

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 18, 2013
2:15 P.M.
Doisy Research Center, 9th Floor Conference Room
Minutes

Members Present:

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., chair
Dale Dorsett, Ph.D.
John Edwards, M.D.
Joyce Koenig, M.D.
John Long, D.V.M.
Jane McHowat, Ph.D.
Michael Rauchman, M.D.
Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D.
John Tavis, Ph.D.
Joel Eissenberg, Ph.D., ex officio
Paul Hauptman, M.D., ex officio
Denise Johnson, ex officio
William Wold, Ph.D., ex officio

Members Excused:

Michael Meyer, ex officio
Raymond Tait, Ph.D., ex officio

Guests:

Michael Green, Ph.D.
William Siler, Ph.D.

Note: The August 28, 2013, and September 25, 2013, meetings were rescheduled to September 18, 2013.

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., chair, called the meeting of the Research Planning Committee (RPC) of the Saint Louis University School of Medicine to order at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, in the Doisy Research Center, 9th Floor Conference Room.

1.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the July 24, 2013, meeting were approved as submitted.

2.0 NEW BUSINESS

2.1 New Director of ORDS: William Siler, Ph.D., was appointed the new director of the Office of Research Development and Services (ORDS) in June 2013. Dr. Siler discussed

his plans for the department and proposed personnel changes. Dr. Siler asked that issues with staff be directed to him.

He recapped the change in the LOI (letter of intent) policy and explained that this change is one step in trying to simplify demands on investigators. Specifically LOI's do not need to be submitted to ORDS unless 1) limited submission situation, 2) sponsor requires budget beyond a simple lump sum value, 3) certification of compliance is required, or 4) institutional signature is required.

Contracts are the most troublesome issue facing ORDS and the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration, and finding solutions is a high priority for both offices.

The Facilities and Administration (F&A) policy is being revised due in part to investigators outside the School of Medicine who have acted to waive F&A without institutional approval or negotiated lower rates inappropriately.

It was agreed that Dr. Siler will meet quarterly with the RPC. His next update is scheduled for December 18, 2013.

- 2.2 Genomics Core Facility: Michael Green, professor, Department of Molecular Microbiology & Immunology, and director of the Microarray Core Facility presented a proposal to upgrade the equipment in the Genomics Core Facility. The current platform for data acquisition, the Affymetrix GeneChip microarray system, has been surpassed by next generation sequencing (NGS) technology as the platform of choice for large scale biology experiments. Dr. Green proposes the [Ion Torrent](#) (Life Technologies, Inc.) Proton NGS system to provide access to a platform that will not only fulfill our current needs for RNA profiling (RNA-Seq) and ChIP-Chip genomic analysis (ChIP-Seq), but also provide the flexibility for the core to expand services. The Proton NGS system is relatively inexpensive, but compares favorably in performance to other more expensive and complicated NGS platforms. A survey of the faculty indicates that there is a need for such an NGS platform at the University. Dr. Green also interviewed other core facilities that are using the Proton NGS system and the responses were overwhelmingly positive.

Dr. Green reported on the costs to lease and purchase the Ion Torrent. The RPC also discussed advantages and disadvantages of outsourcing sequencing needs. Dr. Di Cera asked Dr. Green for data on the cost to purchase the equipment with 2nd and 3rd year service agreements. This proposal will be discussed further at the October RPC meeting.

- 2.3 Faculty Supplemental Salary Compensation: Dr. Di Cera announced that the faculty supplemental salary compensation proposal recommended by the RPC was approved. The proposal is effective for both campuses in FY 2014. The supplement will be paid in a lump sum at the end of the fiscal year. Research Administration will make the announcement.

3.0 OLD BUSINESS

- 3.1 President's Research Fund: Dr. Di Cera announced that the application package for the October 15, 2013, cycle will be available today (September 18, 2013) and the winners of the May 2013 cycle will be announced on Monday, September 23, 2013. Dr. Di Cera asked Denise Johnson to update the PRF return on investment data.
- 3.2 Frontiers in Molecular Medicine: Dr. Di Cera asked that departments identify speakers and dates for the 2014 lecture series. The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology will host Pier Paolo Pandolfi, M.D, Ph.D., from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in September. Dr. Salvemini announced that the Department of Pharmacological and Physiological Science is talking to Karl Deisseroth, M.D., Ph.D., from Stanford University. Dr. Di Cera reported that Washington University has expressed an interest in co-sponsoring the Department of Pediatrics speaker.
- 3.3 Brainstorming – Research Priorities in the School of Medicine: Dr. DiCera asked the RPC members to consider one to three priorities for the RPC to champion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Sr. Planning Coordinator