

Staff Senate
<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

March 18, 2021
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Zoom
MINUTES

Attendees: Amanda Villar, Amber Robinson, Andrea Kennedy, Angel Carter, April Myers, Brandon Lester, Brittany May, Bruce Harper, Denise Crawford, Hannah Parks, Heather Adams, Jamie McElfresh, Jamie Stein, Jenni Gallagher, Jennifer Earley, Judy Alford, Judy Taylor, Justin Dalton, LaTawnya Burlison, Lee Bishop, Leisa Shelor, Mike Friedlander, Pat Donovan, Robena Hughes, Sally Shupe, Sandra Gabbert, Sarah Owen, Serena Young, Tamarah Smith, Tasia Persson, Wanda McAlexander

Excused: Amy Splitt, Jennifer Pike, Sue Teel, Zerita Montgomery, Becky Smith, Velva Groover

Call to order at 12:00 p.m.: President, Tamarah Smith

The agenda was electronically submitted to senators. With no additions, the agenda was approved at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the February Minutes were done electronically.

Presentations:

Dr. Michael Friedlander, Executive Director Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Virginia Tech Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology

- What's happening in Roanoke at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC
 - It's the Staff that make it all Happen
- Focus on
 - Heart Disease-Over 800,000 deaths annually in US; Cost over \$200B
 - Cancer-Over 600,000 deaths annually in US; Cost over \$135B
 - Brain Diseases-75 million directly affected in US; Cost = \$1.5T
 - Obesity-100 million (40%) of adults are obese, 5 million (19%) of kids are obese, Cost = \$190B per year
- New FBRI Research Building opened July 1, 2020
 - Tour of the New FBRI Building
 - Ground Floor – Atrium, classrooms; imaging center, veterinary oncology
 - First Floor – biomaterials and body-device interfaces; neuroscience
 - Second Floor – metabolism and obesity; cardiovascular sciences

- Third Floor – infectious disease/immunity – COVID testing lab; biological safety level 3; surgery unit
- Active FBRI Faculty Searches
 - Cardiovascular Science
 - Quantitative Human Neuroscience/Neuroimaging
- New Fralin Biomedical Research Institute Building Beginning to Fill
 - New Cardiovascular Research Group Leaders
 - Scott Johnstone, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
 - Jessica Pflieger, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
 - Yassine Sassi, Mt. Sinai, New York, NY
 - Junco Warren, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
 - Molecular Diagnostic Lab Group Leader
 - Carla Finkelstein
 - Brain Cancer Lab Group Leader
 - Jenny Munson
 - Sudden Cardiac Death
 - Steve Peolzing and Sharon George
 - Additional New FBRI Faculty recruited in FY20
 - Alex DiFeliceantonio, PhD, Yale, Neural and Metabolic Mechanisms of Food Choice: obesity
 - Anthony Lamantia, Ph.D., George Washington, Early brain developmental-pediatric dysphagia
 - Brittany Howell, PhD, University of Minnesota, Maternal influence on infant neurodevelopment
 - Sora Shin, PhD, University of California, San Diego, Early life stress impact on development of Neural Circuits in the lead to Compulsive Overeating Behavior
- The FBRI welcomes our new colleagues at the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center in Roanoke
 - Ilektra Athanasiadi, DVM, Dr Med Vet, MS-Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology
 - Brittany Ciepluch, DVM, MS, DACVS-Small Animal-Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology
 - Nick Dervis, DVM, PhD, DACVIM-Oncology-Associate Professor, Medical Oncology
 - Shawna Klahn, DVM, DACVIM-Oncology
 - Keiko Murakami, DVM, MS, DACVR-Radiation Oncology-Assistant Professor, Medical Oncology/Radiation Oncology
 - Nicholas Rancilio, DVM, MS, DACVR-Radiation Oncology-Assistant, Professor, Radiation Oncology
 - Joanne Tuohy, DVM, PhD, DACVS-Small Animal-Interim Director; Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology
- Recent (FY20-21) personnel growth at FBRI
 - 99 new employees
 - combined annual salary of \$5,795,579

- average annual salary of \$58,541 (28% higher than the median income in Roanoke)
- additional \$2,202,320 in fringe benefits
- Does not include graduate students who have joined the FBRI (although they are students, they are paid about \$45,000 annually each that includes a living stipend as well as payment for their tuition, health insurance and fees).
- Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health
 - PhD graduates to date-25 (9 scheduled dissertation defenses)
 - Average 3.2 peer reviewed publications at graduation (2 first author)
 - Average time to PhD degree – 4.8 years
 - Average number of individual NIH predoctoral awards per year – 3.3
 - Current Positions:
 - Astra Zeneca, Gaithersburg
 - Baylor College of Medicine, Houston
 - FDA, Bethesda
 - Gladstone Institute, San Francisco
 - Harvard University, Boston
 - Penn State, Hershey
 - VCU, Richmond
 - Temple University, Philadelphia
 - Vanderbilt University, Nashville
 - Foundation Awards
 - Howard Hughes Medical Institute
 - NIH F99/K00
 - NIH R01 Diversity Supplements
 - American Academy for Cerebral Palsy
 - Society for Neuroscience Scholars Program
 - James A Ferguson RISE Fellow
 - Research America
 - Currently 65 students working with faculty in 12 departments
 - COE 23%
 - CALS 8%
 - CLAHS 5%
 - COS 43%
 - CVM 21%
 - Students gain fluency in 7 focus areas in first year
 - Cancer
 - Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience
 - Immunity and Infectious Disease
 - Metabolic and Cardiovascular Science
 - Molecular Neuroscience
 - Public Health and Implementation Science

- Tissue Engineering and Reparative Medicine
- Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who participated in the faculty search process for the new building
 - Liqa Athamneh
 - Gabby Carrillo
 - Maruf Hoque
 - Zhouya Cui
 - Kijana George
 - Cora Carman
 - Monet Roberts
 - Ubadah Sabbagh
 - Carmen Munoz-Ballester
 - Amnah Eltahir
 - Miguel Escalante
 - John Wang
- TBMH students who have won individual nationally competitive fellowship awards this year
 - TBMH's Gabriela Carrillo receives NIH F99/K00 pre/postdoctoral fellowship
 - TBMH's Hassan Farah receives HIH F31 predoctoral fellowship
 - TBMH's Jessie Mann receives American academy for cerebral palsy predoctoral fellowship
 - TBMH's Rachel Padget receives NIH F31 predoctoral fellowship
 - TBMH's Ubadah Sabbagh receives NIH F99/K00 pre/post-doctoral fellowship
- Forbes names TBMH graduate student, Ubadah Sabbagh at Fralin Biomedical Research Institute to 30 under 30 to watch on December 1, 2020
- Children's Health Research Focus at FBRI continues to Grow
 - Virginia Tech, Children's National Hospital aware \$100,000 to fund collaborative cancer research pilot projects
 - Yanxin Pel (Center for Cancer Immunology Research at Children's National), and Liwu Li (Dept. of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech); Involvement of neutrophils in mastic MYC-driven medulloblastoma
 - Yuan Zhu (Professor of Neurofibromatosis Research at Children's National) and Susan Campbell (Dept. of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech); Glioma-induced seizures in mice with a genetic mutation that inhibits the production of P53
- In TRACKS Magazine
 - VT CVM Neurologist, John Rossmesl Comparative Molecular Life History of Spontaneous Canine and Human Gliomas Amin, SB,.....Rossmesl, J....., Verhaak, RGW, Cancer Cell; 2020
 - "Canine gliomas showed high similarity with human pediatric glioma per robust aneuploidy, mutational rates, relative timing of mutations, and DNA-methylation patterns"
- Virginia Tech Brain Cancer Faculty Research Team Leaders

- Rob Gourdie, Ph.D., Nanoparticles for sustained release of a Connexin43 mimetic peptide to target glioblastoma cells
- Scott Verbridge, Ph. D., Laboratory of Integrative Tumor Ecology: Tumor-targeted ablation modalities
- Zhi Sheng, Ph.D., Targeting PIK3CB in glioblastoma and in patients with high risk of recurrence
- Rafael Davalos, Ph.D., Ablation thresholds for 3D-cultured patient-derived glioma stem cells in response to high-frequency irreversible electroporation
- John Rossmeisl, D.V.M, M.S., Convection enhanced delivery of IL13RA2 and EPHA Receptor targeted cytotoxins in dogs with spontaneous intracranial tumors
- Jenny Munson, Ph.D., Fluid flow dynamics in the brain tumor microenvironment and evasion of localized, transport-limited therapies
- Eli Vlaisavljevich, Ph. D., Therapeutic ultrasound and non-invasive tissue ablation (histotripsy) in the treatment of brain tumors
- Samy Lamouille, Ph. D., Novel therapeutic strategies using mimetic peptides to disrupt protein-protein interactions that enhance tumorigenic characteristics of cancer cells
- “HEALTHY Brain and Child Development Study” NIH U-mechanism-25 site, 7,500 baby study; Longitudinal study of risk factors conception to puberty
 - Brittany Howell, FBRI
 - Warren Bickel, FBRI
 - Kathy Hosig, VT PHS
 - Jungmeen Kim-Spoon, VT Psychology
 - Martha Ann Bell, VT Psychology
 - Fidel Vaea, CC OB/GYN
 - Done Kees, CC Pediatrics
 - Michael Jeremiah, CC Family Medicine
 - Bob Trestman, CC Psychiatry
- FBRI Neuromotor Research Clinic
 - NIH awards \$20M to FBRI for Innovative neurorehabilitation trails for pediatric stroke and development of a National Pediatric Rehabilitation Resource Center
 - Sharon Ramey
 - Stephanie DeLuca
- iThriv-VTC Fralin Biomedical Research Institute
 - Bringing the state’s institutions together in a working research partnership: NIH (NCATS) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) \$23M integrative Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia
- VT’s COVID-19 Testing Lab
 - Total Tests (4/24/20-3/17/21) = 104,147
 - Health Department Tests = 34,763
 - Virginia Tech Tests = 69,384
 - FBRI partnership with VDH

- Paige Bordwine
 - Noelle Bissell
 - Molly O'Dell
 - Cynthia Morrow
- Federal Covid Response Assistance Field Team (CRAFT) from CDC, HHS, FEMA, ASPR, CMS AND ACL visits FBRI

Staff Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees: Updates

Elections and Nominations: Ms. Persson

Elections will be pushed closer to April. We have 11 open positions to fill. When you see the ad from VT News please send in nominations. Self-Nominations will be accepted and these will be used first to fill in positions that come open through-out the year if the nominee isn't selected.

McComas Leadership Seminar: Ms. Earley

Coming up Tuesday, March 30th and it will be recorded. Agenda to be sent out shortly. The link will be in the VT Daily News until March 24th.

Adjourned: Ms. Smith at 12:58

Respectfully Submitted by Angel Carter