



**MMPC Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 30, 2009**  
**3 PM EST**

**1. Old Business (McIndoe) – No minutes from last meeting**

No old business.

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

Vanderbilt – David reported business as usual. The cores are pretty active. They are having some issue negotiating with their animal care to get rid of some of the quarantine issues. Fran has called a number of the centers over the last few weeks to find out what everybody's quarantine is and she surveyed quarantines from non MMPC institutions. They are trying to be more in line with the average. They want to make the animal arrival into the mouse center a one way street so that no animal gets up here and then returns to the colony. We are looking into some other areas and their veterinarian, David and Owen are going to make some trips to look at some of the other systems that they have seen in place or have heard about.

Cincinnati – Dana reported that they just hosted their second MMPC seminar speaker, Dr. Allen Watts. He had a wonderful visit and they had a great turnout again and there were a lot of researchers here that were really excited to meet him. All of the cores are pretty busy and they just completed a cholesterol absorption study. They are starting a study with UW and we are going to be measuring fat absorption in TNF $\alpha$  receptor deficient mice. They also have started the telemetry studies with Dr. Andy Norman on the cocaine studies and they are noticing a lot of effects showing up with handling of the mice. They are working on minimizing the handling effects. The results look promising.

Yale – Gray reported that he had nothing new to report. Varman is busy and running on schedule with the different mouse clamps. The analytical core is coming along with business as usual and staying very busy.

UW – Renee reported that things are going great. Mike Schwartz applied for a shared equipment grant and he just found out that it was awarded so they are excited because they will be able to do sixteen mice at a time. Our analytical hub has a lot of repeat business.

UTSW – Shawn reported that they are trying to get a new 600mhz instrument replaced. The vendor agreed that they are going to replace it. That has been a significant road block but this problem will get solved. The liver projects are proceeding.

Case – Michelle reported that there has been a lot going on. In the analytical core, as everyone knows, Steve Previs has left and will be missed. All of his active projects are completed. They will continue running all their assays. There is a paper with Texas that has been accepted. Steve's assistant that worked with him in the last few years is staying on with them. The GC business is very busy.

### **3. Coordinating Center Update (McIndoe)**

Rick reported that they have been very busy with the different funding programs for both the AMDCC and MMPC. They have been working on two MICROMouse reviews and are almost finished with the second review and the first one is completed. The AMDCC has their Pilot and Feasibility program deadline tomorrow so they have been swamped with calls over the last couple of weeks. They have also been working with Maren on the Tracer Course information, website and creating surveys for the course. They also completed the web services for the catalog so now people can use the national site to organize their catalog and call the web service from their home site to retrieve the data and display it in the local format. They have a mock page constructed for the Case site and will work with Case to convert their web page to use the web service.

### **4. Tracer Course update (Henri, Maren)**

Things are pretty much on track, they are in the process of collecting all of the presentations and putting them up on the MMPC website so that the students can download the information directly from their computers. They will have wireless intranet at the meeting. The annual tracer course is funded by a grant to Henri and this will be the second annual tracer course and will be held next week in Little Rock in collaboration between the MMPC and the University of Arkansas with Bob Wolfe. The faculty consists of several MMPC people and some of our MMPC advisors. At last count they had about sixty students registered. Sixty is a really good number. The course will be held in the Peabody hotel in Little Rock this year.

### **5. ARRA Administrative supplements (Laughlin)**

Maren sent out a brief combined sheet of information along with notes from the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. She listed those things that people had brought to her attention and fall into the right category. They are encouraged to spend the ARRA money on personnel, equipment within the scope of the grant and to the extent that this

is a U24 funding mechanism, it is much more flexible than a typical grant would be and so they also ascertained a certain type of expansion. Those are the elements that I am expecting to see in the applications as they come in and if things are missing please talk with Maren about them. She stressed that there is no guarantee from the senior staff at NIDDK that they will be able to award all of these things. Maren suggested it would be helpful to put in your application a priority so that she has a good idea of what is most important to you and your center. Also justification is going to be really necessary.

## **6. MICROMouse update (Shawn)**

We finally closed the door on the first quarter of the MICROMouse funding this year. Thank you everybody for going on line to vote, we had three proposals. We had eleven total votes from the steering committee, it was unanimous to fund one of the applications from Charlie Alpers. The other two did not receive enough votes to be funded. One of these was asked to resubmit. The second quarter is underway; we have two applications in. The reviews are back except for one, we will send out another invitation for you to go on line and look at the feedback from the reviewers and vote on funding.

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

Kristin and Maren went to a really fascinating presentation that was the combination of the evaluation of the business plan that you all participated in by the John's Hopkins University, the NBA Capstone program. So this was essentially the four student's thesis. They just gave us a beautiful presentation just before we came over here. Kristin reported that they both walked away incredibly impressed with the ability of these folks and that they were really able to grasp the issues that are sort of dogging the program a bit and to also to grasp the importance of the program. They were all very impressed with particularly the people that they visited with when they went out to see people at Vanderbilt, Case and UW. All three places, they thought people were really helpful and excited and the bottom line was that they had some very good suggestions about how we might approach the issue of the business model for this program moving forward.

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

There was no new business.