

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I want to thank everyone who participated in and attended the June 29, 2011 UAB Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (CMBD) and the UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center (UCDC) Scientific Symposium on Diabetes, Obesity and the Skeleton. The symposium was held in conjunction with an External Advisory Committee (EAC) review of the Center, and focused on an emerging research front that addresses the basic, clinical and translational aspects of diabetes, obesity and the skeleton. Members of the EAC were: Clifford J. Rosen, M.D., Director, Center for Clinical and Translational Research, Maine Medical Center Research Institute and L. Darryl Quarles, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Chief of Nephrology and Associate Dean, College of Medicine, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The External Review is extremely important for me as the Director of the UAB-CMBD, as well as for UAB. It is through the expertise of members of the External Review Committee that we seek advice and evaluation regarding current programs and, most importantly, directions for future activities. I agree with the EAC that the CMBD “is a well organized program which has historically functioned very well and has emerged from several recent changes in key personnel as a strong administrative team.” As always, your continuous support to CMBD remains the key to its success.

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## SUMMARY NOTES OF THE 2011 EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

The CMBD 2011 External Advisory Committee conducted a mini review that focused on recommending steps to pursue new research initiatives on diabetes, obesity and the skeleton.

- The External Review Committee was excited about the new research initiative focusing on “Diabetes, Obesity and Skeleton”, and appraised it as “a creative way of bringing together the basic and clinical researchers to pursue a common theme.”
- The EAC noted that the skeletal dysplasia program is an excellent start at providing clinical services and as a research base for future studies.
- The pursuit of developing a skeletal dysplasia tissue repository core was encouraged in order to support future research initiatives.
- With the uncertainty of NIH funding, the EAC supported the CMBD’s plans to identify new resources, including institutional, philanthropic and private support, to sustain a level of excellence of the CMBD.
- The outstanding services of the Cores were highly commended.

The EAC was impressed with the strong UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center and believes the collaboration provides a unique opportunity to pursue an important and clinically emerging area of investigation. They felt that the development of an organized plan for an initiative in Diabetes, Obesity and the Skeleton utilizing resources of the CMBD and the Diabetes Center is an excellent approach with potential dividends considering the strength of the investigators.

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