

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FACULTY FORUM
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**
(Fiscal Year 2003-2004 - July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004)

June 2004

I. Background

A. Composition

The Research Committee (RC) is a standing committee of the School of Medicine and is composed of eight members, elected by the Executive Faculty to staggered three-year terms. Four members are from preclinical departments and four from clinical departments.

Committee for Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Pamela Feldhoff (Chair)	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
John Fleming, Ph.D.	Physiology and Biophysics
David Garver, M.D.	Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
David Gozal, M.D.	Pediatrics
Mark Linder, Ph.D.	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Craig McClain, M.D.	Medicine
Christopher States, Ph.D.	Pharmacology and Toxicology
Michael Voor, Ph.D.	Orthopedic Surgery
Peter Rowell, Ph.D.	ex-officio

B. Function

The RC administers the following programs:

- Intramural Grants Program
- Travel Awards Program
- Summer Research Scholar Program
- Student and Post-Graduate Research Days

Other activities include assistance in planning Research!Louisville events; review of applicants and letters of intent for periodic extramural requests for proposals; nomination of candidates for the President's Outstanding Scholarship Research and Creative Activity Award; and new projects that impact on the research environment at the School of Medicine.

C.

Budget – FY 2003-2004

Unrestricted Research and Travel Funds	\$ 60,000
Restricted Research and Travel Funds*	\$ 108,245
Bridge Grants	\$ 60,000
One-time Allocations	\$ 130,632
Summer Research Scholar Program	<u>\$ 66,000</u>
	\$ 424,877

*Cardiovascular disease, cancer, tuberculosis, or multiple sclerosis

D. Contact Information

Information about any of the RC programs can be obtained from Ms. Mellen Rowe, HSC Research Office, Suite 404, Delia Baxter Research Building (852-6439).

II. Small Grants Program

A. Description

The RC intramural grants program seeks to enhance the research productivity of medical school faculty by funding new projects that may lead to competitive extramural funding (Basic Grants Program), or by providing interim support for established investigators who have lost funding (Bridge Grants Program). Funds are distributed to faculty as competitive grants in four cycles per year. Proposals are reviewed by committee members and disposition is made by consensus. Investigators receive detailed, written critiques intended to constructively enhance their projects.

Proposals are sought from executive faculty, which includes full-time instructors, assistant professors, associate professors, and professors. This excludes investigators with titles such as Research Scientist. In the Basic Grants Program, investigators are assigned to one of two priority levels.

Career Status I: Newly appointed (within three years) faculty members with an academic rank of associate professor or lower and having no extramural funding.

Career Status II: All other applicants

Approved proposals are given a funding priority (High, Moderate) based on the reviews. The maximum award amount is \$15,000, and other than faculty salaries and travel, there are no *a priori* budget restrictions. Grants that are approved but not funded can be maintained for additional review cycles up to a maximum of three.

In the Bridge Grant Program, applications are entertained only from investigators who were recent (within two years) principal investigators of national extramural grants and have temporarily lost funding. Examples of grants that confer eligibility for bridge funding are National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, National Science Foundation, and Veterans Administration. Investigators are eligible for this program regardless of academic rank, but the program will be self-contained and the investigators will not compete with others in the Basic Grants Program. Proposals are given a funding priority based on the reviews. The maximum award is \$15,000.

The grant application is included in Appendix A.

B. Activity

From July 2003 through June 2004, the Committee received 10 proposals. Five were approved at first submission and were funded in the cycle approved. One proposal was funded as a

resubmission from a previous cycle; one proposal was not approved; and two proposals are pending revision and resubmission.

One of the ten proposals was submitted as a request for Bridge funding and was approved for Bridge funds.

III. Travel Awards Program

A. Description

The RC provides funds to help defray travel costs of medical school investigators, who are presenting their work at national or international scientific meetings. A maximum of \$300 is available to the presenting author of each paper, with a limit of one award per investigator per fiscal year. Highest priority applicants are faculty members followed by graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows. In cases where the RC has previously funded travel, some explanation of the outcome of that work must be provided. Travel, which can be related to the Restricted Research areas, can be funded from that source. See Appendix B for the application to request travel funds.

B. Activity

To date, the Committee funded 31 travel grants from July 2003 through June 2004; six from faculty members, 16 from graduate students and 9 from postdoctoral fellows.

IV. Summer Research Scholar Program (SRSP) and Student Research Day

A. Description

The RC funds stipends for incoming first year and rising second year medical students to participate in research during the summer months. Project descriptions are solicited from faculty in January of each year. Proposals are reviewed by two committee members and offered to students if approved. Historically, only one or two projects per year have not been approved and it is felt that the review process has strengthened the program. Medical students review these proposals during April and contact the investigators on projects that interest them. Students are expected to gain first-hand experience in all aspects of the design, execution, and analysis of the work. In addition, students are expected to attend the "Bench to Bedside course (PHCI 501) offered by the School of Public Health. This one-hour course meets on a weekly basis and will introduce the students to the basics of clinical research. Students participating in this program present their research in poster format at the Annual Student Research Day in the fall.

Student posters are judged by faculty volunteers on Student Research Day and winners are chosen from freshmen, sophomore, and graduate student divisions. Students who did not participate in the SRSP but who completed a research project at UofL through other mechanisms are invited to present their research as well. Medical student category winners receive \$500 for first place and \$300 for second place and present their work at the regional

competition in Omaha, Nebraska. If they win there, they present at the national competition in Galveston, Texas. Students who win first place at Nationals are eligible to receive up to \$500 reimbursement (plus registration and membership fees, when required) towards the cost of attendance at a national meeting of their choice within one year of Student Research Day.

The Graduate Student Division is open to all graduate students working in health/life sciences related areas in departments on the Health Sciences Campus and the Belknap Campus in which medical related research is being conducted. First and second place winners, receive \$500 and \$300, respectively, and receive up to \$1000 to present their work at a national meeting, of the mentor's choice. A third place award of \$300 is presented but without funds to present at a national meeting. The Graduate Student awards are supported by the Graduate School and travel is supported by the Office of the Vice President for Research

B. Activity

Summer of 2003: A total of 42 projects were submitted as potential projects for the SRSP. Upon review, 38 projects were approved and then selected by the students. (One student withdrew from the program) The stipend level for each student was \$2,900. Stipend support for the students was through the Summer Research Scholar Program (26); a training grant (8); a cancer education grant (2) and one student was supported through the M.D./Ph.D. Program. Student Research Day was held November 3, 2003. A total of 114 students participated as follows:

First Year Medical Students – 19
Second Year Medical Students – 25
Fourth Year Medical Students – 2 (non-competitive)
Graduate Students-HSC and Belknap – 68

Winners of the competition are listed in Appendix C.

The RC coordinated the Postgraduate Research Day event, held November 4, 2003, during Research!Louisville. There were 19 Residents/Clinical Research Follows and 32 Postdoctoral Research fellows who participated. Winners for the Residents/Clinical Research and the Postdoctoral Research Divisions are also listed in Appendix C.

V. President's Award for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

(December 2003/January 2004) The RC forwarded the names of Dr. Roberto Bolli, in the category of Basic and Applied Sciences; and Dr. Elias Klein, in the category of Career Achievement, to the University-Wide Screening Committee.