

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Thanks to everyone who participated in or attended the April 14, 2004 UAB Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (CMBD) Scientific Symposium (approximately 100 in attendance) which was held in conjunction with an External Advisory Committee (EAC) review of the CMBD. The panel of experts provided important scientific information on current and future issues relating to metabolic bone disease. Members of the committee were: John S. Adams, MD, University of California-Los Angeles; Ted S. Gross, PhD, University of Washington; Theresa A. Guise, MD, University of Virginia; Mark S. Nanes, MD, PhD, Emory University; and Nicola C. Partridge, PhD, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

The EAC met April 13-15, 2004 to review the Center, assess its growth, and suggest ways that it might be strengthened. The CMBD has benefited from three EAC site visits, beginning in 1999. The charge to these three committees has been to review the Center in the context of its national prominence. The site visits have been invaluable and have resulted in significant strides in research and faculty recruitment.

What follows below is a brief description of this year's Committee comments. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the entire report.

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SUMMARY NOTES OF THE EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

The CMBD has broad strengths that include the administrative structure, Center Director, basic research, scientific cores, pilot project program, faculty enrichment program and the successful recruitment of outstanding senior faculty researchers. Selected highlights include the following:

- “Basic science is the greatest success of the CMBD.”
- The Osteoporosis Clinic is “of excellent quality, in fact a model of health care delivery in osteoporosis.”
- The administrative structure has “...resulted in an extraordinarily productive organization.”
- “The strength of the core laboratories have facilitated acquisition of external research support, provided quality management of assays, and bridged the technical knowledge base between disciplines that have come together for skeletal research.”
- The rate of success by trainees since inception of the pilot program is rapid, a fact attributed to the availability of core facilities at the Center and mentorship.”
- Dr. McDonald --- “has maintained key positions on top University, State, and National Committees that positively influence the growth of the Center.”

Recommendations of the committee include:

- The recruitment of a mid-level or senior investigator focusing on translational research that would result in investigator-initiated trials in osteoporosis treatment.
- Development of strategies to recruit additional high risk populations to the Osteoporosis Clinic.
- Additional funding for equipment to support the Histomorphometry and Molecular Analyses Core.

The recruitment of a mid-level faculty member in biomedical engineering/bone..

Edited by: Samuel Brown, Jr., Ed.D., Professor and Associate Dean
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