

## Dean's Research Council Annual Report

DRC Committee Members, January 2021-December 2021	Elected	Term Exp
Pawel Kiela, DVM, PhD - Pediatrics (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	6/16	6/21
Ghassan Mouneimne, PhD – CMM (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	6/16	6/21
**Kurt Denninghoff, MD - Emergency Medicine (2nd term)	6/17	6/22
Tolga Turker, MD – Orthopedic Surgery (2nd term)	6/17	6/22
Srikar Adhikari, MD, MS – Emergency Medicine	6/19	6/22
*Janet Funk, MD – Medicine	6/18	6/23
Maria Altbach, PhD – Medical Imaging (2nd term)	6/18	6/23
Phillip Kuo, MD, PhD -Medical Imaging (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	6/19	(10/21)
Erika Eggers, PhD – Physiology	6/19	6/24
Sai Parthasarathy, MD – Medicine (2nd term)	6/19	6/24
Patrick Ronaldson, PhD – Pharmacology (2nd term)	6/19	6/24
Marlys Witte, MD – Surgery (2nd term)	6/19	6/24
Katalin Gothard, MD, PhD – Physiology	6/20	6/25
Jarrold Mosier, MD – Emergency Medicine	6/20	6/25
Alicia Allen, PhD, MPH – Family and Community Medicine	6/21	6/26
Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD – Medicine	6/21	6/26
Edita Navratilova, PhD – Pharmacology	6/21	6/26
Rui Chang, PhD - Neurology	10/21	6/23
++ Lauren Zajac, Assoc VP Res Admin UAHS; Viviane Carmichael, Assoc VP, UA Fd		
++ Jason A. Wertheim, MD, PhD, Vice Dean, Research and Graduate Studies		
*** Emily Nickerson, Amy Selegue		
*Chair , Aug 2021- **Co-Chair , Aug 2021- ++ Ex-Officio or Ad Hoc, non-voting ***Staff		

**DRC membership:** Drs. Kiela, Mouneimne and Kuo stepped down this year. New elected members joined the committee: Drs. Allen (who previously served as an ad hoc DRC member in early 2021), Polverino, and Navratilova. Dr Chang has also joined the DRC, replacing Dr. Kuo [as per Nominating Committee and COM-T election results], who elected to step down early.

**DRC-elected leadership:** Elected DRC chairs/co-chairs changed in July 2021 from Drs. Altbach and Parthasarathy, respectively, to Drs. Funk and Denninghoff.

**DRC Meeting Minutes:** DRC members are reviewing and approving meeting minutes, as of the September 2021 meeting, which are available.

### Activity Highlights:

**Research Mentoring:** A DRC mentoring subcommittee, head by Dr. Gothard, concluded their assessment of faculty research mentoring needs based on responses received to an inquiry sent to department heads in 2020. Only five junior faculty responded. Specific and global needs were assessed, with individual feedback provided to each applicant. Applicants already had mentors. No further DRC action is planned at this time.

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RII Research Support Services: RII (Dr. Sangita Pawar and her team) met with DRC to present information on cores, new electronic IRB, etc, and to receive DRC feedback.

COM-T / COE research collaborations: Dr. Mark Van Dyke, Assoc Dean for COE Research, met with DRC to discuss collaborative potential for COM/COE researchers.

Peer Review, COM-T Research Awards: DRC subcommittees provided peer review for UAHS Career Development Award applications in Spring 2021 and for COM-T Research Award applications (clinical and basic) in July 2021.

COM-T Research Award Review Policy: A DRC subcommittee met to devise policy recommendations for COM-T research initiative and awards, with a particular focus on optimizing peer review. The DRC voted unanimously in October 2021 to accept the proposed policies (see Addendum), which were submitted to the COM-T for use in future initiatives.

DRC Research Initiatives for 2021-22: The DRC is currently developing an actionable plan with the goal of improving COM-T research, following DRC discussions and identification of specific needs, including those related to clinical and collaborative research.

## ADDENDUM TO DRC ANNUAL REPORT

### Recommended COM-T Research Award Review Policies

*(DRC approved by unanimous vote, October 5, 2021).*

#### **Requests for Applications (RFAs)**

- 1) The Dean's Research Council (DRC) will provide ongoing advice regarding content and goals of new or existing COM-T research awards and programs.
- 2) For new programs, the DRC will review RFAs prior to release for clarity and equity.
- 3) RFAs or other important notices related to research opportunities will be sent directly in independent emails to all COM-T faculty, consistent with COM-T values of diversity, equity and inclusion.

#### **Research Award Review Policies**

- 1) All applications will initially be reviewed and organized by COM-T administrators for completeness prior to forwarding to the review committee. Only applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed.
- 2) Review Committees will be comprised of COM-T or other UA faculty with diverse expertise appropriate to the application, consistent with COI guidelines and COM-T values of diversity, equity and inclusion.
- 3) Non-research faculty with relevant expertise (e.g., clinicians, biostatisticians, and/or other qualified staff) may be included in reviews as warranted, based on program and application, with DRC providing guidance, as needed.
- 4) To help identify appropriate reviewers, applicants will provide the names of two or more potential reviewers, consistent with COI guidelines, and 4-5 key words.
- 5) COM-T will also send out an annual solicitation for COM-T faculty willing to serve as reviewers, whose names and expertise will be added to a database.
- 6) Review committee members will be recruited by COM-T or AHSC Research Offices consistent with COI guidelines, using information provided in the application and UA databases reflecting faculty areas of expertise (e.g., self-identified COM-T faculty reviewers, K-map or Pivot). As needed, DRC can be consulted for advice as to appropriate reviewers.
- 7) As will be stipulated in RFAs, if selected for funding, awardees will agree to serve on future Review Committees if requested.
- 8) A minimum of two faculty will review each application, with three being a preferred, one of whom should not have been recommended by the applicant.
- 9) A minimum of two weeks will be provided for individual reviewers to sign COI statement and complete individual application reviews, with two additional week allowed for scheduled joint meeting of Review Committee panel to discuss all applications (4-weeks total for merit review phase).
- 10) Reviewers will assess specific review criteria included in the RFA and appropriate to the award, which will be numerically scored so that uniform reviews can be assured, with final scores reflecting final scores of entire review panel (omitting those recused for apparent/perceived COI).
- 11) The Review Committee will submit final recommendations to COM-T Dean.
- 12) If programmatic considerations will also impact final COM-T choice of awardees, this will be clearly stated in initial program announcement.
- 13) Relevant elements of COM-T research review policy guidelines will be included in RFAs, with general guidelines also posted on COM-T Research Office website.
- 14) At the end of each calendar year, prior to submission deadlines for UAVitae, a letter from the Dean will be sent to UA faculty who served as COM-T reviewers to acknowledge their service.

*(Recommended COM-T Research Award Review Policies, cont)*

**15)** If any applicant has specific concerns about their reviews related to equity or quality, the COM-T Dean will arbitrate on a case by case basis. In addition, these cases will be reviewed by the DRC with the goal of improving COM-T policies.

**Conflict of Interest (COI) and Confidentiality**

1. All information contained in research applications and associated supplementary document are considered highly confidential and all efforts will be made to ensure the fair, objective and confidential review of each application.
2. Reviewers will be required to sign a COI statement prior to proposal assignment and review, and to ensure the confidentiality of application content and Review Committee discussions.
3. Generally, any prior (3 year) or ongoing collaborations on manuscripts or grants, mentorship roles, primary membership in the same department or division, financial conflicts, or personal or familial relationships are considered COIs. During panel discussions, conflicted reviewers will be recused and released from discussions of applications with which s/he has apparent or perceived COI.

Additional approved items:

**1. CONFIDENTIALITY AND COI STATEMENT FOR REVIEWER SIGNATURE**

*All information contained in a grant application and associated supplemental documents are considered highly confidential and all efforts will be made to ensure the fair, objective, and confidential review of each proposal.*

*Reviewers agree to adhere to strict guidelines to ensure the confidentiality of the content of all grant applications as well as any information conferred during the ensuing panel discussions.*

*Reviewers will not review individual applications and will be recused during Review Committee panel discussions for applications for which they have apparent or perceived COI, and should notify those administrating the reviews of any apparent or perceived COI prior to start of the merit review process.*

*Generally, any prior (3 year) or ongoing collaborations on manuscripts or grants, mentorship roles, primary membership in the same department or division, financial conflicts, or personal or familial relationships are considered COIs.*

**2. BOILER PLATE LANGUAGE RELATED TO REVIEWS TO BE USED IN RFAs.**

*Applications will be reviewed according to policies established by the COM-T Dean's Research Council <add link here>, including those related to COI. To facilitate the identification of UA faculty to serve as reviewers, **applicants are requested to provide 4-5 key words, as well as the names of two or more potential UA faculty reviewers who meet COI guidelines** <add link again?>. A minimum of two members of each Review Committee will score each application, at least one of whom cannot be recommended by the applicant, with final scores and recommendations of the entire Review Committee forwarded to the Dean.*

*<IF PROGRAMATIC ISSUES WILL ALSO GUIDE SELECTION, ADD THIS HERE>*

***If selected for funding, awardees will agree to serve on future Review Committees, if requested.***