

**Graduate Medical Sciences Education Committee
University of South Florida College of Medicine
Annual Report 2007-2008**

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 PhD Program in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (PPIBS), formerly called the Multidisciplinary Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. Program (MBS), has just entered into its sixth year. Four hundred twenty six graduate program applications were reviewed during this year, 367 of these for MA/MS admission. Sixteen students will enter the Ph.D. program in August 2008, 2 of these into the new K30 PhD program and 206 applicants have been admitted for the MS/MA programs in August 2008. Sixteen PhD students graduated within the past academic year, roughly the same number as the previous academic year. Ninety MA/MS students graduated within the past academic year, more than double the number of graduates from the 2006/2007 academic year.

Pursuant to improve the Ph.D. program, the committee initiated the following changes to the Ph.D. program. A new course in Experimental Design and Methods was developed for PhD students and Foundations in Biomedical Sciences (GMS 6001) was reduced from 8 credits to 6 credits to accommodate this new course in the first semester curriculum. Further, a new Ph.D. concentration in Clinical and Translational Research was established and is directed through the K30 program. In addition, the following policies were approved and implemented: a policy to document Graduate Course review; mentors with graduate students listed as graduate assistants must complete an annual Graduate Assistant Performance Evaluation; a pre-Ph.D. qualifying exams student stipend set at \$22,000 annually, but which can be voluntarily raised to \$24,500 following successful completion of the Ph.D. candidacy exam; and a PhD graduate student flexible account was established available for 2010/2011. Lastly, Dr. Dan Yip graciously served as Secretary for this committee this past year and Dr. Michael Barber now serves as the Associate Dean for Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs.

Areas of concern noted by the committee where: an exceedingly low COM graduate student participation in the USF Health Research Day 2008 Symposium compared to previous years and the lack of available classroom space to accommodate our increased graduate student population. Additionally, the committee was very disappointed over the relocation of the Cancer Biology program from USF Health COM to Biology in CAS.

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. Two new certificates in Clinical Research Methods and Approaches to Clinical Behavioral Research in Adolescents were approved. In addition, the committee also approved 2 new courses: Biotechnology Internship and Clinical and Translational Mentored Research.

Lastly, the AMSGS continued to enhance graduate student involvement in the community by participating in numerous charity events including Relay for Life as well as organizing graduate student social events including the annual welcoming picnic (Sept 2007), a wine tasting (Dec 2007) and the annual graduate student banquet (May 2007).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Kruk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Patricia Kruk, PhD
Chair

Committee members for 2007-2008 academic year: Burt Anderson*¹, Sandra Anderson, Michael Barber, Eric Bennett, Steven Bennett*, Paula Bickford¹, George Blanck*¹, Nagwa Dajani, Franjesca Jackson, Suzanne Jackson, Ken Keller, Patricia Kruk¹, Peter Medveczky*¹, Thomas Moore, Stan Nazian, Lois Nixon, Keith Pennypacker¹, Samuel Saporta¹, Andreas Seyfang *¹, Amanda Rowe*, Inge Wefes, Dan Yip¹ and Kathy Zahn

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

¹Served on the committee as voting members