

Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee
University of Tennessee, College of Medicine

December 4, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Jerome Thompson, at 12:00 PM on December 4, 2017, in the Coleman building, Room A142.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Julio F. Cordero-Morales, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Denis DiAngelo, PhD, Mary Peyton Gupta, MD, Rebecca Anne Krukowski, PhD, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Linda Myers, MD, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Fruz Pourmotabbed, PhD, Larry Reiter, PhD, Reese Scroggs, PhD, Burt Sharp, MD, Claudette Shephard, MD, MD, Ryan Sullivan, DVM, Jerome Thompson, MD, MBA, Mardin Donaldson, DDS

The following guest(s) was (were) present:

Steve Goodman, PhD; Steve Youngentob, PhD; Susan Senogles, PhD

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means.

Business

Drs. Steve Goodman and Steve Youngentob updated the DFAC on research activities at UTHMC.

Dr. Goodman discussed:

- Implementation of Operational Strategic Plan for Research
- New Institutes and Planned Institutes
- Memphis Institute of Regenerative Medicine and Revotek
- Clinical Trials Network of TN/CTN2

Dr. Youngentob discussed:

- Animal Care and Use Pgm
- Sponsored Programs.

Regarding implementation of the Operational Strategic Plan for Research, Dr. Goodman described a 92-page document outlining UTHSC's 5-yr plan for research, which is now very actively in implementation. Specific teams are focusing on basic research, clinical research, health services/population research, informatics, research cores, research infrastructure, cross-cutting platforms, and collaborations & entrepreneurship. Additionally there is an integration team led by Dr. Goodman. He said that progress in implementing the plan has been very strong, and that virtually everything planned for the first two years has now been completed, within this first year.

Dr. Goodman went on to discuss new institutes, including the Institute for Study of Host Pathogen Systems, and the Institute for Biomarker and Molecular Therapeutics. Institutes planned for the future include: the Memphis Institute for Sickle Cell Disease Research; a Toxicology/Toxicogenomics Institute, and an Institute for Aging Research. Currently we are close to hiring a new director for the Neuroscience Institute.

Next, regarding the Memphis Institute of Regenerative Medicine, Dr. Goodman noted that Dr James Kang of Sichuan, China, is well known for successfully creating artificial blood vessels. His blood vessels have been successfully used in monkeys, and trials in pigs are under way. Culminating from an involved process of negotiation, Dr. Kang is bringing his company, Revotek, here to Memphis and will be transferring his U.S. academic affiliation from the University of Louisville to UTHSC. He will be making his blood vessels in the Plough Center, and trials in humans are expected to begin soon after he arrives here.

Finally, Dr. Goodman described the Clinical Trials Network of TN. CTN2 is a statewide, multi-state clinical trial facilitator. It is hospital operated, academically supported, will enable superior performance, and will soon function within a separate 501c3 entity that can work with pharmaceutical and device companies, to conduct clinical trials. The CTN2 will contract with UTHSC to use IT resources, to secure an enterprise data warehouse of patient data. It will also contract with a central IRB for protocol review. An important service will be the capacity to tell a pharmaceutical or device company immediately whether, for instance, the CTN has a certain number of people over age 50 with diabetes and certain other characteristics, within its patient panel. The company can then know immediately whether the CTN2 will be a good place to conduct its next drug or device trial.

Dr. Steve Youngentob then turned to enhancements to UTHSC's Animal Care and Use Program. Within the IACUC, the submission and review processes have been streamlined considerably, now showing a 3-fold decrease in time to approval. Part of this tightening has been achieved via a mandatory pre-review process that can help investigators develop a high-quality protocol, prior to submission. Additionally, the IACUC now meets twice per month instead of once. Also, instead of requiring all IACUC members to review every protocol, some protocols are now reviewed by designated members who can act on behalf of the committee, for protocols that are fairly straightforward. At that point the committee's time, as a whole, can focus on the more difficult, complex protocols. Dr. Youngentob indicated that in 2018 the online submission form will be considerably streamlined.

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit/LACU has undergone many changes, which recently culminated in a very successful ALAC site visit; the visit yielded a full approval with no significant deficiencies. Staff roles and responsibilities have now been more clearly defined, and all staff are required to be certified for husbandry. A new LACU Training Coordinator/Quality Assurance position has now been created, to work with husbandry staff and ensure they know clearly what needs to be done, and who will do it. Ongoing training will include lab health and safety, equipment use/maintenance, animal care and husbandry, including facility sanitization, technical procedures, quality control, etc

Dr. Youngentob then focused on the unified Office of Sponsored Programs, designed to be a "one-stop shop" unifying all pre- and post-award functions not just for the main UTHSC campus, but also including the regional campuses (Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville). The Office of Research should support all activities associated with the life cycle of an award, including grant writing support, scientific editing and the like, as well as award management, specialized contracting and compliance.

In February 2017 the concept was approved; effective July 30, 2017 the Office of Research encompasses data use agreements, equipment releases, and related functions. At this point the average number of days to approving new contracts has shrunk by more than half.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on January 8, 2017, at 12:00 Noon in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary