

Voting Members Present: Ernie Canalis, Emily Germain-Lee, Brenton Graveley, Pedro Mendes, Carla Rash, Pramod Srivastava, Anthony Vella

Guest: Michael Centola, Kimberly Dodge, Victor Hesselbrock, Monika Lau

Dr. Germain-Lee called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

1. **Approve Minutes** - Upon a motion made by Dr. Graveley seconded by Dr. Mendes, the Council members voted unanimously in favor to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2024 meeting.
2. **MD/PhD Program** – Dr. Kimberly Dodge provided the following overview of the MD/PhD program, a dual degree program that allows individuals to receive medical and science training expertise in preparation for a productive career as a physician-scientist.
 - The length of the training program is approximately eight years.
 - The School of Medicine has increased the size of their MD/PhD program to make it more competitive to apply for an NIH Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) grant. They currently have 61 students in the program, and the target enrollment for MD/PhD students for Fall 2024 is 8.
 - Over the last two years, they have been working on developing a competency-guided curriculum for physician scientist training that focuses on the following core skills: Bench to Bedside Integration; Communication Skills; Professional Growth; Personal Growth; and Equity and Justice.
 - Since trainees are required to submit a fellowship application, Dr. Dodge, and other senior faculty members, have organized fellowship training workshops and mock reviews to support and give advice to trainees with their grant submissions. The number of NIH F30/F31 Fellowships and American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship awards earned by our students has increased in recent years.
 - Two graduate school courses are now required to help trainees: 1) Communications for Biomedical Scientists; 2). Experimental Design, Rigor, and Biostatistics.
 - Dr. Dodge stated that all faculty must receive mentor training to have an MD/PhD student working in their laboratory.
3. **Human Research Protection Program** – Michael Centola introduced Monika Lau, new Director of the Human Research Protections Program at UConn Health, UConn Storrs, and the regional campuses, to Research Council.

4. **Update on Greenphire** – Greenphire provides electronic payments to patients participating in clinical trials. Dr. Hesselbrock noted that the UConn Storrs contract with Greenphire has lapsed, and Mike Glasgow, Associate Vice President for Research Sponsored Program Services, is working with them to renegotiate a new contract.

Greenphire insists that UConn Health have a separate contract, which the University is pursuing. However, with the new requirements and liability clauses instituted recently by the State of Connecticut for clinical trials, there have been some delays with the current negotiations, but they hope to finalize soon.

5. **Other updates** – Dr. Germain-Lee stated that her and Dr. Steffens’s terms on Research Council end June 30, 2024. At our next meeting, Council members will need to nominate a person to serve as Chair, as well as appoint a member to serve as a representative on the Dean’s Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Holden