



**MMPC Teleconference  
Thursday, February 26, 2009  
3 PM EST**

**MINUTES**

**1. Old Business (McIndoe)**

**2. Center Updates (Center Representatives)**

Cincinnati: PI from Indiana in town to discuss phenotyping. There are problems keeping linoplex clean and running because of sharing with other groups.

Yale: Bayer left equipment, Gary's core got a machine to do RIA for insulin. Varman got a shipment of mice from Italy in good shape, first international order.

Vanderbilt: All well. Owen's core is busy but not saturated. Kate's energy balance core going well and they are renovating for wheel cages. Julio reported on cardiovascular core, all is well. Analytical resources core is very very busy, at least half of work coming from outside.

Case: metabolic core busy, have clamps up and going at Case now. Two people wanted clamp only, Coleen steered them to the other centers. Redox analysis on Vanderbilt livers. They have been asked to do glutamate in cell culture media. The Huntington's project is progressing slowly. Brain blood flow will be offered in about a month—single bolus, dual label, isotope dilution. Rick sent protocols, these are great. David asks about measurements of oxidative stress, Henri uses mass spec derivatized glutathione assays (GSH / GSSG), 50 ul plasma or SH blocker-treated tissue homogenate. Henri just submitted this protocol for publication. Steve has new MICROMouse proposal with outside user, will measure glucose/glycerol/amino acid/some fatty acid fluxes in clamp studies. This will require additional tracers, collect 3 extra 50 ul plasma samples in baseline and in steady state. Labeled oleate is much better than palmitate for these small sample volumes. Run into problems with contaminated solvents, etc., at these small volumes. This PI came to tracer course last year, met there.

Seattle: new PI was able to visit MMPC for 'one stop shop' instead of many cores. New technique showing vasoactivity is worsened in diabetes (new paper on that). Core director would be young urologists, expert on erectile dysfunction. Let Renee know if there are other PIs interested in this. Working on retinopathy, running standardization of functional test (ERG), learning to do trypsin digests of retinal tissue.

UTSW: Tom Gettys just visited for a couple days.

**3. Coordinating Center Update – Rick will not be available for this**

#### **4. Discuss progress on SOP (Wasserman)**

Echo: Elena and Jeff

Energy Balance: Greg and Kate

Clamp: Julio, Varman, other clamp people

All working on them, drafts expected to be ready pretty soon. Final form will be ready by summer.

#### **5. Update on Evaluation process (Laughlin)**

JHU team going to visit Vanderbilt, Case and U Washington, and I believe that they will call the other Centers.

#### **6. New Business (McIndoe)**

Course—grant finally out. Maren sent out >2000 emails to advertise.

Stimulus package:

New cores? Funding programs? Other? (must be service oriented)

Luminex: shared instruments cause lots of problems.

Vanderbilt: Animal care procedure for transferring and maintaining mice is inefficient.

Need facility to quarantine. Need ventilated racks.

Seattle: need to expand body composition equipment. Everyone could easily list equipment that is badly needed. Original RFA was too light on equipment.

MICROMOUSE and P&Fs: need more money especially for overhead. Need to make cap bigger. Too small for 2 centers who want to collaborate.

Cores: Seattle needs mouse in vivo clamping center. Mike: is there real need? Probably can't ramp up to volume like Yale or Vandy. Could expand by 1-2 people—would that be cost neutral over time? So could hire FTE for 1-2 years with stimulus funds.

Centers supported at lower budget through subcontracts. Have to juggle technician from one project to another. Need FTEs for technicians. Need more money in these Centers. Fully funded Centers need FTEs too.

Need to develop complications and cardiovascular area in way that is more than a 'tack on'. In consultation with Dale Abel, cardiology people tend to do their own stuff, but offering new noninvasive tests (speckle diastolic function) for non-cardio labs might be powerful, need to publish more.

Bariatric surgery.

Mike submitted shared equipment grant to NIH last year to expand calorimetry capability, will get funding for that! 16 cages for both mouse and rat. Wants incubator system for up to 16 cages to minimize temperature variability. \$35K each. Need FTE.

New technology (Cell Biosciences) equipment for standardized, miniaturized, high throughput phospho-protein analysis. P-Akt, etc. Very small sample size (can do few neurons, etc.). \$400K. David feels it would be appropriate for MMPC, Mike will forward specs to MMPC for future discussion.

Henri suggests getting feedback to Maren within 10 days, she will collate ideas and form a small group to continue discussing this idea (bariatric surgery core).