DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I want to thank everyone who participated in and attended the May 12, 2009 UAB Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (CMBD) Scientific Symposium: Bone Biology: From Bench to Bedside held in conjunction with an External Advisory Committee (EAC) review of the CMBD. Members of the committee were: John P. Bilezikian, MD, Columbia University and Sundeep Khosla, MD, Mayo Clinic (see summary of the report below).

We have submitted four American Recovery and Reinvestment Act supplements to the CMBD NIH P30 Research Core Center grant:
1) Equipment Grant: Bone Morphometry Modernization and Expansion Instrumentation Package (PI: Gene Siegal, MD, PhD)
2) Recruitment of New Faculty at the Interface Between Bone and Vascular Biology
3) Competitive Revision: UAB Core Center for Basic Skeletal Research (CCBS)
4) Administrative Supplement: UAB Core Center for Basic Skeletal Research (CCBS)

Tone Your Bones Community Advisory Committee:
July 9, 2009 marked the first meeting of a newly formed Tone Your Bones Community Advisory Committee. Twelve concerned citizens met at the Woodward House hosted by President Carol Garrison, accompanied by Evelyn Jones (School of Medicine Development Office), Sarah Morgan, Jay McDonald and Beth Kitchin. This group will focus on ways to help the Osteoporosis Clinic, CMBD and public awareness. A second meeting is planned for the Fall.

RFA for Pilot Projects:
The CMBD has received applications in response to an RFA to fund two new pilot and feasibility (P&F) projects effective October 1, 2009. Applications are currently being reviewed.

Postdoctoral Fellow Openings:
The CMBD is also accepting applications for three NIH T32 Postdoctoral Fellow slots. These can be focused on basic science, clinical science or translational science. Applicants must have received a PhD, MD, DDS, MD/PhD degree, and be U.S. citizens or have a “green card”. Applications are due by August 14, 2009.

Instructions for both RFA’s can be found on the CMBD website: http://cmbd.path.uab.edu.

Below is a summary of the report from the 2009 External Advisory Committee edited by Samuel Brown, Jr., EdD. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the entire report.

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SUMMARY NOTES OF THE 2009 EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

The 2009 External Review Committee (EAC) conducted a mini review that focused on the CMBD’s NIH P30 UAB Core Center for Basic Skeletal Research (CCBSR). The overall assessment of the CCBSR was that this P30 has made outstanding progress since its inception in 2001. The report stated that “One could view this P30 grant, in fact, as a model in which the program has superseded itself in continuing to replenish new talent, new ideas, and in fact new funding streams, a multiplier effect that is sure to continue in the years to come.”

Summary comments on individual components include the following:
• The CMBD Director, Jay M. McDonald, MD, was praised for the highly effective process for selecting pilot study awards.
• The CMBD leadership was commended for its ability to leverage institutional funding of mechanisms to strengthen the research base of the Center.
• The scientific cores were reviewed as of high quality, efficient and responsive to the needs of the investigators.
• The EAC indicated that the pilot project program was a “well organized, highly competitive activity”, and commented on the awardees’ outstanding success in obtaining independent funding.

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