Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Tiffany Seagroves, at 12:05 PM on October 6, 2014, 2014, in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Terry Cooper, PhD, Martin Donaldson, DDS, Bob Foehring, PhD, Scott Jackson, DVM, Rebecca Anne Krukowski, PhD, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, William R. Morris, MD, Edwards Park, PhD, Kaushik Parthasarathi, PhD, Fruz Pourmotabbed, PhD, Larry Reiter, PhD, Tiffany Seagroves, PhD, Thad Wilson, PhD

The following guest(s) was (were) present:

Jon McCullers, MD, Polly Hofmann, PhD, Susan Senogles, PhD

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means.

Business

Dr. Jonathan McCullers, chair of Pediatrics and Program Director for UTHSC's Clinical Translational Science Institutes, discussed the CTSI recently created in an effort to obtain a CTSA grant. Dr. McCullers' organizational collaborators in this project include Teresa Waters, Rob Williams, Paul Juarez, Bob Davis, Dennis Black, Ari Vanderwalde, and Csaba Kovesdy. Dr. McCullers' slides are the basis for the following DFAC minutes.

Since 2006, NCATs has funded 62 CTSIs. Collectively, these Universities have a consortium by which they can jointly leverage their research strengths to garner federal funding. It is thought that membership in this group of institutions will become increasingly essential to obtaining federal grant funding. These CTSIs are to serve as a central organizing agency and provide infrastructure within a University to support clinical and translational research that can attract further extramural funding. Typically they serve three major functions:

* act as a central clearing house for services needed by all researchers such as biostatistics, bioinformatics, access to translational research cores, etc
* house programs to train young investigators in research (e.g., “K-awards”) and provide seed money so they can develop sustainably funded research projects
* develop and link programs or services unique to that site to communities and the broader CTSI consortium.
About a decade ago UTHSC founded a CTSI; however, four prior attempts to secure an award to support the CTSI were unsuccessful. Nevertheless, the Memphis/Midsouth area provides a substrate that should, at the present time, make UTHSC attractive. This region features a large population living in poverty, with significant health disparities that are now the focus of considerable interest in research funding. In that vein, community engagement, child health and life transitions already have a focus in UT's research. Moreover, recent reorganizations forming academic-clinical partnerships (such as that between UTHSC and MethodistLebonheur) provide an opportunity for a fresh start.

Dr. McCullers identified the many partners potentially involved in UTHSC's CTSI, now called iRISE: the "institute for Research, Innovation, Synergy and health Equity." These include LeBonheur Children's Hospital, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, MethodistLebonheur Health, Oak Ridge National Laboratories, the University of Memphis, Regional One Health, West Cancer Center, and others.

The goals for iRISE are these:

1. Create a new UTHSC CTSI structure (iRISE) based on the existing Pediatrics CTSI
   - develop personnel infrastructure to link core strengths
   - streamline delivery of research services (e.g., biostatistics)
   - re-organize processes for contracting and clinical trials

2. Integrate iRISE with broader national programs and local community efforts

3. Develop systems to train a broad-based research workforce

Dr. McCullers also identified various barriers to success, and their proposed resolutions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Barriers to Success</th>
<th>Proposed Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Lack of central leadership driving innovation | New Executive Dean appoints new Pediatrics Chair Dr. McCullers as PD for CTSA  
New Prev Med Chair and New Biostats leadership  
New Governor’s Chair in Bioinformatics — Bob Davis  
New VC for Research? |
| Lack of funding for research support services | Re-organization of hospital-academic partnerships with joint practice plans and academic payments |
| Poor infrastructure in areas critical for T1-T5 research | Creation of UTHSC CTSI – iRISE  
Re-organization of clinical trials and contracting infrastructure |
| Siloing of critical services | Re-organization of biostatistics and bioinformatics services  
Increased connectivity through a CTSI structure |
| Paucity of well-trained investigators | Recruitment of top national talent into Centers funded by academic payments  
Formation of KL2 program  
Integration with existing Education programs |
| Lack of vision for engagement outside the institution | Transformation of UTHSC research mission with focus on community engagement and health disparities |

Current initiatives include:
- Pilot Grants Program
- iRISE Scholars Program (PL2)
- Reorganization of biostatistical support
- Expansion of bioinformatics capabilities and support

The final application for grant money to fund iRISE with up to $4 million per year is due on January 15th.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on December 1, 2014, at 12:00 Noon in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary