

**Graduate Medical Sciences Education Committee
University of South Florida College of Medicine
Annual Report 2005-2006**

The committee is advisory for all aspects of medical sciences graduate education and graduate student life. The committee is involved in curricular development for each of the degree and certificate programs, for the recruitment and admissions of our graduate students, for their education and welfare, and eventually for their future as productive and creative scientists. The COM confers Ph.D., M.S. and M.A. degrees as well as Graduate Certificates, all of which fall under the aegis of this committee.

The "Multidisciplinary Biomedical Sciences" Ph.D. Program (MBS) has just entered into its fourth year. Due to ongoing modifications of the MBS program (see below), this represents the last year in which students could apply to the Medical Sciences Ph.D. program through one of two tracks: 1) They could have applied directly to one of the seven discipline-based departments/programs (e.g. Neuroscience, Pathology), or 2) They could have applied to the MBS program. For the next academic year, students can only apply to the MBS program or to the Neuroscience program. The MBS program admits the majority of incoming students to the COM Ph.D. program with 10 students entering in August 2005. Twelve more students entered the MBS program in August 2006 and 11 M.A., 23 M.S. and 10 Ph.D. students graduated within the past academic year.

Pursuant to the re-organization of the Basic Science Departments and the Vice Dean for Research's goals for the COM Medical Sciences Graduate Program to improve the Ph.D. program, the committee has initiated graduate faculty credentialing and discussion on a unified Ph.D. curriculum. The latter primarily involves modifications to GMS 6001 "Foundations in Biomedical Science" and an outline/timeline for students' progression through research proposal development, an NIH-like grant format for comprehensive Ph.D. candidacy exams and requirements for graduation. In addition, given the current federal funding climate, a policy for bridge funding to support Ph.D. graduate student stipends has been adopted. Lastly, following the retirement of Dr. Krzanowski as Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs, the committee welcomed Dr. Michael Barber as the new Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs.

In addition to our typical efforts and the development and administration of the MBS program and common Fall semester curriculum, the committee broadly oversees several new Master's Degree Programs. There were thirteen different Master's degree programs in existence prior to this year. Three new discipline-based Master's Degree Programs were approved by the committee: Medical Sciences, Clinical Research and Biotechnology. In addition, the committee also approved an additional interdisciplinary and intercollegiate Graduate Certificate Program in Cardiovascular Engineering. Lastly, the committee supported the M.D./Ph.D. program as developed.

The committee's efforts continue to strive to improve graduate education at the COM, both at the Ph.D. and Master's levels. We encourage anyone interested to comment and/or to offer assistance to the committee as we continue our efforts to foster multidisciplinary and intercollegiate graduate education at the COM. Please contact me at pkruk@health.usf.edu with any questions or comments.

Sincerely on behalf of the COM Graduate Medical Sciences Education Committee,

Patricia Kruk
Chair

Committee members for 2005-2006 academic year: Burt Anderson *, Michael Barber, Eric Bennett, Paula Bickford, Gloria Ferreira, Patricia Kruk, Joseph Krzanowski*, Peter Medveczky, Joshua O'Donnell*, Mackenzie Ott*, Keith Pennypacker, Lois Nixon, Samuel Saporta and Ken Ugen*

*Served on the committee for a portion of the academic year.