

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 2020
2:30 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference
Minutes

Members Present:

David Ford, Ph.D., chairperson
Enrico Di Cera, M.D.
Rich DiPaolo, Ph.D.
Noah Hillman, M.D.
Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D.
Denise Johnson, ex officio
Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., ex officio
Christine Jacobs, M.D.
John Long, D.V.M., ex officio
Ravi Nayak, M.D.
Ken Olliff, D.Min., MBA, ex officio
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.
Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D.
Jeff Teckman, M.D.
John Walker, Ph.D.

Members Not Present:

William Wold, Ph.D.

Guests:

Joel Eissenberg, Ph.D.
Mark Haenchen, M.D., J.D.
Robert Wilmott, M.D.

The Minutes of the March 25, 2020, meeting were approved as submitted.

1. Guidance for Safe Distancing and Reduction of COVID-19 Exposure Potential in Research Laboratories

Mark Haenchen, executive director, Environmental Health and Safety, discussed the April 13, 2020 Draft "Guidance for Safe Distancing and Reduction of COVID-19 Exposure Potential in Research Laboratories" that was distributed prior to the meeting. RPC member feedback was collected for subsequent revision of the guidance document.

3. Grant Proposal Reviews

At the suggestion of the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee, Joel Eissenberg, Ph.D., shared his insights on processing grant proposals and the resources he can offer. He has years of experience in proofreading and editing for grammar and style. He enjoys editing proposals and manuscripts and is willing to share his service. He asked that faculty email him directly and allow 1-3 days to turn around.

4. Vice Dean, School of Medicine Research, Updates and Research Lab Continuity Plan

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., updated the Committee on the plan for research continuity in the DRC. He is developing guidelines, in preparation for the re-opening of research labs on both the north and south campuses. These guidelines will reference the Guidance for Safe Distancing and Reduction of COVID-19 Exposure Potential in Research Laboratories distributed by Mark Haenchen. His draft will be distributed to the Committee for input. Dr. Daniel Hoft cautioned that the availability PCR testing and PPE should be considered, and advised that we see a downward trend for two to four weeks before fully re-opening all labs.

Dean Wilmott informed the Committee that staff paid from NIH grants who are furloughed due to COVID-19, will be treated like other staff members.

5. OVPR Updates

Ken Olliff reported that he has asked Dr. Di Cera and Matthew Christian to work together in planning the re-opening of research labs on both campuses, understanding that there may be specific guidelines for the DRC.

The Saint Louis University Research Institute awarded more than \$765,000 in April to support innovations in research, along with critical, specialized equipment. The funding includes \$300,000 for rapid COVID-19 research.

6. Other Business

Dr. Ford updated the Committee on the impact of COVID-19 on NIH funding.

Dr. Di Paolo raised the issue of the University not having a material transfer agreement (MTA) with SSM for use of biological samples. This is very important for performing research on clinical samples from SSM labs

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations