

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FACULTY FORUM
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

(Fiscal Year 2001-2002 - July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002)

(Fiscal Year 2002-2003 - July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003)

June 2003

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 2001-2002

Pamela Feldhoff (Chair)	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Nigel Cooper	Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology
John Fleming	Physiology and Biophysics
David Gozal	Pediatrics
Richard Haddy	Family and Community Medicine
James Jumblatt	Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Mark Linder	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Craig McClain	Medicine

Committee for Fiscal Year 2002-2003

Pamela Feldhoff (Chair)	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Nigel Cooper	Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology
John Fleming	Physiology and Biophysics
David Gozal	Pediatrics
Richard Haddy	Family and Community Medicine
Mark Linder	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Craig McClain	Medicine
Christine Ritchie	Medicine

Due to inaccurate department affiliation on the 2002 SOM election ballot in which dual department representation resulted, Dr. Christine Ritchie was asked to withdraw as a member from the Committee in February 2003. A replacement was elected in the spring 2003 election, to finish the last two years of her term (effective July 1, 2003).

B. Function

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.	<u>Budget – FY 2001-2002</u>	
	Unrestricted Research and Travel Funds	\$ 60,000
	Restricted Research and Travel Funds*	\$ 103,947
	Bridge Grants	\$ 60,000
	One-time Allocations	\$ 52,737
	Summer Research Scholar Program	<u>\$ 66,000</u>
		\$ 342,684
	 <u>Budget – FY 2002-2003</u>	
	Unrestricted Research and Travel Funds	\$ 60,000
	Restricted Research and Travel Funds*	\$ 110,075
	Bridge Grants	\$ 60,000
	One-time Allocations	\$ 78,620
	Summer Research Scholar Program	<u>\$ 66,000</u>
		\$ 374,695

*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 213, Abell Administration Center (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 3 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 2001 through June 2002, the Committee received 13 proposals. Nine were approved at first submission, eight were funded in the cycle approved and one was funded in a subsequent cycle. One proposal is pending revision and resubmission; two were not approved and one proposal was withdrawn prior to review.

The withdrawn proposal was submitted as a Bridge Grant and was withdrawn by the investigator before the Committee met due to the investigator's extramural grant being funded.

From July 2002 through June 2003, the Committee received nine proposals. Seven were approved at first submission, four were funded in the cycle approved, one was funded in a subsequent cycle and one was funded as a resubmission from FY 2001 – 2002. One proposal was returned for revision but was not resubmitted. One proposal was not approved.

One of the nine proposals was submitted and approved as a Bridge grant and is pending funding approval by the Vice Dean for Research.

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

From July 2001 through June 2002 the Committee funded 31 travel grants; nine from faculty members, 18 from graduate students and four from postdoctoral fellows.

The Committee funded 43 travel grants from July 2002 through June 2003; eight from faculty members, 25 from graduate students and 10 from postdoctoral fellows.

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, a weekly didactic session is given to all students on aspects of research design and presentation and they are required to present their results 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 did research projects at UofL through other mechanisms are invited to present papers 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.

There is one Graduate Student Division that includes Belknap Graduate Students presenting biomedical research projects and HSC Graduate Students. 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. In 2002, a third place award of \$300 was presented but without funds to present at a national meeting. The Graduate Student awards are supported by the Graduate School and the Office of the Vice President for Research

B. Activity

Summer of 2001: There were 41 projects submitted as potential projects for the SRSP. Upon review, 38 projects were approved. The Summer Research Scholar's Program supported 31 medical students at a stipend level of \$2,928. An additional \$400 was made available to the

mentors for supplies. Student Research Day was held October 29, 2001 with 103 students participating as follows:

First Year Medical Students – 11
Second Year Medical Students – 24
Graduate Students-HSC and Belknap – 68

Winners of the competition are listed in Appendix C.

The RC coordinated the Postgraduate Research Day event, held October 30, 2001, during Research!Louisville. There were 15 Clinical Research Follows and 28 Postdoctoral Research fellows, who participated. Winners for the Clinical Research and the Postdoctoral Research Divisions are also listed in Appendix C.

Summer of 2002: There were 38 projects submitted as potential projects for the SRSP. Upon review, 37 projects were approved. The Summer Research Scholar's Program supported 36 medical students at a stipend level of \$2,900. Due to the termination of a federal grant that provided supplemental support for the SRSP, no funding was made available to the mentors for supplies. Student Research Day was held October 28, 2002. We had 102 students participating as follows:

First Year Medical Students – 12
Second Year Medical Students – 27
Graduate Students-HSC and Belknap – 63

Winners of the competition are listed in Appendix C.

The RC coordinated the Postgraduate Research Day event, held October 29, 2002, during Research!Louisville. There were 24 Clinical Research Follows and 35 Postdoctoral Research fellows who participated. Winners for the Clinical Research and the Postdoctoral Research Divisions are also listed in Appendix C.

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

In December 2001, the RC forwarded the name of Dr. Nicholas Delamere, in the category of Basic and Applied Sciences, to the University-Wide Screening Committee.

In December 2002, the RC forwarded the name of Dr. David Hein, in the category of Basic and Applied Sciences, to the University-Wide Screening Committee.