

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

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Clark Clinic Building, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, R11.1663 Conference Room E/F

11:00 a.m.

**PRESENT:**

Dr. Bloom  
Ivone Bruno  
Dr. Chandra  
Dr. Freireich  
Patrick Gibney  
Dr. Handy  
Dr. Haynie  
Dr. Kanojia  
Dr. Komanduri  
Dr. Matney  
Jakmica McKinney (ex-officio)  
Sharon Pepper  
Jennifer Price (ex-officio)  
Dr. Rios  
Dr. Strong  
Dr. Tomasovic (ex-officio)  
Dr. Ueno  
Dr. Walter

**ABSENT:**

Yvonne Bazunu (ex-officio)  
Anne Bettinger  
Dr. Bibb  
Marcela Bridger  
Dr. Candelari (ex-officio)  
Jennifer Collins (ex-officio)  
Dr. Deavers  
Dr. Fanning  
Dr. Freedman (ex-officio)  
Dr. Gallick  
Dr. Khalifeh  
Dr. Kumar  
Lorraine Reitzel

**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 MDA Physicians Network and its Cancer Symposium:

Camerone Spoons, Coordinator, Provider Relations, and  
Bill Simeone, Executive Director, M. D. Anderson Physicians Network

Bill Simeone began by inviting members of the Alumni Association to their third annual cancer symposium being held in Santa Barbara on July 9-12. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the program and in the first two years, the topics of breast, prostate, colorectal and lung cancers were featured. This year, the program was expanded to cover other types of cancers. Bill mentioned the conference is multidisciplinary and features over twenty (20) M. D. Anderson faculty members. The symposium is growing in notoriety and

attendance (125-150). A slight discount off the registration fee is extended to members of the Alumni Association.

After answering questions about the conference, Bill gave a brief presentation on the MDA Physician's Network (MDAPN) to further explain the organization. In his presentation, he explained that the MDAPN is one of two subsidiary corporations of M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. It is a 501(a) and 501(c)3 (non-profit) organization. The sole member of the corporation is Dr. Mendelsohn and the Board of Directors is made up of faculty members, chaired by Dr. William Murphy of Diagnostic Imaging. Board members are chosen by Drs. Mendelsohn and Murphy. The Board meets on a monthly basis and acts to guide the activities of the Network. Created in 1994, the goal of the MDAPN is to extend the mission of the institution and improve the delivery of cancer care to the community. In addition to the Board, the Network also has quality management and credentialing committees. The MDAPN consists of Cancer Manager Host Affiliates – Eight (8) hospitals in the Southeastern U.S. with a 150 physicians; MDAPN Credentialed Network - Set of physicians who provide case management services to companies, such as Shell, Lubrizol, and ExxonMobil; and four Radiation Treatment Facilities in the community. The Physicians at these Facilities are employed by the MDAPN but also have academic appointments and clinical reporting duties to the department of Radiation Oncology. Staff and other support personnel at the Radiation Treatment Facilities are employed through M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

After answering many questions of the Committee, Bill briefly outlined the evaluation and selection process of affiliate sites and credentialing of physicians. These physicians are chosen by their respective hospitals and are obliged to follow MDACC guidelines (oversight through ongoing reviews, studies, and analyses). M. D. Anderson has no obligation to the individual physicians from the contract with the hospital. If an affiliate site does not fulfill its obligation, the contract can be terminated, and that has occurred.

In reply to Dr. Chandra's inquiry, Bill informed the Committee that alumni members had not been identified within the network of physicians. Bill repeated the mission of the program and encouraged members to contact him with any questions. Dr. Chandra stated that perhaps we should invite Bill back for a more in-depth presentation on the MDAPN.

#### Mike Hogg Award/the late Dr. Lauterbur – Dr. Joya Chandra

The Mike Hogg Award was scheduled to occur on April 5, but tragically our awardee, Dr. Paul Lauterbur passed away on March 27. Dr. Chandra informed the Committee that we would be sending the medal, honorarium, and a letter to his widow. We will proceed with inviting the next year's awardee who has already been identified by the subcommittee of Drs. Kumar, Strong and Haynie. It had been suggested that Dr. Mendelsohn write a note of condolence, but in following up on that idea, Dr. Chandra

was told that he did not know Dr. Lauterbur personally and did not deem it appropriate.

#### Houston Anderson Alumni Dinner Charity Proposal – Dr. Adan Rios

Dr. Chandra reminded the Committee that in past meetings, we had discussed and agreed upon the idea of ‘revamping’ the Alumni Dinner. We decided we should refocus our energy to draw upon strengths of those who attend, the current faculty and trainees, and not necessarily the community physicians. We also agreed it is still important to increase our visibility in the community and we can accomplish this by supporting a charity organization. As the chair of the Subcommittee on Receptions, Dr. Rios chose the charity we would support. Dr. Rios reported on his evaluation and selection of the Food Bank of Houston as the charity we will sponsor in conjunction with this event. Founded in 1982, the Food Bank is a neutral (non-political, non-secular, etc.) organization. It is a non-profit organization that serves all people of the City of Houston. It is the second largest food bank in the country and its Board of Directors is made up of CEOs of major companies in the community. The Food Bank is well connected with the local media and will bring positive community attention to the Alumni Association. Contribution cards will be included in the invitation with checks/donations going directly to the Food Bank. Dr. Chandra informed the Committee that the department of legal affairs has approved our proposal.

It was suggested that we choose a charity that is somehow related to cancer. Dr. Rios disagreed stating that by aligning with cancer charities, we are doing nothing new, that we need to say to the community that we are here to support it without any benefit to our own interests. Dr. Ueno reminded the Committee that the speaker is still an important component of the dinner. The speaker has still not been identified and invited. Dr. Chandra asked for a vote and unanimous approval was given by the Committee for the selection of the Food Bank as the charity to be aligned with the Alumni Dinner for 2007.

### **C. Old Business**

#### Distinguished Alumnus Award Nomination Criteria – Dr. Joya Chandra

Dr. Chandra reiterated a previous decision that former faculty members are not eligible to be nominated for this award. This was given in response to a request for clarification on eligibility.

#### Updates on various activities – Sharon Pepper

- AACR Booth and Reception – The Alumni Association is hosting a booth for the first time at AACR

- Community Seminar – Invitations have been mailed and we have plans to video tape the session to be streamed on our website.
- Alumni Quest – A search company was contracted to find alumni from a list we provided. We tested the new addresses we received from them with a mail out of 14,000 cards and envelopes. We received 381 online responses, 778 filled out forms, 692 pieces of returned mail with forwarding addresses and 2000 pieces of mail with bad addresses. To date, we have 9079 alumni members in the database.

#### **D. Other**

Lapel pins were distributed.

#### **E. ADJOURN**

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