Department of Medicine
Research Council Meeting
March 13, 2012

**Present:** Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, Steve Deeks (guest), John Fahy, Deborah Grady (guest), Carl Grunfeld (phone), Marguerita Lightfoot, Mike McCune (phone), Morrie Schambelan (guest), Bill Seaman (Chair), Mike Shlipak, Suzanne Sutton, Louise Walter

Continued Discussion on Supporting Patient Cohorts

The Department has allocated $500K over three years for investment in research, and the plan is to use this to promote the study of humans. The Council discussed plans to use the money to invest in new patient cohorts, to aid the development of existing cohorts, or both. There was support for aiding both new and existing cohorts through a competitive process. It was noted that the funds available are relatively small for this effort, and it would be ideal if the Department were able to leverage funding from other sources, possibly the Office of the Vice Chancellor/Provost.

The past investment that the Department made in developing patient cohorts was reviewed and was considered to be highly cost-effective.

The Council discussed whether to restrict new funding to junior investigators and/or K-awardees. On the one hand, this would draw young investigators into the field and would promote their careers. On the other hand, reward for work developing patient cohorts can be long in coming, so support for young investigators might best be directed for work on existing cohorts. Here support could help young faculty transition from a mentored award to independent support, though the presence of a strong and dedicated mentor would be an important element helping junior faculty to achieve independence. In the end, it was agreed that the call for proposals would be open to all faculty but would emphasize the opportunity for young investigators with mentors.

There was general agreement that support for human studies should require the use of established and widely used infrastructure, especially for data management.

It was suggested that a Letter of Intent be requested prior to the submission of a full proposal. This would be useful both for screening and for guiding applicants. Proposals could be to build a new cohort or to augment an existing one. Experts to guide the use of existing resources and infrastructure would review any funded proposals, preferably biannually. The CTSI may be able to partner in this effort, not in terms of funding but in providing resources and guidance such as the Integrated Data Repository.
Action Items

Bill Seaman will meet with representatives from CTSI and with Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Susanne Hildebrand-Zanki to seek collaborations and will develop a Request for Applications. The Research Council will review the draft.

Future Meetings

Monday, April 9, 2011 at 8-9 am in S161
Tuesday, June 12, 2011 at 8-9 am in S161
Monday, September 10, 2011 at 8-9 am in TBD
Tuesday, November 13, 2011 at 8-9 am in TBD