

# ***COMCOR Annual Report***

***2010-2011***

Cesario V. Borlongan, Chair



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
Policy Committee

Basic Scientists:		Term Expires	Comments
Wenlong Bai, PhD	Pathology & Cell Biology	2012	
Jaya Padmanabhan, PhD	Molecular Medicine	2012	
Eric Bennett, PhD	Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology	2011	
Cesar Borlongan, PhD (Chair)	Neurosurgery	2011	
Min You, PhD*	Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology	2011	
<b>Clinical Scientists:</b>			
Prasad Kulkarni, MD	Internal Medicine	2012	
Carina Rodriguez, MD	Pediatrics	2012	
Diane Straub, MD, MPH*	Pediatrics	2011	
Jorge Lujan-Zilbermann, MD	Pediatrics	2011	
David Estores, Jr., MD	Internal Medicine	2011	
<b>SPTRS:</b>			
Seok H. Kim, PT, PhD	Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences	2012	
<b>Dean's Appointments (At Large)</b>			
Edwin Weeber, PhD	Mol Pharm Phys		
Carmelina Gemma, PhD	Neurosciences		
David Birk, PhD	Pathology	2011	
John Carter, MD	Internal Medicine	2011	
Javier Cuevas, PhD	Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology	2011	
John Mayer, PhD	SPTRS	2011	
Michael White, PhD	Molecular Medicine	2011	
Theresa Zesiewicz, MD	Neurology	2011	
<b>Other Committee Members</b>			
Phillip J. Marty, PhD	Associate Vice President USF Health Office of Research	Open	

**\*Reappointment**

The Committee shall be composed of five members from Basic Science Departments, five members from Clinical Science Departments, one member from the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences, and nine at-large members appointed by the Dean of the College of Medicine in consultation with the Faculty Council.

# January 2011

## **Space Guidelines revised Dr. Marty**

- Dr. Deschenes, Research Chair of ECRE, requested the COMCOR's thoughts on space, space designation. The space guidelines is meant as a guideline as chairs will be asked to justify their space needs based on a three year record of space use. This will be reviewed annually.
- COMCOR- recommendation
  - a. Committee consensus: The committee agreed with the guideline as a draft that has the goal of making space allocations more efficient.
  - b. Dr. Borlongan would present this to the next ECRE meeting
  - c. COMCOR would want to hear more about a Permanent Space Committee

## **Invited speaker for COMCOR's regular faculty issue talk: Dr. Barry Bercu, Chairperson, USF Institutional Review Board**

- a. Dr. Bercu presented a PPT overview of IRB
- b. Dr. Bercu would like input from COMCOR on how to improve and standardize the scientific review process across the COM departments for studies.
- c. He stressed that the IRB can send personnel to the departments to teach researchers
- d. He welcomed all to attend an IRB board meeting in the future

## **Research Day 2011 Update**

- a. Keynote speaker was announced as being Carol J. Bult, PhD, Professor, The Jackson Laboratory, and her talk title would be: "Mouse models of human disease: Where we are, Where we are going"
- b. Abstracts total: 260 .
- c. Research Day website operational at: <http://health.usf.edu/research/home.html>

# March 2011

## **Space Guidelines Update**

- a. Dr. Borlongan was still in the process of contacting Dr. Deschenes and ECRE regarding the COMCOR's thoughts on space, space designation.
- b. The committee reiterated that it has consensus agreeing with the guideline as a draft that has the goal of making space allocations more efficient.
- c. COMCOR remained interested in hearing more about a Permanent Space Committee noting the following:
  1. Would this be a Faculty Council committee?
  2. Dr. Bennett mentioned that the Faculty Council wanted Space Committee reforms, also to recreate the committee.

## **Committee requested updated information on Research Incentive Policy: Discussion Points**

- a. Current policy for salary savings depends on FTE's.
- b. Faculty are differently affected by their appointments. Will it be revisited?
- c. Could there be 2 tracks dependent on FTE?
- d. A consensus was reached that these issues needed to be discussed with Dr. Marty.
- e. Dr. Borlongan also planned to bring this issue up with the ECRE and would get a draft of the Incentive Policy from Dr. Deschenes.

# April 2011

## **Space Guidelines: Discussion Points**

- a. ECRE Space Guidelines draft approved by COMCOR. COMCOR would like clarification on space allocation through the faculty council. (see bylaws)
- b. Alternatively, would COMCOR want to be involved in research space allocation. Both education space and research space need to be dealt with.
- c. Current issues are handled at the administrative level. Can Faculty Council bylaws be changed to let COMCOR serve as a place for res. space concerns to be aired? Need to know where Faculty Council stands on research space allocation, if none, once ECRE's space guidelines are in place, COMCOR could form a Research Space Committee so faculty with research space concerns can have a place to voice those issues with colleagues.

## **Research Incentive Policy Update**

- a. COMCOR put a request for Matt Anderson to update committee on ECRE bonus plan.
- b. Can it be structured so that all FTE's can benefit? Can there be two systems? 1. Merit- for bringing in grants with full indirects, and 2. Salary savings-where portion of PI's salary goes onto the grant, which could be cost-saving for the dept and college
- c. Dr. Eric Bennett discussed need to improve visibility of college's PhD programs. Needs money from Dean. Find ways to increase pool of faculty mentors- can COM fund more stipends? Need more training grants. Currently there are three in the process. Need for a central database for data on grants and student mentors.

## April 2011 - Continued

### **Research Day 2011 conclusion and Research Day 2012 update and venue for 2012**

- a. Dr. Borlongan gave kudos to Ms. Jo Ann Moore for a successful 2011 Research Day. The entire COMCOR was in unison in appreciating Ms. Moore's leadership in making this university-wide event a penchant for USF Health and USF in general
- b. Friday, February 24, 2012- date set, COM Research Office will send out a "save the date" memo soon.
- c. Dr. Borlongan suggested an NIH funded/study section reviewer as speaker
- d. Dr. Eric Bennett mentioned possible translational research speaker as well- two lectures or lecture/ workshop

### **Other Business: Qualifying Exams**

- a. COMCOR suggested changes to qualifying exam committees – Eric will respond back to committee in June about ways to make qualifying exams more rigorous.

# June 2011

## Discussion with Cheryl Byers, DRIC

- a. Ms. Byers presented an overview of the IRB processes and mentioned that the IRB has been accredited for 5 more years. The new incoming IRB chair is Dr. Verena Jorgensen from Pediatrics. Acknowledged that there are issues with the IRB review process taking too long for approvals. Invited PI's to attend the IRB board meetings when their projects are up for review. DRIC is forming a focus group to help develop better questions for the IRB applications to improve the e-application. Please let her know if you are interested in joining. She encourages PI's with questions to contact the help desk staff and herself for assistance with the forms at: <http://www.research.usf.edu/cs/irb.htm> see phone list on webpage.
- b. Ms. Byers next discussed the IACUC committee. Will have e-based applications soon. Hope to start in January. COMCOR suggested the development of a list of standardized protocols/procedures to make the approval process easier. Additional discussion points Ms. Byers covered included the following:
  1. IACUC needs new members- they are asking for volunteers
  2. DRIC also oversees the Biosafety Committees and they are asking for volunteers to serve on the committee who are knowledgeable in Radiation Science- Contact Cheryl Byers if interested
  3. RCR:DRIC provides training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).
  4. Dr. Bai suggested that all new USF Postdoctoral Researchers be contacted and go through this training.

## June 2011 - Continued

### **Research Day 2012 - date and venue for 2012**

- a. Preparation headed by Jo Ann Moore already in progress for the February 24, 2012 Research Day.
- b. Dr. Estores mentioned Dr. Maria Abreu of U of Miami as possible keynote speaker- will follow up with Dr Marty.
- c. Dr. Bennett requested Research Day time off be granted to COM grad and med students. Dr. Marty will contact Dr. Nazian and Dr. Stevensen about this. Dr. Marty asked Dr. Klasko to make this request and he did so.



# August 2011

- Presentation by Dr. Jay Dean, IACUC Chairman, to COMCOR

Dr. Dean gave a PPT updating committee members on the three IACUC related concerns raised at an earlier COMCOR meeting. The updates included:

- a. Feedback mechanism
- b. Standardized IACUC application
- c. User friendliness of the Comparative Medicine webpage; the new electronic version will be easier.

Additionally, Dr. Dean's shared the following items to COMCOR:

- a. Dr. Dean told the group about an upcoming event that might be of interest to faculty and students. Research America planned to hold a workshop on careers as science advocates and a panel discussion with science writers from CNN and the NYTimes on what do journalists need from scientists to be able to get the word out to the public on scientific topics (Event date: Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010)
- b. He would also like the IACUC to come address the COMCOR about once every six months

- Research Day 2012 plans

- a. Research Day set for 2012 – Feb 24, 2012
- b. The need Keynote Speaker was announced
- c. Student time off from class request was made
- d. Other Research Day updates- Jo Ann Moore prepared the "Save the Date" bookmarks and provided the committee with hand outs

## 2010-2011 Summary of COMCOR Achievements

- Successful hosting of USF Health Research Day, highlighted by a top-notch speaker Dr. Carol Carol J. Bult and a record 260 scientific/clinical abstracts
- COMCOR remains a recognized entity for ECRE decision making in particular on space guidelines and research incentive policy
- COMCOR actively addresses research issues highly relevant to its faculty. In doing so, during this cycle, COMCOR engaged the IACUC, the IRB and the DIRC chairs to present in the Committees regular meetings. The COMCOR regular meetings are excellent venues for healthy and productive discussions between the faculty and the administration.