Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee
University of Tennessee, College of Medicine

March 4, 2003

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Bob Waters, at 12:10 PM on March 3, 2003, in the Patio on the 7th floor of the Wm. F. Bowld Hospital.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Allen S. Edmonson, MD;  Stanley Kaplan, MD;  E. Haavi Morreim, PhD;  William R. Morris, MD;  Linda K. Myers, MD;  Ron Pfeiffer, MD;  Rajendra Raghow, PhD;  Fran Tylavsky, DrPH;  Christopher M. Waters, PhD;  Robert S. Waters, PhD

The following members were excused:

Peter Jones, PhD

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

Hank Herrod, MD, Dean;  Michael Dockter, PhD

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means. A hard copy of the minutes was available for review by the members.

Old Business

Pres. Bob Waters indicated that despite a few glitches, the DFAC website should soon be up and running.

New Business

Dr. Herrod briefly summarized events at the College of Medicine retreat, 2/10/03. The retreat's objective was to address the quality-of-care issues raised by the recent Institute of Medicine report, "Crossing the Quality Chasm." Retreat participants offered a variety of ideas and, at present, the Dean is meeting with department chairs to consider implementation. Each clinical department is expected to develop at least one protocol-driven disease-management plan, evidence-based and founded on a best practices approach.
Dr. Mike Dockter then updated the DFAC regarding the status of research, and research-related income, at UTHSC. As research activities and revenue have grown, the CoM's financial picture has begun to change significantly. In FY 2000, for instance, state revenues accounted for 42% of UTHSC's spending, whereas grants and contracts comprised 35%. Given the state's financial condition, the latter provides the only real avenues for surviving and growing.

Dr. Dockter then described four dimensions of research: [1] basic research (mainly based on federal funding); [2] clinical trials (with funding from both government and private sources); [3] intellectual property start-ups; [4] companies (commonly initiated with venture capital). Over the past 5 years UTHSC's federal basic research support has risen from about $20 million in 1998, to over $50 million today. The "facilities and administrative" revenues that come with these grants lag about a year behind grant awards, and hence are just beginning to rise to substantial levels. Further growth is anticipated, as basic science grants to UTHSC continue to rise.

The next focus is clinical research, which needs to grow. The former research 'home', Tristar, has been dissolved and replaced, in-house, but a Clinical Trials Unit. The CTU has begun to build up a number of services: [a] a support office to serve as first-contact for Principal Investigators, [b] information management, [c] clinical trials and industrial relations, [d] education (e.g., to train research coordinators), [e] epidemiology, outcomes, and disease management, and [f] laboratories (e.g. for specialized tests not readily available through standard sources).

UTHSC currently has several Centers of Excellence that have generated considerable research activity and accompanying revenue. The next logical step will be to turn these Centers into Institutes that include a clinical component. The first transformations will be for a cancer institute and an eye institute.

For the other two phases of research--intellectual property start-ups and companies--UTHSC already has community support, via the Memphis Biotech Foundation, which is helping to build the necessary infrastructure.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on April 7, 2003, at 12:00 Noon in the Patio on the 7th floor of the Wm. F. Bowld Hospital.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
E. Haavi Morreim, PhD
Secretary