

2003-04 Annual Report – USF College of Medicine Committee on Research

The Committee on Research is made up of one representative from each Department in the College of Medicine plus one Medical Student and one graduate Student. The representatives serving on the committee during 2003-2004 were as follows:

Dr. Burt Anderson, Dr. Michael Barber, Dr. Paula Bickford, Odion Binitie, Dr. Jeanne Becker, Dr. Andrew Borkowski, Dr. Paul Boyev, Dr. Don Cameron, Dr. Javier Cuevas, Dr. Mary Evans, Dr. Eugene Fu, Dr. Thomas Guadagno, Dr. Maria Kallergi, Dr. Richard Heller, Dr. Kersti Linask, Dr. Murray Maitland, Dr. Ali Malek, Dr. David Richards, Dr. Jun Tan, Dr. Frances Sahebzamani, Dr. Joel Strom, Katya Wolski and Dr. Daniel Yip.

The HSC Office of Research works closely with the Committee on Research and includes: Dr. Phillip Marty, Sandra Anderson, Jo Ann Moore, Charmaine Disimile and Linda Lalli.

During 2003-2004 the committee worked on several initiatives related to research at the College of Medicine. The committee also serves as a conduit for Dr. Marty's office to relay information pertaining to research to the faculty. Below are highlights of the committee's work during the past year.

Excellence in Research Seminar series was initiated in the spring of 2004. The series brought outstanding speakers from outside the University as well as speakers from USF colleges outside the Health Sciences Center. The seminars were held on Wednesdays at noon. The series was well received and the seminars were well attended. Discussions are ongoing to continue the series in 2005.

COM Honors Research Program in Medical Sciences. Dr. Christopher Phelps, Chairman of Anatomy, addressed the committee on the topic of the current COM Honors Research Program in Medical Sciences. The committee agreed to help increase COM awareness of this program. The committee will work to generate a list of faculty members willing to be mentors, provide assistance in finding ways to integrate this program into the curriculum and to promote this program to the medical students.

Research Day: Each year the Committee on Research works with the HSC Office of Research to organize Research Day. This year's Keynote Speaker was Dr. Eric Green, M.D., Ph.D. Director, Division of Intramural Research, Chief, Genome Technology Branch, Director, NIH Intramural Sequencing Center national Human Genome Research Institute. Research Day details: Abstracts: 144 abstracts were accepted for presentation. 100 abstracts from graduate students, medical students, residents and post-docs were received for judging competition. Members of the research committee chaired the judging committees. This year in addition to the Watson Clinic Award, presented to a 4th year Medical Student for outstanding work, a Best Basic Sciences Award, presented to a Graduate Student for outstanding work, was presented.

Research growth plan: The committee formed a subcommittee and charged them with developing a plan to facilitate the growth of research at the college as well as the HSC as a whole.

The subcommittee suggested a 3-prong approach:

1. Faculty development - encourage, mentor and facilitate the submission of grants to federal agencies or other sources that return full indirect costs
2. Increase interactions between researchers in similar lines of research and encourage the submission of program projects and/or partnership grants
3. Encourage and increase translational research by facilitating interactions between basic and clinical scientists and by facilitating initiation of investigator initiated Phase I and II studies.

The committee also suggested a course of action for accomplishing each item. One of the key points discussed by the research committee as a whole was accountability. With respect to resource allocation, progress should be monitored to determine if continued support is warranted. There would also have to be clearly stated goals and milestones that need to be accomplished following a clear timeline.

Other items related to this initiative that were also discussed included. The Committee on Research is developing a formal request that future building plans include research space, as research is critical for growth of the university. A plan for additional research incentives should be initiated. The committee had several discussions on salary savings accounts and their importance to the research enterprise of the college.

Searchable HSC Research Directory. The committee discussed with Guy Hagen the possibility of developing a searchable research directory. The committee expressed the importance of this database. The directory will be keyword searchable and be accessible to the public and more information accessible to faculty with a password.

Pilot project funding: The research committee has been asked to be a part of how funds are allocated and to be involved in determining how the program will move forward. It was emphasized by several members that there was a need for having high impact and translational research and the need for accountability was emphasized.

Space Committee- Allocation of Research Space: The Committee on Research has been working with the Space Committee discussing issues of how to allocate research space. The research committee felt that research space allocation requests should go through the Committee on Research; research committee recommendations should then go to the Dean. Research committee would like to set criteria for space allocation for effective space allocation for research activities.