

**Graduate Medical Sciences Education Committee
University of South Florida College of Medicine
Annual Report 2006-2007**

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 fifth year. Due to ongoing modifications of the MBS program (see below), this represents the first year in which students could only apply to the Medical Sciences Ph.D. program through one of two tracks: 1) the MBS program or 2) the Neuroscience program. The MBS program admitted the majority of incoming students to the COM Ph.D. program with 12 students entering in August 2006. Fourteen more students entered the MBS program in August 2007, 3 students entered the MD/PhD program and 205 ongoing applications for the MS/MA programs are currently under consideration. Thirty eight MA/MS and 18 PhD 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 formation of a unified Ph.D. curriculum. The previously named PhD program in MBS (Multidisciplinary Biomedical Sciences) has been renamed PPIBS (PhD Program in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences) and falls under the auspices of the GPIBS (Graduate Program in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences). The latter constitutes PhD, MS, MA and Certificate programs in Biomedical Sciences in the College of Medicine at USF Health. Modifications to the PhD program established during the past academic year include: a uniform qualifying candidacy exam in an NIH-like grant format with an oral presentation; requirements for graduation to include a minimum of 2 publications (or In press) with the PhD student as senior or first author on at least one of these publications; publication of a student handbook; and a uniform annual student report. The committee, with the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, will continue to: provide improved health coverage for graduate students; develop new courses (e.g. a statistical course in experimental design); and develop a mechanism to recover tuition monies from mentors' grants. In addition, the following policies were approved and implemented: a policy for bridge funding to support PH.D. graduate student stipends; unified grading policy; a policy to award PhD students a non-terminal MS degree following successful completion of their PhD candidacy exams (qualifying exams); a policy on videotaping lectures; and a uniform PhD student stipend of \$22,000 for Fall 2007 (with an additional 15% allowance for awarded fellowships not to exceed \$25,300 per year). Lastly, Dr. Michael Barber continues to serve as the interim Associate Dean for Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs and the committee welcomed Mr. Thomas Moore in the position of the graduate office Educator.

In addition to our typical efforts and the development and administration of the MBS/PPIBS program and common Fall semester curriculum, the committee broadly oversees Master's Degree Programs. A stand alone MS in Biotechnology was approved as were three new concentrations to the MS program (Aging and Neuroscience;

Molecular Medicine; and Women's Health) bringing the total concentration areas of the MS program to 9. In addition, the committee also approved 3 new certificate programs (Medicine and Gender; Medical Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology; Health Sciences). The latter represents our first online program.

The committee continues 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, PhD
Chair

Committee members for 2006-2007 academic year: Burt Anderson, Sandra Anderson, Michael Barber, Eric Bennett, Steven Bennett*, Paula Bickford¹, George Blanck*¹, Nagwa Dajani, Gloria Ferreira*¹, Franjesca Jackson, Suzanne Jackson, Ken Keller*, Patricia Kruk¹, Peter Medveczky¹, Thomas Moore*, Stan Nazian, Lois Nixon, Mackenzie Ott*, Keith Pennypacker¹, Samuel Saporta¹, Dan Yip¹ and Kathy Zahn

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

¹Served on the committee as voting members