

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FACULTY FORUM
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

November, 2001

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. Members for the 2000/2001 academic year were:

Pamela Feldhoff (Chair)	Biochemistry
Nigel Cooper	Anatomy
Rif El-Mallakh	Psychiatry
John Fleming	Physiology
David Gozal	Pediatrics
James Jumblatt	Ophthalmology
Vaclav Vetvicka	Pathology
Mark Wilson	Surgery

Mark Wilson left the University 12/31/00. Richard Haddy, Family and Community Medicine, was appointed to serve the remainder of Dr. Wilson's term.

B. Function

The RC works in conjunction with the Associate Dean for Research of the School of Medicine and is charged with advising the Dean on matters pertaining to research. The RC administers the following programs:

Intramural Grants Program
Travel Awards Program
Summer Research Scholar's 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

Unrestricted Research and Travel Funds	\$ 60,000
Restricted Research and Travel Funds*	\$ 91,446
Bridge Grants	\$ 60,000
One-time Allocations	\$ 24,937
Summer Research Scholar Program	<u>\$ 66,000</u>
	\$302,383

*Cardiovascular disease, cancer, tuberculosis, or multiple sclerosis

D. Contact Information

Information about any of the RC programs can be obtained from Ms. Mellen Rowe, SOM Research Office, Room 217, Abell Administration Center (852-7794).

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 4 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, which were approved by Faculty Forum on June 14, 2000.

Career Status I: Newly appointed (within 3 years) faculty members with an academic rank of associate professor or lower and having no extramural funding.

Career Status II: All other applicants

Proposals are given a funding priority (High, Moderate, Lower) based on the reviews. In December, 2000, the RC agreed to eliminate the "lower" priority for funding category and now gives a "highest" or a "moderate" rating to approve grants. 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 2 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.

B. Activity

From July 2000 through June 2001, the RC considered 16 proposals. Eleven were approved at first submission; 2 are pending revision and resubmission; 2 were not approved; and 1 grant was returned for revision and was not resubmitted. Of the 11 approved grants, only 6 were funded in the cycle during which they were approved; 3 were funded during a subsequent cycle; and 2 approved grants were negated by resubmissions. Two of the grants were funded as "Bridge Grants".

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 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.

B. Activity

The RC awarded travel grants to 10 faculty members, 19 graduate students and 9 postdoctoral fellows in 2000/2001.

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

A. Description

The RC funds stipends for freshman and sophomore 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, they are required to present their results in poster format at the Annual Student Research Day in the fall. Eight student projects (chosen from among those ranked as highly meritorious) are funded by a federal grant (Project Director: Dr. Barbara McLaughlin), and a weekly didactic session is given to all students on aspects of research design and presentation.

Student papers 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 did research projects through other mechanisms are invited to present papers as well. First and second place winners receive \$500 and \$300, respectively, and present their work at the regional competition in Omaha, Nebraska, and 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.

B. Activity

Forty-one projects were submitted as potential projects for the SRSP. Five were rejected upon review. One of the latter was approved upon revision and resubmission. The Summer Research Scholar's Program supported 31 medical students during the summer of 2000. The RC provided a stipend of \$2,856 and up to \$400 for supplies. Student Research Day was held October 30, 2000, the first day of Research!Louisville. Divisions were 1st Year Medical Students (9), 2nd Year Medical Students (24), Graduate Students-HSC (25) and Graduate Students-Belknap (12). The program was a great success. Winners of the competition are listed in Appendix A. It should be noted that Sarah Jernigan, medical student, and Larry Bozulich, graduate student, went on to the National Competition in Galveston with Ms. Jernigan bringing home a 1st place award.

The RC coordinated the Postgraduate Research Day event, held October 31, 2000, during Research!Louisville. Winners for the Clinical Research and the Postdoctoral Research Divisions are also listed in Appendix A.

Following Research!Louisville 2000, the RC recommended the following changes for 2001:

1. That there be one Graduate Student Division which will include Belknap Graduate Students presenting biomedical research projects and HSC Graduate Students. This suggestion was approved by Dr. Ed Essock, Belknap coordinator, and Dr. Ron Atlas, Dean of the Graduate School.
2. Graduate student winners (first and second place) be awarded a trip (up to \$1000) to present their work at a national meeting, of the mentors choice, rather than compete at the Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum. This recommendation was approved by Dr. Ron Atlas, Dean of the Graduate School and Dr. Nancy Martin, Vice President for Research.

In spring, 2000, it was brought to our attention that the SRSP student stipend was being taxed as self-employment. With the help of Terry Gossom, the situation was remedied for the 2000 participants and for future participants. The SRSP students will receive a 1099 form indicating the stipend amount but listed so that they will not be subject to self-employment tax.

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

The RC forwarded the name of Dr. Peter Rowell, in the category of Basic and Applied Sciences, to the University-Wide Screening Committee.