

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
2:15 P.M.
Doisy Research Center, 9th Floor Conference Room
Minutes

Members Present:

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., chair
Thomas Burris, Ph.D.
Dale Dorsett, Ph.D.
Dan Hoft, M.D., Ph.D., for John Edwards, M.D., Ph.D.
Joyce Koenig, M.D.
Reigh-Yi Lin, Ph.D.
Jane McHowat, Ph.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 Rauchman, M.D.
John Long, D.V.M., *ex officio*
Raymond Tait, Ph.D., *ex officio*

Guest:

Mark Haenchen, M.S., J.D.

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, October 1, 2014, in the Doisy Research Center, 9th Floor Conference Room.

1.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the August 27, 2014, meeting were approved as submitted.

2.0 NEW BUSINESS

2.1 Safety in Academic Research: Mark Haenchen, M.D., J.D., requested to address the department chairs and faculty represented on the RPC to begin an ongoing dialogue on the culture of safety in laboratories. Tragic accidents in academic research laboratories in recent years have resulted in serious injuries and even death. Case studies were briefly reviewed, including an October 18, 2000, incident at the School of Medicine during which there was property damage but fortunately no injuries. The National Research Council of the National Academies of Science July 2014, report titled: "Safe

Science: Promoting a Culture of Safety in Academic Chemical Research” was reviewed. Mr. Haenchen highlighted the importance of School of Medicine leadership, including department chairs and faculty, for establishing strong safety culture in the laboratories they oversee. He looks forward to continued dialogue at future RPC meetings. A copy of Mr. Haenchen’s presentation is available in the office of Planning and Operations.

- 2.2 President’s Research Fund (PRF): Dr. Di Cera reviewed the results of the School of Medicine PRF survey that the RPC conducted in September. The following are the survey responses from the 64 faculty who completed the survey:

Should the maximum amount per grant be capped at \$25K or \$50K?

\$25K: 33 respondents

\$50K: 31 respondents

How many application cycles per year should the School of Medicine offer?

One Cycle: 3

Two Cycles: 61

Should any award be targeted to specific groups, such as junior faculty or clinician – scientist?

Yes: 23

NO: 41

Due to costs associated with establishing the Grants Development Office that were covered by funds set aside for internal awards, the funding available to support the PRF was reduced to \$500,000, approximately half its previous allocation. Consistent with historic levels of applications and funding, half of the available funds (\$250,000) will be allocated to the School of Medicine and the other half will be available to the rest of the University. The application deadline for the next PRF cycle is October 31, 2014.

Dr. Eissenberg, associate dean for research, announced that while the PRF competition for the rest of the University is restricted to the October round, the School of Medicine will maintain its current semi-annual competition.

- 2.3 Frontiers in Molecular Medicine: Dr. Di Cera reported that there are currently two speakers scheduled for the 2015 Frontiers in Molecular Medicine lecture series:

Thursday, January 8, 2015

Linda R. Watkins, Ph.D.

University of Colorado Distinguished Professor

“Listening” and “Talking” To Neurons: Clinical Implications of Glial Dysregulation of Pain, Opioid Actions and Drugs of Abuse

Hosted by the Department of Pharmacological and Physiological Science

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Shelley L. Berger, Ph.D.

Daniel S. Och University Professor
Departments of Cell & Developmental Biology; Biology; Genetics
Director, Epigenetics Program
University of Pennsylvania
"Epigenetic Regulation of Human Aging and Cancer"
Hosted by the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

RPC members were asked to talk to their department chairs regarding speakers.

- 2.4 Brainstorming – Strategic Planning for Research: Dr. Di Cera announced that Dean Alderson has requested input from the RPC on the University’s strategic planning process. He asked the RPC for suggestions for the strategic plan that would strengthen the School of Medicine’s research program.

Dr. Eissenberg reminded the RPC of the report that was generated by the School of Medicine Taskforce for Research Sustainability. This taskforce was assembled at the request of Dean Alderson to address the concern by an external reviewer that biomedical research at the School of Medicine may not be sustainable in its current form. With the dean’s permission, Dr. Eissenberg will distribute a copy of that report to the RPC.

3.0 RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 3.1 Dr. Eissenberg reported that the dates for the AOA symposium and the research poster contest will be announced soon.
- 3.2 Dr. Eissenberg reviewed several changes in the summer research program. He stressed the importance of students obtaining all necessary approvals needed to start working in a lab, and reported that paperwork with instructions is being developed for next year. Mentors will be asked to sign off on a statement acknowledging their commitment to the student.
- 3.3 Dr. Paul Hauptman, assistant dean, clinical-translational research, reported that a MD with Distinction in Research policy has been drafted and will be presented at the October 16, 2014, dean’s staff meeting. He will share the policy with the RPC upon approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations