

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FACULTY FORUM
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Fiscal Year 2005-2006 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)

I. Background

A. Composition

Committee for Fiscal Year 2005-2006

J. Christopher States, Ph.D. (Chair)	Pharmacology & Toxicology
Christian Apfel, M.D.	Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine (through 3/1/06)
Douglas Dean, Ph.D.	Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
David Gozal, M.D.	Pediatrics
Haval Shirwan, Ph.D.	Microbiology & Immunology
Suresh Tyagi, Ph.D.	Physiology & Biophysics
Michael Voor, Ph.D.	Orthopedic Surgery
Stephanie Webb, Ph.D.	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Wayne Zundel, Ph.D.	Radiation Oncology (completing Dr. Apfel's term - 3/1/06 – 6/30/07)

B. Function

The Research Committee (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, 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 2005-2006

Unrestricted Research and Travel Funds	\$ 60,000
Restricted Research and Travel Funds*	\$ 112,932
Bridge Grants	\$ 60,000
One-time Allocations	<u>\$ 225,797</u>
2005-06 Research Committee Budget	\$458,729
Summer Research Scholar Program	<u>\$ 66,000</u>
2005-06 budget including SRSP	\$524,729

*Bales Endowment - cardiovascular disease, cancer, tuberculosis, or multiple sclerosis research

*Barkley Endowment – heart research

Budget changes - Dr. Mark Pfeifer informed Dr. States, chair of the committee that the Bales monies would be used for other programs and initiatives, but would be available for eligible funding requests from the Committee and reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Research Committee made funding recommendations for Bales eligible grants and travel to Dr. Pfeifer and he then made his recommendations to Terry Gossom's office for funding. The Barkley Endowment remains available to the RC.

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 (852-7794)

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 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 executive faculty without current extramural funding

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.

Web address: <http://research.louisville.edu/medicine/school-of-medicine-intramural-grants>

B. Activity

From July 2005 through June 2006, the Committee received 17 grant proposals including new and resubmitted grants for each cycle. Six were approved at first submission. Three of the approved at first submission were submitted as Bridge applications and all were funded as basic grants with one from unrestricted funds and two from Bales funds. Four first submissions were asked to revise and resubmit, one asked to revise and resubmit a second time and one resubmitted grant was disapproved at second submission. Two resubmitted grants were approved upon first resubmission. One approved grant but not funded due to lack of funds was carried into this fiscal year. This grant was considered at the August and November meetings and was not funded due to lack of funds. The guidelines state that grants approved but not funded can be maintained for additional review cycles up to a maximum of three.

III. Travel Awards Program

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, a peer-reviewed manuscript (published or accepted for publication) deriving from that work must accompany the new travel request. Travel, which can be related to the Restricted Research areas, can be funded from that source.

Web address: <http://research.louisville.edu/medicine/request-for-travel-funds>

B. Activity

From July 2005 through June 2006, the Committee received 29 travel grant requests; two requests were not funded and/or denied. The breakdown for those funded include:

Faculty members – 8
Graduate students – 10
Postdoctoral fellows – 9

IV. Summer Research Scholars 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. Entering and rising second year M.D./Ph.D. students are given priority. Project descriptions are solicited from faculty in January of each year. Proposals are reviewed by two committee members and offered to students if approved. Proposals judged as appropriate for M.D./Ph.D. research are offered to those students prior to being offered to other medical students. Historically, only a few 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 introduces the students to the basics of clinical research. Students participating in the SRSP program present their research in poster format at the Annual Student Research Day in the fall.

Student posters are judged by faculty and post-doctoral fellow volunteers on Student Research Day and winners are chosen from medical 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 2005: A total of 106 projects were submitted as potential projects for the SRSP. Upon review, 94 projects were approved and 47 students selected projects. Two projects were withdrawn by the faculty mentor after approval. Support for the students was through the Summer Research Scholar Program (SOM Research Committee) [37], a Cancer Education Grant [4], an Endocrine Society Grant [1] and a T35 Training Grant [5]. The stipend amount funded through the Research Committee was \$3,000 and the others were paid as stipulated on each grant.

Student Research Day was held Monday and Tuesday, October 31 and November 1, 2005. A total of 154 students participated as follows:

First Year Medical Students – 7
Second – Fourth Year Medical Students – 50
Nursing/Public Health Graduate Students – 8
Dental Students – 9
Masters Basic-Science Students – 21
Doctoral Basic-Science Students – 59

Competition winners are listed in Appendix C

The RC coordinated the Postgraduate Research Day event held November 2, 2005, during Research!Louisville. There were 11 Medical Residents, 13 Clinical Research Fellows and 50 Postdoctoral Research Fellows who participated. Winners for these three categories are listed in Appendix C.

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

(December 2005/January 2006) The RC forwarded the names of Dr. Suzanne T. Ildstad, in the category of Basic and Applied Sciences; and Dr. William M. Pierce in the category of Career Achievement, to the University-Wide Screening Committee. Dr. Pierce received the President's Award in the Career Achievement category.