



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The CMBD was established to provide a broad-based multidisciplinary research, training, and service Center focused on metabolic bone disease with a general mission to support, catalyze, and integrate clinical activities, clinical research, basic research, and education. Since its inception, the CMBD membership has grown to include 69 faculty and continues to accept new members who can contribute to achievement of the CMBD mission. For membership information please contact me at the address below.

The External Review Committee for the UAB Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (CMBD) met May 18-20, 1999, to gain insight into the structure of the Center, assess its progress, and to suggest ways that it might be strengthened. Members of the committee, who also gave scientific presentations related to metabolic bone disease at the 1st Annual CMBD symposium, are as follows: Dr. Charles H. Chesnut, III, University of Washington Medical Center; Dr. Carol V. Gay, Pennsylvania State University; Dr. Keith A. Hruska, Washington University; and Dr. Gerard Karsenty, Baylor College of Medicine. The Committee was impressed with the numerous accomplishments of the CMBD since its inception. Generally, Committee members agreed that the CMBD is "capable of reaching its goal of becoming one of the top centers for metabolic bone disease in the nation if it can reconcile discrepancies between its clinical and basic science components." A brief summary of the strengths and weaknesses noted by the Committee follows below. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the entire report.

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SUMMATION OF THE EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

The Center for Metabolic Bone Disease is clearly a legitimate Center worthy of continued support and status as a University-Wide Interdisciplinary Center.

The Committee noted a number of strengths including:

- A multidisciplinary steering committee oversees key CMBD activities.
- The Center has a strong and cohesive clinical research program.
- The patient base is of sufficient magnitude to support a number of longitudinal clinical studies through the Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic and through the Women's Health Initiative.
- The Osteoporosis Clinic directed by Dr. Sarah Morgan has been carefully planned. An outstanding osteoporosis education program has also been developed.
- The Center's leadership has been the catalyst for bringing the Center to its current level of achievement...outstanding leadership and organizational skills have enabled the CMBD to become one of the strong programs at UAB.

- The manner in which internal funds are allotted to purchase large pieces of equipment and to support pilot studies was praised.
- The center concept at UAB fosters inter-departmental and inter-school collaboration and interaction among center members.

Weaknesses noted by the Committee include:

- There is a need for additional basic science research support and space. Faculty recruitment needs include a senior basic scientist, an additional junior basic scientist, and a histomorphometry core with a full-time histomorphologist.
- There is also a need for increased linkage between the clinical research core and the basic research group (e.g., providing subjects and clinical studies to facilitate basic research). (Edited by Sam Brown, Ed.D.)

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