increased translational research and improved clinical care.

Finally, RCC members noted that like the Cancer Center, this center would best be organized across disease lines and not departmental lines. Also mentioned as critically important for success will be the selection of a Center Director with recognized excellence in both basic research and clinical care.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Gocke

The next RCC meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2006 in 301 BRB II/III from 8:00-9:00 am.