



**Center for Transformative Research in Metabolism (“TRiM”)**

**Strategic Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 25, 2022; 1:00- 2:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Agenda**

**Meeting Objectives:**

- Share updates
- Discuss preliminary plans for COBRE renewal

**Meeting Desired Output:**

- SAC input of the proposed EAC Action Plans to EAC Recommendation Report, June 2021 (attachments)
- Guidance for implementing Action Plans of concern to SAC – Identify next steps
- Determine SAC reporting items to the EAC at the February 7-8, 2022 meeting
- Generate action items relevant to TRiM renewal planning

Welcome All: TRiM PI Kelly Drew, SAC Chair

Members include:

- Diane O’Brien, PhD, UAF Director IAB
- Brian Barnes, PhD, UAF Alaska INBRE PI
- Kinchel Doerner, PhD, UAF Dean of the College of Natural Science and Mathematics
- Nettie Labelle-Hamer, PhD, UAF Interim Vice Chancellor Research
- Aaron Dotson, PhD, UAA, Vice Chancellor for Research
- Khrys Duddleston, PhD, UAA, Director Department Biological Sciences
- Jenny McNulty, PhD, UAA, Dean College of Arts and Sciences

3:00 p.m. Review of agenda

3:00 p.m. Old Business

- Meetings with UAA administrators and faculty, Dec. 8, 2021
- Core Capacity Updates: HaMR Core, AIMS Core, LC/MS Metabolomics Technique development (new), and Microscopy Core (new). (Note: For COBRE’s renewal, core capacities need to be housed within existing cores.)

3:20 p.m. New Business

- Planning for TRiM COBRE Renewal – Work to begin in January 2022.
- What are your goals? Example – Dean McNulty shared her goals for UAA College of Arts and Sciences: (1) Maintain enrollment; (2) Fill holes for academic programs; and



(3) Establish sustainable funding plans for graduate students. (Note: BLaST mentoring model)

- COBRE’s Needs for Renewal – Institutional Support. How can meeting your needs be used as evidence of Institutional Support for TRiM’s renewal?

Examples:

- Support for technical cores (AIMS and HaMR Cores)
- Support for faculty, students and staff who are advancing TRiM’s mission
- SAC choice for discussion topics of EAC recommendations, June 2021 (Please see attached “EAC Recommendations report, June 2021” and “Table of EAC Recommendations and SAC Meeting Discussion.”) TRiM asks for SAC feedback and points to focus on from EAC Recommendations, EAC meeting June 2021
- TRiM Retreat and draft EAC Action Plans based on SAC meeting discussions:
  - EAC Recommendation #2 – *Inform UA Administrators about needs and goals of the Center, how to balance compliance (e.g. teaching, IACUC vs. productivity) and the short- and long-term value of a larger indirect cost recovery stream from research activities for the UA system.* (EAC Action Plan attached)
  - EAC Recommendation #3– *Work cooperatively to expand and utilize the current animal resource center needed by COBRE investigators to develop pre-clinical animal models to facilitate translation of their findings* (EAC Action Plan attached)
  - EAC Recommendation #5 – *Consider teaching buyout for NIH Study Section Service* (No Action Plan attached as this item was not discussed at TRiM’s 2021 retreat). Incentive for R01 study section service or [Early Career Research Training Program](#). (PI Drew’s input is to focus on R01 study section.)
  - EAC Recommendations #6, #7, #9 (Draft Action Plan attached) – *Recruit and groom research faculty and increase short term visits to increase external collaborations.* (EAC Action Plan attached)

- EAC interim meeting and SAC Chair Report – What do we want to relay to the EAC at the Feb. 7-8, 2022 meeting?

3:50 p.m. Updated SuRE Funding Institutional Eligibility Guidelines, per NIH correspondence (attached)

3:55 p.m. Other discussion

4:00 p.m. Adjourn



## REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1P20GM130443 “Mammalian Hibernation Research- A Path Towards a Center for Transformative Research in Metabolism” – Kelly Drew, Ph.D., Principal Investigator  
June, 2021

On June 1-2, 2021, the External Advisory Committee (EAC) met to evaluate progress toward the goals of this COBRE grant since June, 2020. EAC members found progress over the past 12 months to be beyond adequate. Strengths of the program evident during this on-site visit included enthusiasm of the participants; the commitment and expertise of the administrative team; the facilities including office and laboratory space; the recently-approved pilot projects on sled dogs, bears, and the squirrel model of peripheral arterial disease; and the new Arctic Ground Squirrel (AGS) breeding facility. A significant step in the past year was the designation of the Center for Transformative Research in Metabolism (TRiM) as an official UAF Center.

Nonetheless, multiple challenges were identified. The EAC makes the following recommendations to the TRiM PI and UAF Administration:

1. Initiate regular contact with the NIGMS Program Officer to assess whether the COBRE is meeting goals with a trajectory for continued funding.
2. Educate UA administrators about needs and goals of the Center, how to balance compliance (e.g., teaching, IACUC) vs. productivity, and the short- and long-term value of a larger indirect cost recovery stream from research activities for the UA system.
3. Work cooperatively to expand and utilize the current animal resource center needed by COBRE investigators to develop pre-clinical animal models to facilitate translation of their findings.
4. The UAF Veterinarian Search Committee should actively seek candidates credentialed as Diplomates of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, who would be likely to understand the research needs of the UAF TRiM Center.
5. Consider teaching buyout for NIH Study Section service.
6. Respond to recent faculty loss and budget cuts as an opportunity to recruit and groom additional research faculty.
7. Increase productivity through more collaborations, both internally and externally.
8. Utilize the Multi-PI mechanism for collaborative partnerships with established NIH investigators.
9. To develop a pipeline of researchers for future development of UA system, UA should exploit its unique geographic, climatological and research resources as an asset to attract researchers at all levels – from undergraduate to established researchers – for short-term visits that may result in recruitments and create more external collaborations.
10. Consider creation of nationally/internationally-advertised week- to month-long courses on Arctic-oriented research to attract both students and external faculty.
11. Consider sponsorship of conferences in collaboration with organizations such as the Gordon Research Conference, Keystone Symposia, etc. or with professional societies with interest in day-length or environmental factors affecting human biology.
12. Implement the President’s Professorships that were proposed as part of the TRiM application.
13. Utilize “red team”/virtual study sections to pre-review proposals prior to submission.



14. Send Specific Aims to EAC members for their feedback at least one month prior to proposal submission; follow up by sharing critiques.
15. Potential synergism between Drs. Coker and Fedorov on muscle in AGS, bears, and humans remains to be exploited. A multi-PI basic science R01 proposal should be considered.
16. Monthly or bimonthly check-up on career development plans for all project leaders.
17. Regularly discuss productivity and publication obstacles with all project leaders.
18. Monthly Zoom meetings between Drs. Drew, Duddleston, and Buck to help the project catch up after the challenges of the past year.
19. Cost structure for the AIMS Core should be communicated to Dr. Drew and Ms. Daniello and be transparent to all.
20. Request additional two months of salary for the manager of the Advanced Instrumentation and Microbiome Studies (AIMS) Core.
21. Continue to partner with Alaska INBRE to develop technical cores, such as an immunohistochemistry and microscopy core that leverages existing equipment to support ongoing projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Detlev Boison, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair of Research and Training, Dept of Neurosurgery, RWJMS and New Jersey Medical School at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Thomas S. Kilduff, Ph.D., Director, Center for Neuroscience, SRI International

David Lathrop, Ph.D., Consulting Scientist and former Chief of the Heart Failure and Arrhythmias Branch, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, NHLBI/NIH.

Margaret Rice, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Dept. of Neuroscience and Physiology, NYU Grossman School of Medicine



## Center for Translational Research in Metabolism External Advisory Committee (EAC) Action Plans

These EAC Action Plans were developed in response to the recommendations described in the EAC 2021 report following the in-person EAC annual meeting held on June 1-2, 2021 on the UAF campus with virtual participation by UAA key personnel. The EAC Action Plans are the result of targeted discussions by TRiM's key personnel and staff at the virtual TRiM Retreat, October 1-2, 2021 when the EAC recommendations were addressed. TRiM's Admin Core worked with the Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS), University of Washington to develop an interactive retreat agenda that included: (1) Training in team science principles and skill-building; (2) small group breakout discussions addressing identified EAC recommendations grouped together as integrated concepts; and (3) sharing of research being conducted by the Center and supported with Core services. The EAC report included 21 recommendations in total of which 9 items were discussed at the retreat, with others held back for future Journal Club sessions and additional meetings. Twenty investigators, core leaders, and staff attended TRiM's retreat meeting. These EAC Action Plans describe the proposed goals and action steps for TRiM to address the identified EAC recommendations going forward. TRiM's Internal Steering Committee (ISC) approved these plans (on 1.14.2022) for sharing with the EAC at the upcoming February 7-8 virtual meeting.

*EAC Recommendation #2: Inform UA administrators about the needs and goals of the Center, how to balance compliance (e.g., teaching IACUC vs. productivity) and the short- and long-term value of a larger indirect cost recovery stream from research activities for the UA system. ("Method of Educating UA Administrators," Breakout Part 2e) (Note: Retreat breakout participants suggested that the word *inform* be used instead of "educate," as noted in the original EAC recommendation, as a more appropriate term.)*

Discussion leaders: Brandon Briggs, PhD, AIMS Core Leader and Denise Daniello, M.A. Program Coordinator, Admin Core.

Summary: Recruitment and retention of high-quality faculty to teach biomedical classes at UAF and UAA, and have research interests that complement our programs, is *critical* to the development of our academic and research biomedical programs at UA. Stemming from UA's budget reductions, UAF and UAA are losing assistant professors with many leaving UA to take new positions elsewhere. Few positions have been replaced. This issue is a significant concern for programs up for renewal using NIH funds, such as TRiM and AK INBRE, and may be perceived as a sign to reviewers that UA is not investing in its own faculty development by hiring and retaining assistant professors. For example, UAF Biology Department has one assistant professor, UAF Chemistry Department has two, and UAA Department of Biological Sciences has no assistant professors at this time. Moreover, our faculty members are aging and preparing for retirement. Faculty members are key to the academic achievement of UA students and the productivity of UA's biomedical research supported by successful research grants, industry partnerships, and statewide stakeholder support. These diverse revenue streams build UA's infrastructure and contribute to our institution's overall cost recovery resources, enhancing the reputations of UAF and UAA as flagship research and academic institutions.

Our advocacy message must present compelling evidence demonstrating tangible and intangible benefits explaining why investment in hiring new faculty is important. A strong and well-respected faculty results in a competitive and well-regarded university as evidenced by these desired outcomes:

- (1) Increase the number of biomedical course offerings to improve student enrollment/tuition and academic success, which will reduce the need to weight-list classes (Tangible benefit);



- (2) Boost the indirect cost recovery stream by increasing the number of faculty submitting successful research proposals (Tangible benefit);
- (3) Enhance the prestige of the UA system as a whole as an academic and research institution (Intangible benefit).

### **Proposed Goals:**

**Goal 1: Advocate to UA administrators (Department Chairs, Institute Directors, Vice Chancellors of Research, Chancellors and the Board of Regents) and key stakeholders to hire new assistant professors in the biomedical sciences (STEM in general and metabolism/metabolomics for TRiM) to build our instructional capacity, address workforce shortages, and increase extramural funding to meet the strategic goals of UAF 2027 and UAA 2025.**

### **Prioritized Action Steps**

1. Draft and utilize a common set of talking points emphasizing the critical need to hire new faculty to increase our infrastructure teaching capacity as a strategy to attract/maintain students and recruit/maintain faculty at UAF and UAA. New assistant faculty hires are urgently needed to enhance student enrollment/tuition, achieve higher graduation rates, increase indirect funding, reduce burnout for existing faculty, and improve academic and research productivity.
  2. Implement a Joint Advocacy Strategy requesting funding to hire new assistant professors in biomedical sciences at UAF and UAA. Actively engage TRiM, Alaska INBRE, IAB, and others having a vested interest to deliver this advocacy message to UA administrators, the Board of Regents, and key stakeholders during scheduled meetings/presentations and informally through conversations.
  3. Identify a “Champion” advocate from the community, such as an UA alum in the biomedical field. Consider recruiting a student(s) in the biomedical fields to serve as advocates who can share their academic and research experiences involving UA faculty and how this life experience made a lasting impact in their chosen path. Champions put a “face” on our advocacy message.
  4. Schedule meetings with UA administrators for TRiM and INBRE key personnel to advocate passionately for this need to reverse institutional migration trends and increase indirect funding/ICR through successful grant submissions.
  5. Request time to make a presentation requesting funds to support new faculty hires at a scheduled Board of Regent meeting.
- Suggested Leads: Admin Core with guidance and support from the ISC

**Goal 2: Make the Ask:** Request an increase of UA funding to support new assistant professor hires to teach biomedical courses with a focus on recruiting faculty having an interest in biomedical sciences, hibernation and metabolism/metabolomics research. Identify the number of new faculty needed at UAF and UAA and desired funding.

Suggested Leads: TRiM key personnel, identified champions, and all with a vested interest and the desire to make a difference.

### **Long-term Action Step:**

1. *Improve Cost Recovery of COBRE Recharge Centers* - COBRE recharge centers offer another source of indirect cost recovery for UAF and UAA. To be most effective, funding generated by these cores must be directed to the



host department where research is being conducted. Consider revisiting and updating the indirect cost recovery system working with administrators to ensure that funds go to the right department.  
Suggested Leads: Admin Core (with input from the HaMR Core Leader and the ISC)

*EAC Recommendation #3: Work cooperatively to expand and utilize the current animal resource center needed by COBRE investigators to develop preclinical animal models to facilitate translation of their findings (“Expand and utilize animal resource center,” Breakout Part 1a).*

Discussion leaders: Kelly Drew, PhD, Center Director; Hoshi Sugiura, B.S., Vet Tech; and Oivind Toien, PhD, HaMR Core and TRiM Pilot Project Leader

Summary: Improving communications with the UAF IACUC Committee was identified as a central concern to increase research productivity for UAF COBRE investigators utilizing animal models at the Animal Resource Center (ARC) that require IACUC approval. Group members expressed frustration with the animal resource plan at UAF, working relations with the IACUC, and the communication style used by the ARC and IACUC with the ARC and IACUC. Examples cited included long delays for requested items being added to the IACUC’s meeting agenda, lack of follow-up to investigators’ queries regarding status of IACUC deliberations for their projects, being left out of the conversation loop concerning complications resulting from proposed protocols (e.g., necropsies), and overall poor customer service that stem from ineffective communication. It was noted that IACUC members are volunteers, with the exception of the Attending Veterinarian and Director of the ARC. Group members discussed the merits of implementing a shared governance model for the UAF Animal Resource Center based on the model being used by UAA’s vivarium. Discussion also included the need to further develop technical capacity for veterinarian services, as a recharge service, by increasing the number of staff technicians and training offered in order to increase revenues and keep up with demand for services.

**Proposed Goals**

**Goal 1: Build capacity for vet tech services as a recharge service in the HaMR Core by continuing to invest in training and to hire additional veterinary technicians as work demands dictate.**

Prioritized Action Steps:

1. Continue to build TRiM’s veterinary technician capacity such as providing training investment for Hoshi Sugiura, TRiM’s vet technician, with the goal of establishing a well-trained technical team to perform surgeries and limit risk of new students, faculty and staff performing surgeries they have not yet mastered. The technician team would be responsible for training and assisting trainees as students, staff, and faculty acquire the level of skill desired.
2. Hire additional veterinary technicians, as needed, to build capacity using ICR to help offset salary support.
3. Share technical expertise between UAF and UAA to build vet tech services at both campuses. Budget for travel to support technical exchange.

Suggested Leads: PI Drew; Admin Core; HaMR Core Leader; TRiM’s Vet Tech

**Goal 2: Advocate to adopt a Shared Governance Model at UAF’s Animal Resources Center.**

Prioritized Action Steps

1. Continue discussions with the Strategic Advisory Committee and the VCR regarding merits of adopting a shared governance model of animal resources as used by UAA’s vivarium. This transition would require a restructuring of the current UAF IACUC and engage users as collaborators. The proposed benefit would lead to an open and interactive process resulting in timely and fair decision-making of protocol reviews.



Suggested Leads: PI Drew (with feedback from the ISC Chair)

(2) Establish an Animal Resource Center (ARC) working group to address issues involving logistics and resources needed to meet research demands. Specifically, the working group would address issues such as: (a) delays in IACUC reviews; (b) IACUC structure including use of subcommittees with specific expertise; (c) need for more frequent designated member review to decrease review time and approve modifications; (d) allocation of space and other resources needed; (e) and to advise TRiM about needs for technical expertise that could be supported through the HaMR core. This working group, to be chaired by an animal user, would include the IACUC Chair, attending veterinarian, animal husbandry manager and designated ARC staff, and all ARC users.

Suggested Leads: Research Navigator with support from PI Drew

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*EAC Recommendations 6, 7, and 9. Recruit and develop research faculty and increase short term visits to increase external collaborations. (Retreat Breakout Part 1b).*

- *EAC #6 – Respond to recent faculty loss and budget cuts as an opportunity to recruit and develop additional research faculty.*
- *EAC #7 – Increase productivity through more collaborations, both internally and externally.*
- *EAC #9 – To develop a pipeline of researchers for future development of the UA system, UA should exploit its unique geographic, climatological and research resources as an asset to attract researchers at all levels – from undergraduate to established researchers – for short-term visits that may result in recruitments and create more external collaborations.*

Discussion leaders: Vadim Fedorov, PhD, PI Project 1 and Carl Murphy, PhD, HaMR Core Leader and MIF Manager

Summary: Responding to recent faculty loss due to budget cuts is an immediate problem to address because it impacts our ability to attract, teach, and mentor students as well as to conduct both preclinical and clinical biomedical research. The UAF Biochemistry Department, for example, was described as a “shell” due to significant faculty loss in recent times. As a result, faculty are being pressed to increase their teaching responsibilities without added compensation. Faculty loss also impacts TRiM’s ability to develop a pipeline of investigators, particularly in clinical research. UAF is both a research facility and teaching institution. Faculty are required to teach, conduct research, and be involved in service. We need to better support faculty engaged in both teaching and research, and to actively recruit clinical investigators in order to advance the translational aspects of TRiM for Phase 1 and Phase 2, COBRE’s renewal.

**Proposed Goals**

**Goal 1: Engage more students in biomedical sciences.** Increase undergraduate biomedical research opportunities that will enhance critical thinking, provide effective mentoring, explore career directions, and offer opportunities for contributing to scientific knowledge in order to grow our own Alaskan-based biomedical scientists.

Prioritized Action Steps:

1. Pursue extramural funding opportunities that provide research opportunities for undergraduate students and support junior faculty (i.e., NIH SuRE funding mechanism)

Suggested Lead: Admin Core





2. Advocate to the SAC and VCR to maintain a BLAST tiered mentoring model that provides research assistantships to graduate students who mentor undergraduates. These experiences were found to contribute to graduate student training, research productivity, and subsequent employment.

Suggested Lead: TRiM PI

*Long-Term Action Steps:*

1. Advocate to UA administration and stakeholders regarding the need to increase STEM faculty at UAF and UAA to teach, mentor, and provide research opportunities for students (relates to EAC recommendation #2).
2. Advocate for BLAST tiered mentoring model for undergraduate and graduate students with a possible ask to policymakers for a state appropriation. Include the benefits to students noting “recruitment, retention, timely degree completion and workforce development.”

Suggested Leads: TRiM PI and Admin Core

**Goal 2: Increase faculty to fill academic holes and have interest in health and One-Health related research.**

Prioritized Action Steps:

1. Meet with UA administrators using a shared set of talking points (as described under EAC Action Plan #2) to “put a face on and a voice” to our advocacy efforts and how they address UAF Strategic Action Plan 2027 and UAA Strategic Plan 2025.

2. Inform targeted stakeholders about the benefits of increasing biomedical faculty that will lead to increased student enrollment, tuition, graduation rates, and indirect funding to support the UA system and how they further Strategic Plans for UAF 2027 and UAA 2025. .

Suggested Leads: TRiM key personnel and identified champions (UA biomedical graduates in the community and students).

**Goal 3: Increase recruitment of clinical researchers to develop a pipeline of researchers.**

Prioritized Action Step:

Meet with Dean Andre’ Rosay, UAA College of Health Sciences, to convey the importance of providing research training and experience to strengthen translational research capacity at UA.

Suggested Lead: Admin Core

*Long-term Action Steps:*

1. Build WWAMI Relationships with clinicians and students. Collaborate with INBRE to build interest for clinical studies among nurse practitioners and other medical students in the WWAMI program.

Suggested Leads: Admin Core

2. Engage Community Health Providers as Stakeholders. Develop a survey for health care providers asking about their most pressing health care needs to identify intersections between patient needs with UA’s biomedical research. Target FMH, TVC, Chief Andrew Isaac, and Providence. Reach out to ITHS for possible survey templates. Present the findings to providers to promote interest in translational research being conducted by UA’s biomedical activities.

Suggested Leads: Admin Core



**Goal 4: Increase collaborations with outside researchers.**

Prioritized Action Steps:

1. Target relevant speakers for Journal Club having expertise in TRiM’s focus areas including metabolomics, hibernation, and translational research.

Suggested Leads: Admin Core with input from ISC

2. Implement the President’s Professors as a virtual program, due to Covid restrictions, to advise TRiM’s faculty researchers in the development of their professional products such as writing successful grant proposals and manuscripts, as well as to advance ideas for future research and collaborations. When in-person visits become an option, TRiM has funding to bring up scientists to work with investigators for as long as two weeks.

Suggested Leads: TRiM PI, Admin Core, with input from TRiM investigators. Dr. Toien to invite Heiko Jansen

3. Actively participate in conferences and seminars to create a network of researchers and pursue potential collaborations.

Suggested Leads: All TRiM key personnel

*Long-term Action Step:*

Leverage external collaborations to increase promotions with foundations and corporations that will increase funding opportunities for TRiM’s researchers.

Suggested Leads: All TRiM key personnel

Ideas for further discussion to increase recruitment of research faculty

- Consider leveraging institutional support to hire new faculty to manage technical cores, such as a new cell and microscopy component to the HaMR Core. The Core’s equipment and technical staff are used to leverage limited availability of start-up funds for new faculty. COBRE and INBRE could share salary support of new hires with ICR contributing to institutional support of these positions. The plan would need backup strategies, such as opportunities for tenure-track positions when hiring is reinstated, and incorporating salary support into recharge center business plans. To capture shared support through teaching, positions should also be recruited while being mindful of teaching needs.

Utilize INBRE’s resources to help cover start-up costs for new faculty with a bio-med focus.



## EAC 2021 Recommendations and Strategic Advisory Committee Discussions, A Working Document

Categorized Groups of EAC recommendations:

Discussed During Retreat:

EAC Session 1:

- a) Method of informing UA Administrators (EAC Recommendation #2)
- b) Expand and utilize animal resource center (EAC Recommendation #3)
- c) Recruit and groom research faculty and increase short-term visits to increase external collaborations (EAC Recommendations #6, #8)

EAC Session 2:

- d) Encourage use of multi-PI mechanism (EAC Recommendation #8)
- e) Arctic-oriented workshops, conference sponsorship with related organizations (Gordon, Keystone) (EAC Recommendations #10, #11)
- f) Increase successful grant submission (Red team) study sections (EAC Recommendation #13)

To be addressed by the administrative group:

- EAC recommendations 1, 4, 5, 11, 13, 17, 18, & 19

To be addressed during a future journal club:

- Individual Development Plans (IDP) (#15 EAC recommendation)
- Productivity/Publication Obstacles (#16 EAC recommendation)

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| <p><b>External Advisory Committee (EAC)<br/>2021 Recommendations</b></p> <p><i>Purpose: As the scientific advisory board for the Center, the EAC reviews program process, critiques scientific progress of the Center, advises the Center’s Director on scientific and policy matters, and works with the Director to facilitate development of a sustainable, collaborative research environment to support competitive R01 proposals and research programs.</i></p> | <p><b>Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC)</b></p> <p><i>Purpose: In collaboration with the Center’s Director, the SAC develops strategies and identifies resources needed to retain investigators after they attain independent status and promotes success of Junior Investigators; optimizes administrative support functions for research productivity and compliance; and develops a strategy to support the hire of three new faculty to support translational research in metabolism for the Center’s P2C.</i></p> |
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**EAC #2 - Educate UA administrators about needs and goals of the Center, how to balance compliance to teaching, IACUC vs. productivity, the short- and long-term value of a larger indirect cost recovery stream from research activities for the UA system.**

**SAC Meeting Action Steps, 4.21.2021 meeting notes**

- Educate UA administrators about the need to increase translational research capacity and to increase their communications with NIH program directors.
- Educate the new dean of the UAA College of Health Sciences about the need to increase translational research capacity and the value of this research.
- Develop closer engagement between UA Administrators with NIH Program Directors, including the NIH Science Program Officer who chairs study sections, to foster a positive perception of UAA/UAF research infrastructure and expertise.
- Build on the Shared Resource Model as a path to increase development of new COBREs and create efficiencies through administrative coordination. The current model being used by TRiM and INBRE, utilizing INBRE’s Fiscal Officer who supervises TRiM’s Fiscal Technician and TRiM’s Fiscal Technician who provides fiscal tech support to INBRE, is working well and demonstrates that we can build new COBREs that don’t require hiring custom admin staff for each new program. This strategy saves money.
- Invest in sustainable core resources.

**SAC Meeting Notes, 8.20.2020, SWOT Analysis meeting notes**

- Obstacles exist for promoting senior post-docs and PhD level research professionals to research faculty, which would make them eligible to lead research projects. This discussion led to identification of an opportunity to *repurpose* our existing faculty to engage in hibernation research, noting that this is less costly and more efficient than recruiting new researchers from outside UA (SWOT analysis, “Weakness”).
- Engage more post docs and other faculty without tenure by using NIH K awards to provide support for training, project funding, and salary (SWOT, “Opportunity”).
- Engage New Funders such as corporate sponsors provided that we offer a platform with a focus on defining therapeutic targets. Kelly noted her presentation at a recent Bio Conference about TRiM’s

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|   | <p>research being favorably received. Foundations also fund research and their application process is often less rigorous than NIH. For example, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Murdock Charitable Trust are sources with funding experience in Alaska. SBIR awards also have a lower bar than R01 applications (SWOT “Opportunity”).</p>   |
| <p><b>EAC #3 - Work cooperatively to expand and utilize the current animal resource center needed by COBRE investigators to develop pre-clinical animal models to facilitate translation of their findings.</b></p> | <p><b>SAC Meeting Notes 8.20.2020, TRiM’s SWOT Analysis</b><br/> Management of the UAF ARC is “autocratic and inflexible, which has been problematic for users and animal care because there is little opportunity for cross communication between PIs and veterinary care.” One-way communication undermines quality research which has a severe negative impact on faculty morale to the point of discouraging further research. In comparison, UAA’s vivarium operates under a shared governance model comprised of the veterinarian, vivarium manager, and users. This group is charged with making policies for operations. UAA animal users are responsible for the care of their own animals. It was noted that former UAA VPR, Bob White, facilitated the transition to the shared governance model at UAA’s Vivarium based on his experience with the problems at the UAF ARC. It was suggested that the ARC management issue should be brought to the attention of the UAF VCR (SWOT “Weakness”).</p> |
| <p><b>EAC #5 - Consider teaching buyout for NIH Study Section Service.</b></p>  | <p><b>SAC Meeting 4.21.2021: Action Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore incentives to allow course buyouts for faculty to serve on NIH review panels. Encourage faculty to participate in the NIH Early Career Review Programs that teaches how to serve on study sections.</li> <li>• Encourage faculty to serve on NIH review panels by providing incentives, such as course buyouts, so that they have time to perform this service. By developing personal relations with other reviewers, UAA/UAF faculty can work to change negative perceptions on study sections that others may have about our research capacity from the inside out. We can engage talented adjuncts to cover course load and allow for buy-outs.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>EAC #6 - Respond to recent faculty loss and budget cuts as an opportunity to recruit and groom research faculty.</b></p>  | <p><b>SAC Meeting Notes, 8.20.2020, TRiM’s SWOT Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obstacles exist for promoting senior post-docs and PhD level research professionals to research faculty. Address those barriers to make them eligible to lead research projects. This discussion led to identification of an opportunity to repurpose our existing faculty to</li> </ul>  |

engage in hibernation research, noting that this is less costly and more efficient than recruiting new researchers from outside UA (SWOT “Weakness”).

- Engage more post docs and other faculty without tenure by using NIH K awards to provide support for training, project funding, and salary (SWOT, “Opportunity”).
- Research Faculty Appointments – Brian Barnes, IAB Director, clarified requirements for research faculty appointments as discussed earlier in the meeting. For investigators to be considered for research faculty appointments, they need to have at minimum salary support for 4.5 months and benefits. This support can be written into their project budget. This is a UA policy mandate stemming from the union’s collective bargaining agreement. NIH allows research faculty to serve as project PIs as long as they are recognized by their institution as research faculty members. Interested investigators can apply for the research faculty appointment to IAB (SWOT “Opportunity”).
- INBRE has resources to help cover start-up costs for new faculty with a bio-med focus (SWOT, “Opportunity”).
- Loss of faculty leads to poor faculty moral. With reduced faculty, we lose the ability to mentor students and make appropriate graduate committees. Graduate committee members from outside the University may fill this gap (SWOT “Threat”).
- Loss of quality graduate students, due to loss of TA positions and faculty mentors (SWOT “Threat”).
- COBRE award could attract new postdocs however, budget cuts make it difficult to offer start-up packages. Loss of faculty leads to a loss in investment in purchase of new equipment that could become obsolete if new faculty are not hired in a timely manner. TRiM was able to support the new hire of a post doc to support the Duddleston project. UAA Department of Biological Sciences is seeking a cluster hire to replace faculty as UAA lost 5 faculty in the DBS (K. Duddleston). UAF lost 3 faculty from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in FY20. Loss of faculty at UAA contributed to a loss in faculty diversity (SWOT “Weakness”).

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>EAC #7 - Utilize Multi-PI mechanism for collaborative partnerships with established NIH investigators.</b></p>  | <p><b>SAC Meeting Notes, 4.21.2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved cooperation between groups to form strategic teams resulted in the submission of two invited, independent grant applications for the TRiSH-BRASH solicitation with one submitted by Dr. Khrys Duddleston and her mentor, Dr. Loren Buck, and a second project led by Kelly Drew and her team of UAF investigators. Both applications used hibernation science platforms. SAC members agreed that there is an enhanced level of collaboration and cooperation between UAF and UAA biomedical/health sciences and WWAMI (Progress reported to SAC).</li> </ul> <p><b>SAC Meeting Notes, 8.20.2020, TRiM’s SWOT Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insufficient synergy <i>between</i> UAF and UAA faculty. Huge need to increase collaborations to support new research projects and funding applications for multi-PI projects (SWOT “Weakness”).</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>EAC #9 – To develop a pipeline of researchers for future development of UA system, UA should exploit its unique geographic, climatological and research resources as an asset to attract researchers at all levels – from undergraduate to established researchers – for short-term visits that may result in recruitments and create more external collaborations.</b></p> | <p>No relevant SAC discussion</p>   |
| <p><b>EAC #12 - Utilize “red team”/virtual study sections to pre-review proposals prior to submission.</b></p>  | <p><b>SAC Meeting Action Steps, 4.21.2021 – SAC identified strategies to increase successful grant submissions such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to offer high quality grant writing workshops and make use of INBRE’s consultants who provide professional proposal reviews.</li> <li>Develop closer engagement between UA Administrators with NIH Program Directors, including the NIH Science Program Officer who chairs study sections, to foster a positive perception of UAA/UAF research infrastructure and expertise.</li> <li>Contract with external NIH reviewers on grantsmanship to work with interested faculty from conception/research design through writing the application and submission.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, explore new NIH funding mechanisms (Support for Research Excellence, SuRE and SuRE First awards) to increase biomedical research funding and work with UAF</p>                                       |

administration to address barriers for UAF eligibility for these new grants by improving Pell grant undergraduate enrollment.

**SAC Meeting, TRiM Progress Notes, 4.21.2021**

- TRiM supported grant writing workshops coordinated by AK INBRE. Kelly also provides weekly grantsmanship mentoring to TRiM Pilot Project investigators.
- Dr. Robert Coker is a co-PI on renewal of an ITHS grant. Pending funding, new investigators will be able to participate in the AI- (artificial intelligence) driven matching system through the ITHS Translational Workforce Development program that will help connect potential applicants with the best mentors in the region. This strategy may help to increase our competitiveness for NIH grants.

**EAC #20 - Continue to partner with Alaska INBRE to develop technical cores, such as an immunohistochemistry and microscopy core that leverages existing equipment to support ongoing projects.**

**SAC Meeting Notes, 4.21.2021**

TRiM will request carry forward funds to contribute to re-establishment of capacity for cell culture and microscopy. The INBRE Exceptional Request mechanism might also be used to hire a technician to maintain technical assistance for histology and immunohistochemistry. By bringing these resources together – equipment, technique training, and workforce – we are creating the building blocks to develop a new core in cell biology and microscopy that could be shared between UAA and UAF campuses to increase research infrastructure. IAB has voiced support for this effort that could be included in their next INBRE renewal as a new core. (TRiM progress noted during this SAC meeting.)





----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Krasnova, Irina (NIH/NIGMS) [E]** <[irina.krasnova@nih.gov](mailto:irina.krasnova@nih.gov)>

Date: Mon, Jan 10, 2022, 07:53

Subject: SuRE Program and Institutional Eligibility

To: Jeannie Phillips <[jdphillips@alaska.edu](mailto:jdphillips@alaska.edu)>

Cc: Kelly Drew <[kdrew@alaska.edu](mailto:kdrew@alaska.edu)>, Anupma Prakash <[aprakash@alaska.edu](mailto:aprakash@alaska.edu)>, Nettie Labelle-Hamer <[allabellehamer@alaska.edu](mailto:allabellehamer@alaska.edu)>, Toni Abbey <[tabbey@alaska.edu](mailto:tabbey@alaska.edu)>, McGuirl, Michele (NIH/NIGMS) [E] <[michele.mcguirl@nih.gov](mailto:michele.mcguirl@nih.gov)>

Dear Chancellor White,

NIGMS recently published two Notices relevant to SuRE Program:

- [Notice of Clarification Regarding Institutional Eligibility for PAR-21-173 "Support for Research Excellence First Independent Research \(SuRE-First\) Award \(R16 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)  
(NOT-GM-22-024)  
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
- [Notice of Clarification Regarding Institutional Eligibility for PAR-21-169 "Support for Research Excellence \(SuRE\) Award \(R16 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)  
(NOT-GM-22-025)  
National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Per these Notices, the institutions may use either (1) the percentage of all undergraduates enrolled or (2) the percentage of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students available from the [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System \(IPEDS\) database](#) for determining their eligibility.

The University of Alaska, Fairbanks educated 33% and 31% of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students in 2020 and 2019, respectively. In addition, the University of Alaska, Fairbanks received \$1.33M and \$1.54M of NIH research project grants in FY 2021 and FY2020, respectively.

Therefore, I am happy to inform you that University of Alaska, Fairbanks is eligible for SuRE Program and faculty may apply for SuRE and SuRE-First grants.

Here are the link to SuRE FOA: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-169.html>, deadline to submit applications is May 26, 2022.

SuRE-First FOA: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-173.html>, deadline to submit applications is September 28, 2022.

With warmest regards,

*Irina.*

Irina N. Krasnova, Ph.D.  
SuRE/SCORE/IDeA Program Director  
Division for Research Capacity Building



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