

**Minutes for the Medical Faculty Executive Committee (MFEC)
Meeting
March 9, 2009**

**8:00-9:30 a.m.
Corporation Room, University Hall**

Present: Michael Stein, Penny Dennehy, Suzanne de la Monte, Jane Eisen, Geoffrey Russom, Craig Ebersson, Linda LaGasse, James Gilchrist, Barry Lester, Cynthia Loncar, Leslie Robinson-Bostom, Jennifer Clarke, Iris Tong, Zeev Harel, Emma Simmons, Colin Harrington, Patricia Flanagan, Francois Luks, Angela Anderson, Michelle Lally and Paul DiSilvestro.

The meeting began at 8:05a.m., Mike Stein presiding. Minutes of the February 9 meeting were approved.

The Medical Faculty Executive Committee met with the physician Chairs of four Brown Hospital IRBs to discuss opportunities for improvement in inter-institutional collaboration and barriers to collaboration. Perceived barriers to research remain a great concern among Brown faculty generally. With the Obama stimulus package in place, and the need for quick review and initiation of protocols for the recommended 2-year grants, the MFEC believes this is particularly opportune time to examine ways to improve and streamline Brown faculty collaboration, particularly in regard to clinical research.

The immediate suggestions that the MFEC and the Chairs believe deserve consideration and direction from the Dean's office include:

- 1) Regular, ongoing meetings of hospital and campus-based IRB chairs and administrators to discuss opportunities to streamline reviews
- 2) Examination of the possibility of using a single, standardized set of submission materials so that investigators can prepare a uniform packet that can be reviewed across sites
- 3) A review of the actual number of protocols that *are* inter-institutional and the delays these Brown investigators experience to better understand the true impact of the current barriers to collaboration.

Several other ideas were explored. The first was the possibility of directing investigators to better utilize Institutional Affiliation IRB Agreements to limit duplication of paperwork for multi-institutional protocol. Second, particular Brown faculty might serve across IRBs, lending expertise where needed.

The MFEC understands the need to protect Human Subjects within HIPAA guidelines across Brown-affiliated institutions that have separate research mandates, research and IRB cultures, and liability and indemnification concerns.

The MFEC will address these suggestions to Dr. Wing in a letter inviting him to discuss this subject at the April MFEC meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Moorehead
Secretary to the MFEC