• Received the final report and recommendations from the Efficiency Processing and Improvement Committee. This report identifies the most pressing pre-award and post-award research issues that challenge WSU faculty. Process improvements and planning have begun.

• Vice President Hilary Ratner participated in the China University Leadership forum.

• The Division of Research hosted an annual retreat in June.

• The OVPR coordinated the review and announcement process for the URC grant program in alternative energy and nanotechnology for seed fund grants to provide startup support for two "revolutionary but feasible" energy projects. The seed investments will help launch two collaborations for efficient development of cheaper forms of electricity and fuel, one involving all three universities and the other involving MSU and U-M. Dr. Stephanie Brock, associate professor of Chemistry at WSU is a collaborator on the tri-URC project, “Thermoelectric materials for power generation.” This project is aimed at developing far more efficient low-cost thermoelectric materials. The technology could be used for power generation and environmentally friendly heating and cooling systems.

• Research Mentor for New Faculty Awards were given to: Annmarie Cano, Psychology (Mentee: Emily Grekin); Li Way Lee, Economics (Mentee: Tatsuma Wada).

• Graduate Students who Obtain External Support Award given to: Anna Liza Valina-Toth, Physiology (Advisor: John Flack).

• PR Efforts for May and June included:
  o Met with Komen Foundation and Karmanos Institute to begin prep work for a joint press release on upcoming awards from Komen to WSU. Awards are pending Komen contract reviews and will be released upon notification from the Komen Foundation.
  o Met with ArtJen to develop a national press release on new diet product, FBCx, developed by faculty members Dr. Jen and Artiss. The release received numerous national and international media hits.
  o Worked with Crain’s Detroit Business on Dr. Robert Freedman/Biomedical Monitors story. Also placed an ad featuring WSU’s research achievements in this special technology edition.
  o Other releases that garnered media attention included:
    ▪ President’s Research Enhancement Program Awards
    ▪ URC Awards Announcement
    ▪ Diane Chugani - $5.8 million autism award from NIH
    ▪ Mark Juzych – glaucoma study published
    ▪ Hui sisters (WSU undergraduate students) and their win from the Microsoft Imagine Cup
    ▪ MD/PhD student receives Epilepsy Foundation Fellowship
• WSU hosts Neuroscience Symposium
• WSU receives DOD grant for potential prostate cancer treatment
• Allen Goodman’s Jeopardy debut
• Jeff Loeb – epilepsy grant
• Robert Lisak - election to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians
• Albert King – named Honorary Professor at Tsinghua University in China.
  o Worked with URC on draft annual report focused on alternative energy.
  o Continuing extensive work on Division of Research websites with Marketing.
• Hosted President-elect Noren on research tour in the College of Engineering.

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

• The second FY08 biannual meeting of the Financial Conflict of Interest Committee was held on May 28, 2008.
• Research Compliance initiated the use of Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) modules for human and animal researchers.
• Assembled a Task Force on the Use of External IRBs, which met twice and recommended revising current HIC policies to allow the use of outside IRBs.

TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

• Technology Commercialization has been successful at bringing in companies such as Joe Ferrario’s Transdermal Delivery Systems (Detroit) and Pixel Velocity (Ann Arbor) to meet with WSU researchers. In the former case, one outcome has been discussions on a clinical trial involving Michael Diamond.
• Fred Reinhart participated in meetings with EDA in Chicago and Detroit to discuss possible grant funding for TechTown
• TherOx and WSU are engaged in an important royalty rate negotiation and will meet in person in June to attempt to resolve the matter. There is a significant amount of money at stake.
• Judy Johncox, Lori Simoes and Fred Reinhart have been involved with discussions with the College of Engineering, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan and Jim Anderson, a WSU donor and founder/CEO of Urban Science in Detroit. The discussions concern a possible start-up company, possibly founded with students, to develop assistive technologies and products.
• Randal Charlton, Judy Johncox and Fred Reinhart have met with both Tom McNulty and another investor group headed by Mahendra Ramsingani to discuss their interest in establishing a seed fund at TechTown.
• CMMG and Technology Commercialization are exploring a collaboration to increase the number of industry relationships, inventions and start-up companies coming out of CMMG.
• Fred Reinhart met with HFHS to advise on setting up a technology transfer program in their organization.
• Technology Transfer is negotiating an option agreement Seamarog covering neurotropic compounds developed by Alok Dutta of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
Two, royalty-bearing cell line agreements are in progress covering technology developed by Ramzi Mohammad and Gali Hillman. The companies are Jackson Labs and Charles River Labs, globally recognized entities.

Technology Commercialization staff have been active in helping set up and run the MIIE grant program and related activities. Judy Johncox and Anne Di Sante have been placed on grant review committees; Randal Charlton is on the fund raising committee; and Fred Reinhart will be chair of the Technology Commercialization Fund grant review committee. Two Wayne State University proposals were funded in the initial round: Jeffrey Loeb, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of Neurology, member of the Wayne State University/DMC Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, and associate director of the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics in WSU’s School of Medicine was awarded $100,000 for his proposal, “CMMG Commercialization Center.” Richard Beltramini, Ph.d., interim associate dean of WSU’s School of Business, was awarded $50,000 to expand an innovative student-run advertising agency at WSU’s TechTown to work with new business start-ups in Michigan.

Two WSU start-ups, Meditrina and SciTech, were accepted and formally presented at the Michigan Growth Capital Symposium.

INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY

Over 115 Occupational Therapists attended the IOG conference Integrating mental health into OT practice with older adults on May 3.

Over 530 registrants attended the IOG's 21st annual Issues in Aging conference on May 12 – 13.

Over 50 faculty from eight universities attended the IOG and UM ISR annual national Resource Center for Minority Aging Research conference on May 8 – 9.

1250 older adults attended the Healthier Black Elders Health reception at Bert's Warehouse, Eastern Market.

Olivia Washington was given the Spirit of Detroit award by City Council for her HBE leadership.

25 African American junior faculty from across the country came to the MCUAAAR grant summer workshop.

Peter Lichtenberg was elected President (2009-10) for American Psychological Association Division of Adult Development and Aging.

Cathy Lysack and Heather Dillaway’s chapter on exercise in women was published in the book Progress and Exercise in Women's Health Research

Peter Lichtenberg was awarded a one-year $50,000 AHRQ award for another year of post doctoral funding on his T32 grant

Stewart Neufeld attended the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists annual meeting in Whitehorse and delivered two papers

Stewart Neufeld submitted a proposal (with Mark Luborsky & Andrea Sankar) to the State on HIV prevention needs assessment. This is a 1 year project with a total cost of $135,000.
MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE


- Two book chapters that were in press were published:

- Two articles that were under review were accepted for publication:

CENTER FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE AND GENETICS

- Jeff Loeb, associate director of CMMG, received a $1.6 M NIH grant to study epilepsy. This was well publicized on outlets such as on WWJ (http://www.wwj.com/Wayne-State-Researcher-To-Study-Epilepsy-With--1-6/2310425). He also received an MIIE award, noted under Technology Commercialization updates.

- Dan Barkmeier, MD/PhD student, recently received a Pre-doctoral Research Training Fellowship from the Epilepsy Foundation of America. The fellowship includes $20,000 to continue his work in research that could lead to promising new seizure medications.

- Lesley Lawrenson, an MD/PhD student working with Wayne Lancaster and Henry Heng, received a D.O.D. grant.

- Alexander Gow received an MS grant.

- Maik Hüttemann was chosen as a recipient of the 2008 Lung Cancer Research Foundation grant award in the amount of $50,000.

- Mark S. Pankonin was awarded the Frank B. Walker, MD Endowed Memorial Prize presented to fourth year students at Wayne State University School of Medicine for recognition of academic achievement and leadership in the study of scientific research.