

**THE M.D. ANDERSON ALUMNI AND FACULTY ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, March 8, 2007**

**Clark Clinic Building, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Wiess Conference Room, R11.1659**

**11:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT:**

Yvonne Bazunu (ex-officio)  
Dr. Bloom  
Ivone Bruno  
Dr. Chandra  
Dr. Fanning  
Dr. Freedman (ex-officio)  
Dr. Freireich  
Patrick Gibney  
Dr. Handy  
Dr. Haynie  
Dr. Kanojia  
Dr. Matney  
Jakmica McKinney (ex-officio)  
Sharon Pepper  
Lorraine Reitzel  
Dr. Ueno  
Dr. Walter

**ABSENT:**

Anne Bettinger  
Dr. Bibb  
Marcela Bridger  
Dr. Candelari (ex-officio)  
Jennifer Collins (ex-officio)  
Dr. Deavers  
Dr. Gallick  
Dr. Khalifeh  
Dr. Komanduri  
Dr. Kumar  
Jennifer Price (ex-officio)  
Dr. Rios  
Dr. Strong  
Dr. Tomasovic (ex-officio)

**A. OPENING OF MEETING**

Dr. Chandra opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. She requested that the Steering Committee members review the minutes of the last meeting, and the minutes were approved.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of New Members

Dr. Chandra announced the four new Trainee members of the Steering Committee: Ivone Bruno, PhD (Postdoctoral Fellow), Patrick Gibney (Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences), Marcela Bridger and Courtney Vogelsang (School of Health Sciences).

Marcela and Courtney were unable to attend and will be welcomed when they are in attendance.

Distinguished Alumnus Award – Dr. Ralph Freedman

Dr. Freedman informed the Committee that we received four nominations for this year's Distinguished Alumnus Award. The four eligible nominees were:

- Dr. Soren Bentzen
- Dr. Tomio Inoue
- Dr. Jatinder Palta
- Dr. Roman Perez-Soler

The subcommittee recommended Dr. Roman Perez-Soler, who was nominated by Dr. Waun Ki Hong, for the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dr. Perez-Soler was a fellow at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center 1982 - 1985, and was promoted to Professor of Medicine in 1997. He was appointed Deputy Chairman of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology under Dr. Waun Ki Hong's leadership. The Committee approved the nomination of Perez-Soler, which will go to the PRS Executive Council for final approval.

Dr. Freedman then expressed his concern that the subcommittee received only four nominations for the prestigious award and solicited suggestions from the Committee on how to increase the numbers.

Dr. Chandra responded by reminding the Committee that we had just voted to include Observers and Visitors (that are at the institution six months or longer) as members of the Alumni & Faculty Association, therefore making them eligible to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Dr. Freedman suggested we consider including former faculty in the group of those eligible for the award. The advantage of allowing them would be to expand the pool of nominees that have served M. D. Anderson.

Other members of the Committee dissented stating that adding former faculty would change the purpose of the award.

Suggestions to increase the number of nominees included:

- Include Alumni & Faculty Association in call for nominations
- Promote more aggressively
- Follow-up with weekly reminders, email messages
- Make it easier to nominate
- Contact faculty to nominate one of their trainees
- Restructure the makeup of the subcommittee
- Rotate subcommittee members every 2-3 years

Dr. Chandra suggested that instead of including former faculty that we try to expand our pool of nominees. She also recommended that we further clarify our criteria regarding where the nominee should be in his/her career.

The Committee voted unanimously to not include former faculty and to pursue other methods of increasing the pool of former trainees for eligibility.

Trainee Excellence Award – Dr. Charles Walters

Dr. Walter informed the Committee that the Trainee Excellence Award subcommittee had met and reviewed nearly 70 abstracts to give eight Trainee Excellence Awards. [It was later clarified that in this cycle we can only give away four awards] The awards go to the following trainees:

- Marta Alonso, PhD  
Department of Neuro-Oncology
- William Merritt, MD  
Department of Gynecologic Oncology
- James Ross, PhD  
Department of Experimental Diagnostic Imaging
- InOk Surh, MS  
Department of Carcinogenesis

#### Continuation of Strategic Planning – Dr. Joya Chandra

[Using information from the previous year's strategic planning sessions, Dr. Chandra has presented, in the last several steering committee meetings, summary categories with the hope of developing new goals from them. The summary categories for discussion are Activities, Membership, Contacts and Networking, Finances, Administration, and Steering Committee Administration.]

The discussion began with a recap of the categories discussed in the January and February Steering Committee meetings: Activities, Membership (including discounts, certificates, lapel pins, and a presence at more meetings), and Contacts and Networking.

Dr. Chandra resumed the topic of Contacts and Networking by informing the Committee that the online alumni directory project was progressing well and currently has 8,000 members. She also reminded the Committee that we had agreed we will tie a charitable cause to our annual Alumni Dinner so that we might have a greater visibility in the community.

She presented a new idea to the Committee that might help the Alumni Association become more visible within the institution. Dr. Chandra proposed offering a program that prepares our clinical fellows for life after residency or fellowship program. This program would provide physicians with information to make a successful transition from a residency or fellowship program into a clinical practice or academic career.

Many members did not agree that this was a good idea. Some were not convinced that this type of program would be necessary. Others thought programs like these are already being offered and if not, still might not be appropriate for the Alumni Association to provide. It was agreed that we will ask Dr. Toya Candelari, AVP for Trainee and Alumni Affairs if this has been identified as a need and if it is being met.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

Lapel Pin

Lapel Pins will be given to the Steering Committee Members at the next meeting.

Alumni Quest Initiative – Sharon Pepper

Sharon will provide an update at a future Steering Committee meeting.

**D. OTHER**

**E. ADJOURN**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.