

Research Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 24, 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.
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.
Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D.
Jeff Teckman, M.D.
John Walker, Ph.D.
William Wold, Ph.D.

Members Not Present:

Ken Olliff, D.Min., MBA, ex officio

Guests:

Jasmin Patel
Robert Wilmott, M.D.

1. The Minutes of the May 27, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. **Announcement of Mallinckrodt Award Selection**
Dr. Ford announced that Reza Dastvan, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was selected by the RPC as the University's candidate for the Mallinckrodt Limited Submission Competition.

3. **Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units (VTEU) Presentation**
Daniel Hoft, M.D., Ph.D., director, Division of Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology (IDAI), updated the Committee on the Center for Vaccine Development. Since 1990, IDAI, which is not supported by hard dollars, has received over \$150M in extramural funding. He highlighted the significant accomplishments of the Center and its contributions to vaccine licensure. The Center's contributions to the study of infectious diseases and vaccines include the clinical development of the intranasal FluMist vaccine, the development of safe and effective vaccines for smallpox and other potential bioweapons, and

testing of new vaccines designed to protect against pandemic influenza, tuberculosis, herpes simplex virus (HSV), hepatitis C, dengue, and other diseases. The Center converted part of the former hotel in the Salus Center to an extended stay research unit which can now accommodate 23 subjects. The current COVID-19 Phase 3 clinical trial could generate \$15M in funding. Phase 1 is currently in place; Phase 2 will be in place very soon.

Dr. Hoft addressed critical needs for the Center:

- Expansion/Succession plan (new physician scientists)
- New computational biology expertise for group
- Discretionary dollars for pilot/collaborative projects
- Discretionary dollars for training junior investigators
- Further renovations to extended stay research unit

A discussion followed Dr. Hoft's presentation on the need for the RPC to produce a very strong statement on the strengths of the Vaccine Center and the significance of being able to recruit physician scientists.

A copy of Dr. Hoft's presentation is available in the Office of Planning and Operations.

4. Quarterly and Annual SOM Extramural Funding

Enrico Di Cera, M.D., presented four graphs (distributed prior to the meeting) on School of Medicine extramural grant expenditures and NIH funding by investigator from FY2005 through May 2020. The number of NIH funded investigators in the School of Medicine has been cut in half over the past 15 years. The Committee strongly agreed that this is a trend that needs to be reversed. Dr. Ford offered to discuss these issues with the dean and administrators to bring these critical issues to their immediate attention.

5. The Clinical Trials Process Improvement (CTPI)

Oleg Kisselev, Ph.D., updated the Committee on the progress of the CTPI. It is the observation of the task force that administrative units involved in the review and approval of clinical trials are siloed and lacks organizational structure. The key issues that need improvement are (1) efficiency of the review and approval process; (2) process map; (3) education and training; and (3) study metrics and turnaround times.

6. Research Institute Fellows Policy for SOM

David Ford, Ph.D., gave a brief overview on the evolution of the Research Institute Fellows Policy for School of Medicine. In his June 18, 2020 email, Dr. Ford asked the RPC to consider several options and invited members to propose alternate mechanisms to be discussed for a vote at today's meeting. After discussing, it was agreed that membership should not be based on total funding and that the RPC

should either have the Dean or Departmental Chair nominate faculty as well as solicit feedback from the faculty.

7. Vice Dean, School of Medicine Research, Updates

Dr. Di Cera updated the Committee on the Research Lab Continuity Plan. The planning guidance for research lab space per employee has changed from 1 per 250 sq. ft. to 1 per 125 sq. ft. Given this change, the Doisy Research Center is basically operating at 100 percent.

9. Other Business

Dr. Ford announced that the School of Medicine was awarded \$300k from the Research Growth Fund, effective July 1, 2020, and that we need to be strategic on what we fund with this money.

The next RPC meeting will be in September. Please contact Dr. Ford if an issue arises before the September meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Johnson
Director, Planning and Operations