

THE M.D. ANDERSON ALUMNI AND FACULTY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES of STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, September 13, 2007
Clark Clinic Building, 11th Floor, R11.1663, E & F
11:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Yvonne Bazunu (ex-officio)
Anne Bettinger
Dr. Bloom
Dr. Candelari
Dr. Chandra
Jennifer Collins
Dr. Deavers
Melanie Dujka
Dr. Fanning
Dr. Handy
Dr. Haynie
Alma Hernandez (ex-officio)
Dr. Kanojia
Dr. Kumar
Dr. Matney
Jakmica McKinney (ex-officio)
Sharon Pepper
Jennifer Price
Dr. Tomasovic
Dr. Ueno
Dr. Walter

ABSENT:

Ivone Bruno
Dr. Freedman
Dr. Freireich
Dr. Gallick
Lorraine Reitzel
Dr. Rios
Dr. Strong

A. Review and approval of Minutes of previous meeting

B. New Business

Welcome to new Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Bloom – Sharon Pepper

Sharon Pepper asked the Committee members to join her in welcoming Dr. Bloom as the new Chair of the Alumni and Faculty Association. Dr. Bloom introduced herself and briefly explained what she does for M. D. Anderson at the Bellaire satellite of the Division of Radiation Oncology.

Dr. Bloom welcomed new trainee representatives to the Steering Committee:

Ivone Bruno, Ph.D. is the representative of the Postdoctoral Fellows. **Melanie Dujka** is serving as the new representative of the Graduate Students. **Jonathan Earle, M.D.**,

Manohar Roda, M.D., and Ravin Garg, M.D. have expressed an interest in representing the Clinical Fellows.

Membership, Administrative updates – Sharon Pepper

Sharon Pepper circulated the contact information list and the Subcommittees list so that the members attending could take the opportunity to update their information on each document. She informed the Committee she would distribute the roster, the contact information list, and the list of upcoming meeting and events to all members and their assistants.

“All About Physician Relations” – Jennifer Collins, Manager of Physician and Referral Relations

Jennifer described for the Committee some of the many activities of the Office of Physician Relations. Possible areas of interest for the alumni association might be in their physician office visits (staff is clinically trained and assigned specific territories), their faculty speaker’s bureau, and the bi-monthly newsletter, *Cancer Pro*.

They also demonstrate *myMDAnderson for Physicians*, which is a referral tool for physicians. Once they have referred a patient, the physician can also use it to access limited information from the records of their patients. This is being expanded to include access to more reports. About 1700 physicians have registered for this tool and about half have referred using the tool.

When exhibiting at national and international medical conferences and meetings, the staff of the Physician Relations display alumni information at their booths.

At the conclusion of Jennifer’s presentation, a Committee member suggested that Physician Relations become part of the checkout process for the clinical trainees so they may get them registered for *myMDAnderson for Physicians* even before the trainee begins working.

The Committee discussed difficulties encountered by current faculty members in making referrals. Jennifer acknowledged that there are difficulties for current faculty as well as community physicians in making referrals and they are trying to address those issues.

C. Old Business

Mike Hogg Award – Dr. Rakesh Kumar

Dr. Kumar explained to the Committee that he has experienced some difficulty in getting a nominee to agree to visit as they are usually booked for years in advance. For the next award year (2008), Dr. Ferid Murad was nominated and Dr. Kumar will invite

him if the Committee agrees. For the future, we need to make invitations to awardees several years in advance, so we will need to solicit nominations right now for the next two awards (2009 and 2010). The following point was raised: We are limited in the names of individuals whom we can nominate as the criteria for the Mike Hogg Award states that the nominee must be a Nobel Laureate who is still active. If we look at the list of Nobel Laureates in the categories from which our awardees come, (Physiology & Medicine and Chemistry) and we subtract out those who have already been awarded, those who are no longer alive or active, and those who have declined our previous invitations, we have a list of about 20 potential nominees. Instead of making a universal call for nominations, can't the Steering Committee just decide? Dr. Kumar disagreed stating that in years past there were complaints about this method so we should pursue getting feedback from others. Dr. Kumar requested that Sharon Pepper distribute the list of possible nominees to the Steering Committee via E-mail.

Dr. Tomasovic suggested that before making invitations to any nominee, we seek the approval of the President. Dr. Kumar stated that we will do so.

The question was raised if we should change the criteria to exclude the Nobel Prize requirement? Sharon Pepper reminded the Committee that the question had been raised before and for several years after implementing it, it was determined that the quality of the awardee was not at the desired level, so the requirement of the Nobel Prize was reinstated.

D. Other

Trainee Excellence Awards – Dr. Charles Walter

Dr. Walter announced the result of the Trainee Excellence Awards cycle that was just completed. It was evident from the recited list of winners, the awards were given to a wide range of trainees and projects. Dr. Walter commented that there were many outstanding abstracts and it was difficult to choose only eight award recipients.

E. Adjourn

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00