

Biomedical Engineering Institute
Academic-Clinical-Industrial Partnership Program
2nd Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 20, 2001

Location & Time: CEAS 2300; 10:00 am

Industry Attendees *: William M. Abraham – Mount Sinai Medical Center *
Michael Christie – Cordis Corp. *
Simon J. Fuger – Medtronic Peripheral Vascular
Dana Jacobs – Beckman-Coulter, Inc. *
Denise Jaques – Miami Children’s Hospital
Prasanna Jayakar – Miami Children’s Hospital *
Margaret Kovacs – Baptist Health Systems *
Howard J. Leonhardt – Bioheart, Inc. *
Mario J. Martinez – TechGeorgia Nexus
Suzana Otano-Lata – Boston Scientific Corp. *
Matthew A. Palmer – Medcanica, Inc.
Hamid Shahrestani – Boston Scientific Corp. *
Rolando Sierra – Scion Cardiovascular
Kevin Smith – Syntheon, LLC
Jack A. Ziffer – Baptist Health Systems

BMEI Attendees *: Ofer Amit *
James Moore
Richard T. Schoepfoerster *

Minutes by: Rosy Verona

- **Welcome**

Dr. Richard Schoepfoerster began by thanking everyone for his or her time and commitment to this program in light of the recent circumstances. In addition, he gave a moment of silence to publicly express our deepest sympathy and condolences to those affected by the recent tragedies in New York City, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania.

To start off the meeting, Dr. Schoephoerster introduced Dean Vish Prasad to the members, and the members to the Dean. Dean Prasad welcomed all of the members and provided some information on his background. He has been involved in many different activities particularly in bioengineering such as industry programs and believes that they are extremely important to a college. Therefore, Dean Prasad would like to move our program forward. His current items include expanding the Biomedical Engineering Program by filling the new faculty positions, approving the undergraduate program (for initiation in Fall 2002), and the next step is forming a Biomedical Engineering Department. In conclusion, he stated that he is very excited about this program and would like to learn more about each company involved.

- **Adoption of Agenda**

Dr. Jacobs set the motion to approve the meeting agenda, Dr. Christie seconded it, and all were in favor.

- **Adoption of Minutes**

Dr. Jayakar set the motion to approve last meeting's minutes, Dr. Jacobs seconded it, and all were in favor.

- **By-Laws**

As discussed in the first meeting, Dr. Schoephoerster made the following changes to the by-laws (see attached): creating a tiered membership with the formal definition of small and large businesses, and creating an executive committee of 3-4 individuals led by the Director of BMEI to aide in the program organization. Mr. Leonhardt set the motion to approve, and Dr. Jayakar seconded it. Mr. Shahrestani questioned the distinction between the company sizes within the tiered membership; "why by number of employees and not by revenue". Dr. Schoephoerster explained that the classification of small and large businesses was taken from the governmental description. In conclusion, all were in favor of the By-Laws.

- **Intellectual Property Issues and Animal Facilities**

FIU is currently lacking in both areas of Intellectual Property and Animal Facilities. Dr. Schoephoerster clarified that FIU does have intellectual property capabilities within the Division of Sponsored Research office, but it is very limited. In addition, FIU has a small animal facility, but does not have the capability for large animals. FIU and Mt. Sinai were working together for a large animal facility, but resources and space were the main issues. Therefore, Dr. Schoephoerster solicited the advisory board's input. He presented to the board members two draft letters, addressed to the Dean, concerning both of these issues (see attached). Mr. Shahrestani suggested that the Animal Facility letter be more detailed as to what we plan to do with this facility. Dr. Schoephoerster agreed and will add the types of activities we are embarking on. A discussion occurred on issues such as requirements and regulations for the animal

facilities. Ms. Otano-Lata suggested that an industry representative be appointed as the spokesperson/contact for each letter; one person for the Technology Transfer Office and one for the Animal Facility. Dr. Schoephoerster agreed and asked for any volunteers. He would like for each contact person to serve as a liaison for the completion and delivery of these letters. Dr. Abraham volunteered to be the contact person for the Animal Facility Letter, and Mr. Leonhardt volunteered as contact person for the Technology Transfer Letter.

- **Research Initiation Program**

Dr. Schoephoerster began with an overview of the Research Initiation Program (see attached). The funding allocation for this program is a total of \$50,000 per year out of the earnings received from the Coulter Foundation, which is to be used as a SEED grant for start up activities between FIU faculty and individuals from our Partnership organization. The main goal for this program, being a SEED grant, is for new innovations or inventions to lead to new money through commercialization of an object/process or through additional funding through state agencies. After the program structure is finalized, Dr. Jacobs would like to take it through Beckman-Coulter's channels in order to inform them of what is being created at BMEI. A short discussion occurred concerning deliverables. Dr. Jacobs suggested that the projects contain some type of measurable input. Dr. Schoephoerster agreed and will expand the proposal format by stating that "specific deliverables having specific measures proving feasibility" are required. An additional discussion took place with regard to limiting project funding. All members agreed to change the number of projects per year to "up to 5 per year". This will allow for some flexibility when choosing between applications. In addition, board members agreed to keep the funding consistent among the projects. All members reached a consensus on the following: changing the number of projects to "up to 5 per year", the PI to obtain a commitment for a minimum of 100% match, and \$10k maximum per project. Given these changes, Dr. Schoephoerster set the motion to approve. All were in favor.

- **Internship Program**

Dr. Schoephoerster reviewed the procedure for the Biomedical Partnership Internship Program, which will be run each semester; January, May, and September (see attached). In addition, all students involved in this program will be under the strict supervision of FIU faculty. A short discussion occurred between Dr. Kovacs and Dr. Schoephoerster concerning how this program involves the hospitals. Students will have the option of choosing their area of interest (research or industry). Dr. Schoephoerster set the motion to approve the Internship Program as is. All were in favor.

- **Other Announcements**

Dr. Schoephoerster began by announcing the current search of two faculty positions (see attached): Wallace H. Coulter Eminent Scholars Chair in Biomedical

Engineering and Wallace H. Coulter Professorship in Bioinstrumentation and Biomeasurement. The Search and Screen Committee has been selected where Dr. Prasanna Jayakar and Mr. Thomas Bales are representing the advisory board. The Professorship position would possibly be a joint appointment with one of the clinical partners.

Then, Dr. Schoephoerster presented the details for the plans to expand the academic program, which will be discussed at the next meeting (see attached). He requested assistance from the board members to evaluate the existing BS/MS program and verify its purpose. Based on the comments given at the previous meeting, Dr. Schoephoerster modified the MS Professional Track to incorporate those comments. Additionally, he solicited the members for feedback on how to package this program best for corporate participation. Furthermore, Dr. Schoephoerster requested input and advice from the members for the BS and PhD programs in Biomedical Engineering.

- **Closing**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2002 and Dr. Jacobs will inquire and follow up about hosting it at Beckman-Coulter Inc.