

Minutes
Executive Subcommittee of the
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
June 3, 2008 at 4:30pm – Room 4141 HSLC

Members Present: Bill Busse, Paul DeLuca, Norm Drinkwater

Members Absent: Susan Goelzer, Jeff Grossman, Cindy Haq, Pat Remington, George Wilding

Staff: Ken Mount, Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith

DeLuca called the meeting to order at 4:35pm. Since there was no quorum, the three members present elected to discuss the items on the agenda with the understanding that no action could take place. The discussion will be shared with MERC.

1. Approval of May 5, 2008 minutes

Approval of the May 5, 2008 minutes was deferred until July.

2. Announcements

There were no announcements.

3. 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 in the Eau Claire area, Eddy's team has been able to run the complete protocol on only 7 ulcers. The protocol must be completed on 40 ulcers in order to determine a differential effect size of 27% or greater between topical honey and Aquagel. The unspent funds will be used to implement the protocol on the remaining 30 ulcers. This will be done in two ways: (1) continuing the current strategy of having Dr. Mack see patients at Eau Claire Family Medicine, and (2) recruiting 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 in execution of the study that have hampered progress: 1) Negotiations with Pfizer for study drug and with the GCRC delayed initial enrollment. 2) Time consuming process of executing an agreement with the Medical College of Wisconsin for the tissue analysis. 3) Difficulty obtaining necessary support for cardiac and vascular ultrasound imaging from the clinical echocardiography laboratory because of issues of staffing and turnover. 4) Resignation of the study coordinator. 5) Difficulty identifying eligible subjects. With a new plan in place, Sweitzer expects to use the extension to successfully complete enrollment in the study, as planned, during the next 12 months and complete follow-up within 18 months.

The members of the Executive Subcommittee present will suggest approval of all three requests for no cost extensions to MERC. Since Sweitzer requested a two-year extension, her next progress report will be reviewed by the Executive Subcommittee.

4. Discuss New Investigator Program (NIP) 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*. 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 notable 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*. The 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. DeLuca recommended following-up to determine Dr. Spiegelman's plans for obtaining extramural funding for future studies.

5. Discuss interim progress reports

Discussion of the interim progress report for Michael Fiore's grant, *The Wisconsin Smokers Health Studies*, was deferred until July. Dr. Fiore is planning to present the report to MERC in August.

DeLuca presented an overview of the interim progress report for Javier Nieto's grant, *Survey of the Health of Wisconsin*. DeLuca commented on the substantial progress of the project over the past year including establishment of the major components of SHOW's infrastructure. He recommended that Javier clarify the following during his presentation to MERC in August: 1) mode of conducting the survey questionnaires, 2) address selection and role of UNC Survey Department, 3) when the field team will begin collecting samples, 4) are samples portable to a new biorepository, if needed, 5) coordination of IT support, 6) detailed budget, 7) sustainability efforts.

6. 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 is not expected to reconvene into open session.

Since there was not a quorum, the Executive Subcommittee did not adjourn the meeting into closed session. After reviewing the results of the expert reviews of the 19 CHSP full applications, the Subcommittee formulated a recommendation to be discussed at the MERC meeting on June 9.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison