

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The UAB Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (CMBD) recently funded 4 new pilot and feasibility projects, 3 funded from the NIH P30 Research Core Center grant and 1 jointly funded by the CMBD University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Center (UWIRC) grant and the Nephrology Research and Training Center (NRTC). Awardees from the NIH P30 grant are: 1) Jianbo Wang, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Cell Biology, 2) Yabing Chen, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, and 3) Chao Wan, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology. Dr. Chen is also the awardee from the joint CMBD UWIRC and NRTC pilot funding.

On June 30, 2008 the CMBD submitted a UWIRC competitive renewal grant with a request for funding to the Deans of 7 schools: Dr. John Amos, Optometry, Dr. Harold Jones, Health Professions, Dr. Linda Lucas, Engineering, Dr. Max Michael, Public Health, Dr. Robert Rich, Medicine, Dr. Huw Thomas, Dentistry and Dr. Lowell Wenger, Natural Sciences and Mathematics. I want to thank these Deans and Schools for their support in the past and look forward to continuing a close working relationship with each of them.

I am pleased to announce that the UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) received NIH funding on May 19, 2008. The CCTS is led by Lisa Guay-Woodford, MD, PI and CCTS Director, along with 4 Co-Directors: Catarina Kiefe, MD, PhD, Scientific Planning and Cross Cutting Themes, Jay M. McDonald, MD, Investigator Development, Timothy Garvey, MD, Translational Platforms, and Eta Berner, EdD, Biomedical Informatics.

What follows below is a brief description of the report from the 2008 External Advisory Committee. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the entire report.

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SUMMARY NOTES OF THE 2008 EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

The 2008 External Review Committee (EAC) was impressed with the overall progress of the CMBD since it was established in 1996 and indicated it is now a premier comprehensive bone research program. The EAC report stated that, in fact, the "CMBD is clearly in the top 2-3 such programs in the country". Highlights of comments on individual components include the following:

- The EAC was impressed with the operations of the Osteoporosis Clinic (OC), especially the interdisciplinary approach to patient care and the outstanding education program for patients.
- Clinical research, strongly supported by the OC, was evaluated as "outstanding with potential for even greater expansion".
- The report noted the substantial contributions made by the School of Dentistry, including the expansion of research and training programs.
- The basic research and scientific cores were evaluated as outstanding and the report stated that "The science is solid, original, and innovative".
- The Pilot and Feasibility Program drew praise for the subsequent extramural funding by pilot program participants. The pilot projects presented at the site visit were "elegant in their design and provided substantial and exciting findings that will impact the field".
- The Committee noted three ongoing T32 training programs (PIs from three different schools) that will impact CMBD research.
- Laudatory comments were made about the progressive and decisive leadership of the Center.

RECOMMENDATION: "The board would recommend a focus on establishing a basic/translational research focus on cartilage in Orthopaedic Surgery. This new direction would add to, complement and enhance the CMBD collaboration with Orthopaedic Surgery and with the BERM Center, boosting research in all three entities. Such a collaborative strength could easily be a unique model nationally."

Edited by: Samuel Brown, Jr., Ed.D, Member, Center for Metabolic Bone Disease Steering Committee

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