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DIVISION OF RESEARCH
INFORMATIONAL REPORT – 1ST QUARTER FY 2009

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH (OVPR)

- The OVPR hosted the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences retreat to develop reorganization and strategic plans. A follow-up meeting will take place on February 11 to present data, information on progress and next steps.
- The OVPR issued the request for proposals in the arts to support research projects in the arts, creative arts research or research that engages the arts in carrying out the University's urban research mission. Awards will be made in the range of \$10,000 to \$50,000, and projects are expected to lay the foundation for further work beyond the award end date and result in external funding appropriate for the field of study.
- Faculty and administrators from WSU and the University of Windsor attended a meeting to discuss a joint research project on air quality and asthma by the North American Public Health Institute at the University of Windsor.
- WSU participated in the grant selection of the Ralph Wilson Medical Research Foundation scholars. Avril Genene Holt, assistant professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology in the School of Medicine was funded \$200,000 for her proposal, *Control of Cochlear Nucleus Neurons via Light Gated Channels following Deafness*.
- Hosted the second meeting with the State of Michigan Department of Community Health and Michigan State University on creating a Virtual Public Health University.
- Developing organization of WSU investigators to create a stem cell incubator lab at Tech Town.
- Submitted application to the Carls Foundation for support of the Michigan Biotrust Project (blood spots) located at Tech Town.
- Reviewed and awarded faculty applications for Bridge Funding. Six faculty were selected for funding.
- Freda Giblin assisted with writing and assembling administrative parts of Sylvie Naar-King's 5-year, \$5.7 million U01 submission on "Intervention Procedures in Adherence to Weight Loss Recommendations in Black Adolescents."
- Met with the Faculty Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate to discuss what OVPR is doing in the way of mentoring junior faculty.
- Established a Pre- and Post-Doctoral Recruitment Committee, led by Interim Dean of the Graduate School Steven Salley, to plan and implement collaborative strategies to enhance recruitment of graduate students and post-doctoral trainees.
- Division of Research press releases from October through December, 2008 generated 181 media hits. Releases included:
 - "Wayne State to host E2detroit entrepreneurial conference"
 - Michigan's Role in National Children's Study expanded with \$57 million NIH grant
 - "Wayne State researcher developing new method to reduce complications of severe hemophilia in children"

- "WSU researcher investigates potential link between beetle outbreak in Yellowstone and climate change"
- "WSU Conference Addresses Climate Change in Local Community. *Free and open to the public.*"
- "WSU research team receive grant to develop simple blood test for detecting breast cancer"
- "WSU to host lecture Oct. 14: Unlocking the Mystery of Extending Life Span: Is Diet the Key?"
- "Susan G. Komen for the Cure© Makes Unprecedented Research and Local Program Grants"
- "Wayne State researcher's new paradigm for RNA folding paves way for breakthroughs in treatment of deadly disease and understanding gene diversity"
- "First study of war-related mental disorders among Iraqis 10 years post-Gulf War published by researchers at Wayne State and Basrah University, Iraq"
- "Wayne State to host nanotechnology seminar series"
- "Wayne State researcher studies damaging effects of fetal pesticide exposure on the neurodevelopment of toddlers"
- "Nanotechnology seminar on Dec., 2 will focus on biomedical applications for molecular design and development"
- "Wayne State spin-off awarded \$100,000 National Science Foundation SBIR Grant"
- The Division of Research launched its new website in December 2008.
- The Division of Research hosted three Nano@Wayne seminars for faculty and students which included guest speakers from the University of Texas at Austin, LGS Innovations and the University of Washington at Seattle.

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

- Appointed new directors for the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (Thomas Perez) and for Responsible Conduct of Research (Gayle Kusch).
- Appointed Dr. James Puklin as Chair of the Human Investigation Committee.
- Applied to AAALAC International for reaccreditation of WSU's animal research protection program.

TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

Technology Commercialization efforts which will bring grants to WSU

- MUCI – Life Science and Engineering/Physical Science awards: Technology Commercialization professional staff served on MUCI grant review and executive committees.
- MIII- Fred Reinhart continued to serve on the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Technology Commercialization grant review committee. TC staff served as grant application reviewers for the latest round of proposals.
- SEIC Board- Technology Commercialization professionals observed and assisted with WSU communication and strategies relating to grant opportunities.

WSU grants obtained by Technology Commercialization

- MUCI Challenge fund and MIIE grant fund- Technology Transfer staff helped secure three MIIE/MUCI grants totaling \$320K for Leon Carlock of CMMG, Simon Ng of Chemical Engineering and Robert Erlandson of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- 21st Century Jobs Fund: WSU start-up Meditrina secured \$2.6 million in the latest round of grant competition.
- SPARK Pre-seed Fund: WSU start-up SenSound is expected to receive a \$250,000 loan and Technology Commercialization staff has been actively assisting the company.

Assistance to TechTown

- Judy Johncox provided significant assistance with entrepreneurial training and management of the FAST, DBI and Smart Start programs; preparing required grant reports and handling a range of TechTown projects and initiatives.
- Fred Reinhart served on the TechTown Board and support committee and assisted in various issues and opportunities involving TechTown.

Venture Development and economic development initiatives

- Judy Johncox and Fred Reinhart are working on the “Co-Creation Project” with the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Jim Anderson/Urban Sciences and WSU College of Engineering. The project will launch in February or March, 2009.
- Fred Reinhart, Randal Charlton and Judy Johncox continued to lead WSU/TechTown efforts to form a \$25-35 MM seed fund at TechTown with the involvement of the TKM venture capital group.
- Eric Stief, formerly with the TTO, was hired to become the new Director of Venture Development and Judy Johncox will move into the newly-created position of Director of Venture Services for WSU/TechTown.
- Discussions commenced with Ross Sanders and others from Bizdom U on forging closer ties to both WSU and TechTown.
- Technology Commercialization staff spoke at or participated in the annual MichBio Expo in Novi, MI. Fred Reinhart was profiled in Xology Magazine and commented on the prospects for the Michigan life science industry.

Agreements or amendments in negotiation or discussion

- TherOx- negotiation of royalty rate on TherOx products to be introduced next year; renegotiation of the TherOx-WSU license agreement covering the super-oxygenation technology of Dr. Richard Spears of the School of Medicine and DMC.
- Anne Di Sante is managing negotiations with Sungard Higher Education regarding license and distribution rights to WSU’s broadcast messaging system developed by Joe Sawasky’s group.
- Negotiations commenced with Pfizer on license rights covering unique transgenic mice developed at KCI by Wei-zen Wei.

- Negotiation of option or license terms with a start-up founded by Sorin Draghici of Computer Science.
- TC continued cordial discussions with Siemens Power to expand the license rights currently held by Siemens relating to the Bob Thomas et.al. “sonic-IR” non-destructive evaluation technology.

Agreements completed

- During the recently-ended 12 month period, TTO successfully negotiated and completed 120 Material Transfer Agreements as well a several “orphan” agreements needed by WSU researchers.
- SciClone and WSU settled a dispute regarding underpayment of royalties due under SciClone's license agreement covering hepatitis therapies. The settlement provides an initial payment of \$150,000 to WSU with additional, larger payments and royalties if the company receives regulatory approval in Europe.

Miscellaneous negotiations and management activities

- Technology Commercialization has recruited a highly experienced market research analyst, Christine Willis, to provide research support for all TC operations and initiatives.
- Ellen Traschenko, a second year law student, was hired as a student intern to assist with the review, negotiation and processing of Material Transfer Agreements.
- Assisted in the management of an issue involving WSU licensee SciTech and an outside patent firm which failed to docket the deadline for filing a Japanese patent application.

Promotion of WSU capabilities

- WSU’s submission to AUTM’s Better World Report re: the Milton Mutchnick Hepatitis therapeutic has been accepted and will appear in the annual issue which will be released in February, 2009.
- October and December issues of X-Ology Magazine featured SciTech and the WSU student-managed advertising agency located at TechTown.
- Continued WSU’s national and international leadership in technology transfer through organizations such as Association of University Technology Managers, Council on Governmental Relations, Midwest Research University Network, European Federation of Biotechnology, etc.

Other significant events affecting WSU

- WSU’s licensee, TherOx, has sublicensed super-oxygenation technology to PetMedicus Laboratories of South Dakota and PetMedicus has begun marketing a veterinary cream to speed wound healing in animals. TherOx has also sublicensed this technology to Cosmetic Essence Incorporated (CEI) of Virginia and CEI has begun marketing a super-oxygenated cosmetic cream with the ingredient “Oxium.”
- Sanofi-Aventis delivered formal notice to WSU that it will drop the entire SH-80 compound development project due to a failure of the lead compound in clinical

- trials. During the next four months a new licensee will be sought and, failing that, all patent rights will be abandoned.
- WSU terminated license negotiations with Seamarog, a start-up company seeking rights to technology developed by Alope Dutta of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
 - Fred Reinhart participated in a two-day conference at the National Academies of Science on the subject of academic technology transfer and intellectual property.

CENTER FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE AND GENETICS (CMMG)

- **Alexander Gow**, Ph.D., associate professor of molecular medicine and genetics, pediatrics and neurology has published the paper, “Claudin 11 Stops the Leaks” in the December 1, 2008 issue of the Journal of Cell Biology. His findings could lead to new treatment investigations for autism and schizophrenia.
- M.D./Ph.D. student **Lesley Lawrenson** received a three year Department of Defense Predoctoral Traineeship for her project, “Genomic Instability as a Driving Force for Breast Cancer.” Her thesis advisors are Profs. Henry Heng and Wayne Lancaster.
- Abdul Abou Samra, M.D., Ph.D., division chief, endocrinology and professor of internal medicine has become a joint faculty member in the CMMG.
- **Maik Hüttemann**, assistant professor of molecular medicine and genetics, biochemistry and molecular biology, received the School of Medicine's 2008 Research Excellence Award. **Angela Trepanier**, assistant professor of molecular medicine and genetics and **Alexander Gow**, associate professor of molecular medicine and genetics, neurology and pediatrics, each received the School of Medicine's 2008 Teaching Excellence Award.

INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY (IOG)

- **Publications:** Faculty from the Institute of Gerontology published 17 papers in numerous journals during the first quarter of FY09 including:
 - Frontiers in Human Neuroscience
 - Biological Psychology
 - Psychiatric Services
 - SAGE: Skills to Advance Gerontology Excellence: Occupational Therapy Training Program
 - Progress in Cardiovascular Nursing
 - MedSurg Nursing
 - Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology
 - Pain Medicine
 - Medical Anthropology Quarterly
 - Anthropology News
 - Journal of Aging, Humanities, and the Arts
 - Encyclopedia of the Life Course and Human Development
 - The Journal of Health Psychology
 - The Arts in Psychotherapy
 - Bioelectromagnetics
 - Psychosom Med

- **Presentations:** Faculty from the Institute of Gerontology presented at 27 meetings and lectures during the first quarter of FY09.
- **Grant funding:** Faculty from the Institute of Gerontology received the following grants in the first quarter of FY09:
 - *Integrating mental health into home care practice with older adults.* Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation and Retirement Research Foundation. 2008-2009, \$50,000. Peter Lichtenberg, Principal Investigator.
 - *Seniors Count! Pilot Project, Phase I.* Kresge Foundation, \$200,000, January 1, 2009-December 31, 2010. Thomas B. Jankowski, Principal Investigator, with Sara Gleicher of Adult Well Being Services.
 - *Seniors Count! Pilot Project, Phase I.* Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, \$65,000, January 1, 2009-December 31, 2010. Thomas B. Jankowski, Principal Investigator, with Sara Gleicher of Adult Well Being Services.

MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE (MPSI)

- **Publications**
 - Simon, V.A., Wargo Aikins, J., & Prinstein, M.J. (2008). Romantic Partner Selection and Socialization During Early Adolescence. *Child Development, 79* (6), 1676-1692.
- **In press**
 - Ondersma, S. J., Grekin, E. R., & Svikis, D. (in press). Dynamic, during-session ratings as predictors of computer-delivered intervention response. *Substance Use & Misuse*.
- **Presentations**
 - Balog, H. L., Andruski, J. E., & Long, E. (2008, November). Phonetic transcription supplemented by acoustic analysis: Evidence for best practice. Poster session presented at the meeting to the American Speech-Language Association Convention, Chicago, IL.
 - Invited participant and presenter at NIH conference: Ondersma, S. J. (2008). Technology and its use with low-SES women who smoke during pregnancy. Invited member of expert panel for NIH/Office of Women's Health initiative, "Tobacco and Young, Low-SES Women: Federal Collaboration to Make a Difference." Presented December 1, 2008, Washington, DC.
 - Carpenter, G. & Stacks, A. M. Effects of Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence in Early Childhood: A Review of the Literature. *Child and Youth Services Review*.
- **Other**
 - Simon: Received positive reviews and score of 180 on 1st round submission of NIMH grant application entitled "The Emergence of HIV Risk Among Sexually Abused Adolescent Females."
 - Received funding for subcontract: Ismail, A., Sohn, Woosung., et al., & Ondersma, S. J. (2008-2010). Urban Community Oral Health Interventions Project. U01,

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. \$858,273. (Subcontract, Ondersma, PI: \$64,839).

- Ondersma: Participated in NIDA Behavioral Treatment Development Study Section, October, 2008.
- Stacks: 2nd year of funding approved from the Children's Research Center of Michigan (\$50,000). Currently collecting data for the project.