

Summary of the Discussion at the NSRP Retreat

1. Seminar Program. The NSRP plans to support a Neuroscience Seminar Series for the next Academic Year. Seminars will generally be held on Tuesdays at 4 PM in Room MDL1005 unless otherwise specified. We hope to attract 8 quality speakers from outside USF (roughly one per month) over the next year. Several of these will be major leaders in Neuroscience and will present Directors' Symposia in the evening to facilitate attendance by many of the physician members who work at sites of than the Medical School. In addition, we will provide opportunities for NSRP members to present samples of their research programs. We intend to have one seminar roughly every two weeks during the academic year. We will also investigate having videotapes of presentations available on the web site for others to view. The issue of having a national 1-2 day symposium was also discussed.

All seminars will be posted on the USF Health Calendar

<http://hscf.hsc.usf.edu:60/calendar/index.php?v=m>

2. Facilitating Research. On the Clinical Science side, one role the Program may play is in presenting seminars regarding how to initiate small double blind clinical studies, registry research, or sponsored surgical studies. In addition, funding opportunities may be identified.

On the Basic Science side, the College is planning a grant review process for submissions from USF faculty that would include both internal and external constructive critiques of proposals to NIH and possibly other agencies. The NSRP will take the lead in reviewing those applications from neuroscience faculty. During this process, when additional pilot studies are recommended that may be essential to success of the application, the NSRP will attempt to support such studies to the extent that funds permit.

One deficiency that was identified regarded the availability of individuals to assist with statistical design issues in research. One comment was that the VP for Research has indicated that efforts on this topic have been initiated. Another option mentioned was the Data Analysis Core of the Byrd Alzheimer's Center could be available on a fee-for-service basis.

Another series of issues that were brought up regarded the increasing amount of effort required to meet compliance regulations, for IACUC, IRB, Biosafety and other approvals. It was suggested that all signature programs may have similar concerns. Juan Sanchez-Ramos and Cheryl Carlucci were named as NSRP representatives to a committee named Barriers to Research (at a recent Signature Program Directors meeting the other signature programs agreed to designate representatives for this committee).

Other Issues. The idea of sponsoring a student award at Research Day was suggested. It was also suggested that in order to grow, the NSRP might request some of the indirect costs from grants benefiting from constructive critiques or preliminary study funds. Another suggestion was a reception for USF faculty and friends at the Society for Neuroscience meeting to increase informal interactions among members. It also was indicated that students and trainees need to be recruited as members and included in many activities of the program.

The NSRP plans a monthly electronic newsletter to highlight activities of the Program and its members.

The NSRP Executive Committee has now been constituted. In addition to Drs Hauser and Morgan, the members are

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Selim Benbadis, Neurology
Paula Bickford, Neurosurgery
Javier Cuevas, Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology
Tom Freeman, Neurosurgery
Amyl Rojiani, Interdisciplinary Oncology
Paul Sanberg, Neurosurgery
Carlos Santana, Psychiatry
Sam Saporta, Pathology and Cell Biology