

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The Center for Metabolic Bone Disease (CMBD) will host another scientific symposium focused on bone biology and disease on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, followed by an external review of the Center. We have assembled the following outstanding panel of experts for this: Lynda F. Bonewald, PhD, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Mone Zaidi, MD, PhD, FRCP, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Laurie K. McCauley, DDS, PhD, University of Michigan; and Steven Teitelbaum, MD, Washington University School of Medicine. More detailed information will follow later, but please place this date on your calendar.

The annual American Society for Bone and Mineral Research meeting was held September 16-19, 2007, in Honolulu, Hawaii. UAB was well represented, including 15 oral presentations and 18 poster presentations by CMBD members.

At the last CMBD Steering Committee, the decision was made to support a new core, Genetic Mouse Model Service Core. To accomplish this, the Human Bone Cell Production Core will be deactivated.

Below is a brief description of the report from the 2007 External Advisory Committee focused on translational research in bone disease. This External Advisory Committee included Thomas A. Einhorn, MD, Boston Medical Center and William V. Giannobile, DDS, MS, DMedSC, Michigan Center for Oral Health Research. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the entire report.

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SUMMARY NOTES OF THE 2007 INTERIM FOCUSED EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

The major focus of the interim visit by the External Advisory Committee was translational research. Strengths include the following:

- The ability of leaders to successfully integrate the CMBD with other centers and departments throughout UAB;
- Excellent Administrative structure;
- Outstanding basic research program, including scientific cores and pilot projects;
- Plans to develop the genetic mouse model service core;
- P30 Core Center Grant for Basic Skeletal Research;
- Osteoporosis clinical research program;
- Concerted effort to develop the programs and careers of clinical scientists [e.g. dedicated funding for clinical/translational research pilot project program];
- Outstanding research space in the Shelby Building;
- Supportive School of Medicine Dean;
- Further development of the Graduate Education Program; and
- Ongoing financial support from the Provost for the University-Wide Interdisciplinary Research Center program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is a need to better focus and coordinate the clinical and translational research program. Suggestions to address this need include the following:

- Identify and support those research programs that are most likely to be successful in the near future.
- Prioritize those research efforts that facilitate internal collaboration to enhance research productivity.
- Build on excellent existing clinical research program by initiating multi-institutional clinical research studies, providing CMBD investigators with the opportunity to serve as the Coordinating Center for these studies.
- Develop new clinical research relationships with pharmaceutical and surgical device companies.

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