

School of Medicine

School of Medicine Faculty Assembly Agenda May 2, 2024 at 4pm Hybrid meeting: Zoom/in-Person

In attendance:

- a. In-person: S Kamboj; G Athas; B. Locklan-McGee, S Alahari, H Scott
- Zoom: J Calandria; L Marrero; C Taylor; J Hart; A Augustus-Wallace; M Clement; A Abreo; R Zambrano; E Wisner; A Martin; S Holman; J Gardner; M Korah-Sedgwick; C Leblanc; A Smith; B Siggins; J D'Souza; P Prasad; S Primeaux; L Simon; A Farge;

Proxies: S Primeaux proxy for J Cameron

<u>Guest</u>: none

- 1. Call to Order 1604
- 2. Approval of the minutes, 1st B Locklan-McGee, 2nd S Alahari
- 3. Welcome to our guest, Lucio Miele, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean of Research, School of Medicine, who presented the following information in PowerPoint form

LSUHSC SOM: RESEARCH 2030

Faculty Assembly, 5/3/2024

"it is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself."

Contrary to myth, this is NOT a direct quote by Charles Darwin. Its author was...

Leon C. Megginson, Professor of Management and Marketing, LSU

The Changing Landscape of Biomedical Research: 4TC

Trans-disciplinary

Need for complementary areas of expertise from bench to community

Team science

Increased emphasis on MPI/shared governance

NCI and NCATS *require* that team science be recognized in PT

Translational

Increasing focus on the science of translation (TS)

Technologically advanced

Premium on innovation, need for state-of-the art infrastructure

Strong emphasis on computational resources, data science, AI-ML

Academia-industry partnerships

Community Engaged

CBPR, Role of patient advocates, Community Advisors

The Changing Landscape of Biomedical Research

Modern Clinical, Population and Pre-Clinical Research Rely Heavily on Each Other and on Data Science

Strengths

Successful academic units, such as:

ADACE Burn center **Cancer Center** Cardiovascular Center of Excellence Neuroscience Center of Excellence Pulmonary/IC section Patient population Clinical data LTR LACaTS CCTS (TIN, K12) **High-profile studies** AoU NPH RECOVER N3C NCORP Weaknesses Cumbersome collaboration with LCMC Limited, costly access to clinical data Restrictive bioprocurement policies Few therapeutic clinical trials Antiquated research infrastructure, particularly for CTR Aging faculty/few ESIs/few clinician-scientists Difficult recruitment/retention Graduate School in need of revitalization Limited collaboration with other LSU campuses Opportunities Streamlined IRB/contract process with LCMC Opportunity for integration with SOPH, SON for population research, campus-wide data

science/informatics, D&I research

Several new Clinical Chairs with fresh ideas on clinical research

Baton Rouge Biomedical Corridor

FHIR supplement

Precision medicine and prevention

New MEB space under construction

Innovation/Academic entrepreneurship

Increased NIH emphasis on health disparities, data science and D&I research

Threats

Risk of "staleness" in a changing research environment

Limited collaboration between academic units

Internal competition rather than cooperation/silos

Low morale from construction/moving

Risk of personnel loss

Increased local and national competition

Uncertainty on the NIH budget over the next 2 years

Slow, cumbersome HR process with non-competitive salaries for some positions

Inconsistent IRB policies between LSU campuses

SETTING GOALS

Example Research Strategic Objectives

To be recognized as a top 50 medical school in NIH ranking

Develop research programs that align with NIH current priorities, and with the needs of the communities we serve

Develop research programs that have an impact on population health and clinical care, and raise the national reputation of our clinical partner institutions

Prepare our trainees to become leaders and innovators in biomedical research throughout the translational spectrum

These Trends Require an Increased Emphasis on Collaboration and Networking

Isolation is an existential threat to research groups too small to survive

Need to maintain critical mass in areas of excellence internally, and a network of collaborations within each school, between schools, with other institutions and with industry

Collaborations usually coalesce around specific programs/grant opportunities

Large collaborative projects generate preliminary data for further grant applications

E.g., All of Us, N3C, RECOVER, NPH and most recently, AACR GENIE, Alzheimer's disease data consortium etc.

These Strategic Opportunities Require:

Close collaboration and negotiation with clinical partners (research MOUs, DUAs, federated data exchanges etc.) and industry (mutually beneficial research contracts)

Significant informatics capabilities (biomedical informatics, bio-informatics, multi-omics, ML)

Example: GENIE data are accessible to members before they are made public, allowing opportunities for discovery - and hypothesis generation for further grant proposals - by network members

Dissemination of opportunities to interested investigators in the HSC, Baton Rouge and Main Campus Some Opportunities That Could be Leveraged

Participation in PCORI (REACHNet)

Useful for population research, pragmatic, decentralized clinical trials

RAMP to independent funding for clinical investigators

Data only PI

Data only – national MPI

Interventional CT

BUT requires clinical data independence to maximize ability to leverage our clinical data Some Opportunities That Could be Leveraged

Industry collaborations in the therapeutics, biomarkers and genomic space

Southern Research Institute

Takeda-LSUHSC licensing agreement

Neuroscience Center-aligned companies

Chosen Biotech

Regeneron (under development)

Alamya Genomics (under development)

Others?

Some Considerations on Recruitment

Successful recruits should fit within institutional culture, work well with their colleagues, and often are attracted by a longer-term project (e.g., the pursuit of NCI designation, being part of a vibrant center of excellence, achieving top 50 status)

One recruits an individual, not just a CV

National networking allows the identification of qualified candidates

Retention is as important as recruitment

Infrastructure, shared resources and access to clinical collaborators, clinical data and clinical specimens are all key retention needs

MEASURING PROGRESS

Tracking and Evaluation: How Do We Measure Progress?

Refine the SOM Research Dashboard

In-depth exploration of research productivity helps the Dean identify successful programs and challenges,

and fine-tune resource allocation

Follow the data to identify strengths to be supported and gaps to be filled

Adapt tools from the LACaTS T&E Core

Carly Pigg, Research Analyst, is are currently conducting a census of ongoing research projects through the Business Managers. This is a <u>one-time</u> process meant to evaluate the accuracy of data sources used by Ram Ramanujam to construct the Research Dashboard We are piloting a PASSIVE system of productivity, research interests and collaboration tracking: the only necessary step by each investigator is creating an ORCID and/or NCBI and/or ResearchGate profile.

Draft Research Dashboard Metrics

Federal grants

NIH, NSF, DOD, BARDA etc.

Private foundation grants

Industry contracts

Patents and licenses

Observational clinical studies initiated and ongoing

Enrollment numbers if applicable

Therapeutic clinical trials initiated and ongoing

Investigator-initiated

Multi-center

Industry-funded

Federally funded

Enrollment numbers

For shared resources:

Number of investigators using them

Extramurally funded

Intramurally funded (e.g., pilot grants, bridge grants)

Publications (and cumulative impact factor)

Collaborative publications between different units

For specific units (e.g., Cancer Center), inter- and intra-programmatic interactions are measured separately

Faculty "interactome" using a commercial tool that crawls PubMed and SCOPUS for joint publications

For intramural grant programs

Fraction of funded faculty who go on to obtain extramural funding

Draft Research Dashboard Metrics

Successful collaborations (grants, contracts and publications)

Between clinicians and preclinical scientists

Between population and preclinical scientists

Between academic units

Between schools

ROI of internal seed grants

Fraction of investigators who go on to obtain extramural funding

Success rate of pre-reviewed grants

Specific Aims Workshops

Full application pre-review

Thoughts on Goal 2: Population Research and Clinically Impactful Impact

Population research expansion campus-wide (collaboration with SOPH, SON, SOD)

ACGME is putting emphasis on population science training

Requires inter-disciplinary cooperation and access to data at scale

Environmental exposures

Socioeconomic exposures

Quantifiable biological measures of exposures

Multi-omics (epigenetics, gene expression profiling, proteomics etc.)

Dissemination and Implementation Research

Translational Science (as opposed to Translational Research): research on how translational

advances impact real life health care

Health Services Research is fundable

Thoughts on Goal 3: Training and Career Development

Our research-intensive teaching programs (e.g. SGS) will only be as good as our research program

SGS rebuilding in progress

Existing strengths to be leveraged:

Gap year option for medical students

Honors MD program

Resident/Fellow research

MPH research

Others?

Training grants should be encouraged and supported

But they need qualified trainees and funded mentors

Hence, they depend heavily on the success of the research enterprise, recruitment and retention Thoughts on Goal 3: Training and Career Development

Early career investigators today are far more "mentored" and nurtured than they were in the past

The "sink or swim" model puts ESIs at a disadvantage

We have significant resources, both internally and through our partners, that can be leveraged campus-wide

COBREs are intended to be a pipeline to funding for ESIs, but

We don't have enough promising candidates

Retention of successful mentees is key, (see above re retention)

We could better leverage the LACaTS Roadmap Scholar program towards K awards

Thoughts on Goal 3: Training and Career Development: Internal Resources to be Leveraged More

Extensively

Mentoring committee for ESIs

Campus-wide collaborative pilot grants

Expanded Research Cafe`

Expanded Specific Aims Workshops

Expanded campus-wide grant pre-reviews

Thoughts on Goal 3: Training and Career Development: External Resources to be Leveraged Federated (inter-institutional) resources

LACaTS

Pilot grants targeted to inter-institutional collaborations

Roadmap Scholars (one-year grants plus training in translational research, study design, grantsmanship etc.)

MS in Clinical and Translational Science (Tulane)

MS in Bioinformatics and Data Science (LSUHSC)

Project Development Teams (dedicated to biomedical informatics)

CCTS

K12 grants: Subsequent funding rate of previous K awardees is 80%

TL1 grants (pre-doctoral, will be replaced by T32)

TL1 grants (post-doctoral, will be replaced by T32)

We don't have enough qualified applicants – need to strengthen the SGS and identify/nurture promising clinician-scientists

Thoughts on Goal 3: Training and Career Development: External Resources to be Leveraged - 2 Additional federated resources that can be leveraged

CCTS (UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences)

Pilot grants, focused on translational science

GRIT program (intensive grant writing course, alumni have >65% funding rate)

PDQs (Panels Done Quickly)

Pre-review of grant proposals

Library of funded grants

Training Symposium (Networking, expert tutorials)

Access to UAB I2B2

Clinical Trial Kiosk (in-depth tutorials and resources for clinical investigators)

Access to SHARE (regional IRB reliance, regional clinical studies)

Access to TIN (Trial Innovation Network)

ONGOING ACTIVITIES - 1

Streamlining shared resources and establishing iLAB accounts for transparent tracking of utilization and billing

Working with LCMC and our Tulane colleagues to streamline clinical research contracting

MOU on research clinical data warehouse in LSUHSC legal office

Representing the SOM in a campus-wide process of research computational resource expansion (input greatly appreciated)

Working with clinical ESIs to expand access to research collaborations for investigators who don't have/want 75% protected effort

ONGOING ACTIVITIES - 2

Building a passive tracking system for productivity and collaboration Disseminate training, grant review, and collaboration opportunities from our partners Gathering information from research stakeholders about the needs of different constituencies Improve communication of our research successes and outreach/engagement for ongoing clinical studies These are being shared with the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee and will make their way into action items

- a. Discussion: Issues and concerns presented to Dr. Miele for future consideration:
 - i. Protected time for clinical faculty who are interested in pursuing research
 - ii. Greater respect for research and the populations of people who participate in research
- 4. In the interest of time due to the meeting going over 20 minutes, the reports from the other meetings will be emailed to all delegates
 - a. Administrative council meeting postponed for next week in May, nothing to report
 - b. Executive Committee and Faculty Senate reports will be sent by A Augustus-Wallace
- 5. Old Business
 - a. G Athas gave an update on the incident that occurred in March; the school stated that investigators reviewed the evidence and made recommendations to the university. The university followed those recommendations. Those recommendations are confidential.
 - b. The senate proposed new policies for victims' rights, passed by the Senate, moved to review with Dr. Southerland
 - c. The Senate is reviewing the proposal of the ability for faculty to donate leave to another faculty for crisis leave
- 6. New Business
 - a. Elections
 - i. Email sent out calling for nominations and self-nominations for FAD
 - ii. 2.5 weeks for nominations
 - iii. Once the final list is accumulated, S Taylor will review to make sure they are qualified
 - b. A Augustus-Wallace is proposing a new award for Woman's Affairs moving forward
 - i. Will discuss and vote on in further in meetings
- 7. June Guest: Janet Southerland, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will discuss promotions and other issues
- 8. Motion to Adjourn 1st Alahari; 2nd G Athas; 1733