

**Report to The Dean of Faculty, Research Advisory Council**  
**June 2016**

**Holger Sondermann, Chairman RAC**  
**Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Medicine**

The Research Advisory Council (RAC) is a committee of the Faculty Senate charged to provide advice to the Vice Provost for Research on issues relating to the research enterprise of the University. During the 2015-16 academic year, the major activity of the RAC was to help in the selection of nominations for grant and award programs with limited submissions. In the past academic year we reviewed applications to **27** programs. The chart below indicates awards, declines, and items still pending.

The work required to perform all of these grant proposal reviews is significant, posing a time burden on the members of the RAC. Each RAC member reads and ranks all submissions, independent of area of research. The preliminary ranking (and specific comments) serves as the basis for the discussion. The broad expertise represented on the RAC helps to choose the most competitive (and well-written) proposals that are recommended to submit a full application to the particular funding agency or philanthropy. Independent on the outcome, the chair of the RAC provides constructive feedback to each applicant based on the comments and discussion by the council. The workload is spread out across the academic calendar, with fewer programs during the summer months. Members found the work rewarding, even though it was burdensome during busy times in the semesters.

A number programs are coordinated with Weill Cornell Medical College, depending on whether the funders consider both campuses as one entity. These programs include, but are not limited to, the Pew, Searle, Allen and Hartwell Foundations. In recent months, we have started talks with the corresponding committee at the Medical School to improve the process with regard to how we handle this cross-campus selection in a fair and transparent process, while ensuring that the most competitive proposal(s) and nominations will go forward. These negotiations are still ongoing, but progress towards a streamlined procedure has already been made during the last few program selections.

The RAC also provides occasional advice to the Vice Provost for Research on other issues related to our research mission.

## **Research Advisory Council**

Members for 2015-2016

LS=Life Science (7)

PE=Physical science & engineering (4)

### **Field**

|    |                           |                                 |      |      |        |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| LS | Holger Sondermann (Chair) | Molecular Medicine              | Vet  | 2016 | hs293  |
| LS | Cynthia Reinhart-King*    | Biomedical Engineering          | Engr | 2016 | cak57  |
| PE | Hening Lin                | Chemistry & Chemical Biology    | A&S  | 2016 | hl379  |
| LS | Tom Fox                   | Molecular Biology & Genetics    | CALS | 2016 | tdf1   |
| LS | Kelly Zamudio             | Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  | A&S  | 2016 | krz2   |
| PE | Christopher Ober          | Materials Science & Engineering | Engr | 2016 | cko3   |
| PE | Sol Gruner                | LASSP                           | A&S  | 2017 | sng26  |
| PE | Abe Stroock               | Chemical & Biomolecular Engr.   | Engr | 2017 | ads10  |
| LS | Mike Scanlon              | Plant Biology                   | CALS | 2017 | mjs298 |
| LS | Steve Ellner              | Ecology & Evol. Biology         | CALS | 2017 | spe2   |
| LS | Bob Weiss                 | Biomedical Sciences             | Vet  | 2017 | rsw26  |

\*Sabbatic

### **Ex Officio Non-Voting Members**

Robert A. Buhrman                      Senior Vice Provost for Research

Andrew H. Bass                         Senior Associate Vice Provost for Life Sciences

### **Administrative Coordinator**

Elaine E. LaRocque                    [eel1@cornell.edu](mailto:eel1@cornell.edu) and 255-2949

| <b>Program</b>  | <b>NA<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>NR<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>Name</b>   | <b>Department</b>  | <b>Result</b>  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| NSF Mid-Scale Innovations Program in Astronomical Sciences        | 1                     | 0                     |   |  |  |
| HHMI International Student Research Fellowships*                  | 10                    | 30                    | Hui Jing<br>Tianyu Wang<br>Seong ha Park<br>Hao Shi<br>Akash Guru<br>Joo Hyun Im<br>Duo An<br>Prateek Sehgal<br>Alberto Purwada<br>Pradeep Ramalingam | CCB<br>AEP<br>Biophysics<br>Physics<br>NB&B<br>Genetics<br>BEE<br>MAE<br>BME<br>WCMC | Award<br>Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline |
| Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists                             | 1/category            | 3                     | Jonathan Butcher<br>Haiyuan Yu  | BME<br>BSCB  | Decline<br>Decline   |
| NIEHS: Nanomaterials Health Implications Research                 | 1                     | 0                     |   |  |  |
| National Science Foundation Research Trainee Fellowships          | 3                     | 9                     | Avery August<br>Mike Scanlon<br>Todd Walter   | Vet Micro<br>Plant Biology<br>BEE  | Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline  |
| NSF Partnerships for Innovation - BIC                             | 1                     |                       | Siddhartha Banerjee   | ORIE   | Decline  |
| NSF Major Research Instrumentation                                | 3                     | 5                     | Joss Rose<br>Joss Rose<br>Chris Schaffer  | Biotech<br>Biotech<br>BME  | Decline<br>Decline<br>Decline  |
| Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award*                                    | 1                     | 3                     | Nandini Ananth  | CBB  | Decline  |
| NSF Scalable Manufacturing  | 1                     | 2                     | David Erickson  | MAE  | Decline  |
| USDA Undergrad and Research Ext Experiential Learning Fellowships | 3                     | 3                     | Pat Johnson<br>Jeff Perry   | Animal Science<br>Plant Science  | Award<br>Decline   |
| NCI: Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award          | 1                     |                       | Mahya Mehrmohamadi  | Genetics,<br>Genomics & Dev.   | Award  |
| NSF: Cybersecurity Innovation for Cyberinfrastructure             | 1                     | 1                     | Steve Wicker  | ECE  | Decline  |
| Packard Fellowships*  | 2                     | 19                    | Katja Nowack<br>Iwijn De Vlaminck   | Physics<br>BEE   | Decline<br>Decline   |
| NSF: I-Corps Sites  | 1                     | 1                     | Emmanuel Giannelis  | MSE/Engr.<br>Deans Office  | Pending  |
| NIH: Team-Based Design in Biomedical Engineering Education        | 1                     | 0                     |   |  |  |
| Moore Fdn: Moore Inventor Fellows*                                | 2                     | 8                     | Nathan Landau<br>Nozomi Nishimura   | WCMC<br>BEE  | Pending<br>Pending   |
| Hartwell Individual Biomedical Research                           | 3                     | 6                     | Chris Schaffer<br>Natalia De Marco  | BME<br>WCMC  | Pending<br>Pending   |

|   |            |   |  |                 |                    |
|---|------------|---|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Award*  |            |   | Garcia Stefan Worgall  | WCMC            | Pending            |
| Hartwell Postdoctoral Fellowship*                         | 1          | 1 | Kate Grive   | Vet Biomed Sci  | Award              |
| Mallinckrodt, Jr. Fdn. Grants Program                     | 1          | 7 | Iwijn De Vlaminck  | BME             | Decline            |
| Brain Res. Fdn. Scientific Innovations Award*             | 1 LOI      | 1 | Paul Soloway   | DNS             | Pending            |
| NSF: Physics Frontiers Centers                            | 1          | 0 |  |                 |                    |
| Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences*          | 1          | 9 | Bjorn Kafsack<br>Nilay Yapici (by special invitation from Pew) | WCMC<br>NB&B    | Pending<br>Pending |
| American Diabetes Assoc: Pathways Award                   | 1/category | 4 | Bethany Cummings   | Vet Biomed. Sci | Decline            |
| Searle Scholars Program*                                  | 2          | 7 | Amnon Koren<br>Dan Landau                                      | MBG<br>WCMC     | Pending<br>Pending |
| NEA: Research Labs  | 1          | 1 | Mason Peck   | MSE             | Decline            |
| NIH Director's Early Independence Awards                  | 2          | 0 |  |                 |                    |
| NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education | 1          | 5 | Todd Cowen   | CEE             | Pending            |

<sup>a</sup> Number of submissions allowed by sponsor

<sup>b</sup> Number of submissions received for internal review

\*Denotes program shared with WCMC