

DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCES WORK GROUP  
Meeting Notes

Date/Time of Meeting: February 6, 2008

Location: Troy Conference Room

Attendees: Alice Carter, Jessica Whiteley, Celia Moore, William Kiernan, Ed Tronick, Alexia Pollack, Ken Kleene, Linda Huang, Zsuzsa Kaldy, Carol Smith, Donna Kuizenga

Excused: Felicia Wilczenski

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	DECISIONS	ACTION ITEMS
Minutes of December 20 meeting		Approved	
Sub group reports	A spokesperson for each group presented the findings, which had been distributed in advance.		
Umbrella articulation of research focus	After discussion, a broad articulation of the focus was agreed upon provisionally	The developmental science research cluster examines multi-level systems from an interdisciplinary perspective. It studies development and the interaction of complex regulatory systems from the molecule to the child in his/her environment. It emphasizes translational research. <i>Alternative formulation:</i> The developmental science research cluster studies	

		<p>complex systems from an interdisciplinary perspective. It focuses on the development and interaction of multiple regulatory systems, ranging from the molecular level to the child in his/her environment. The plan is to identify complex problems that may be tackled in novel ways by studying multiple levels of a particular system simultaneously. It emphasizes translational research.</p> <p><i>Alternative formulation:</i>  Program for the INTERDISCIPLINARY study of DEVELOPMENT and INTERACTION of COMPLEX MULTILEVELED SYSTEMS from the MOLECULE to the CHILD in his/her ENVIRONMENT.</p>	
Organization of current research interests	We plan to organize current research interests under a number of broad headings including model systems, human systems, normal development and pathology.		AP will do a first pass at this organization
Organization of future research groups	Our report will provide examples of how future research groups might be organized	Examples include (1) identifying a neural network or brain region that can be studied at multiple levels of the system	Examples provided by AC.

		<p>(e.g., from molecules in the basal ganglia to eye tracking and psychophysiological studies of infant attention, to studies of parent-child interaction that focus on correlates of improvements in attention regulation over time, to family stress associated with raising a child with dysregulated attention, to needed accommodations in school and community settings to improve the lives of children with clinically significant attention dysregulation (ADHD)); (2) beginning with a component of a clinical disorder (e.g., repetitive behaviors in autism) and identifying levels of the system that may be involved, including relevant animal models (e.g., transgenic or knock-out mice), studies of brain regions associated with perseverative behaviors, behavioral studies aimed at understanding normative and pathological manifestations of perseveration and/or subgrouping children based on extreme scores on the component phenotype.)</p>	
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Interdisciplinary centers	Celia Moore provided information on funding opportunities for NIH funding for Interdisciplinary Developmental Science Centers for Mental Health (IDSC)		DK will ask ORSP for further information on funded interdisciplinary centers
Implementation Steps	Discussion of necessary steps to move from general planning as being done by work group and actual creation of research teams and production of viable grant applications.	Necessary to bring relevant faculty together both over time and in meaningful blocks of time. This will require providing both time [course releases] and amenities [e.g. dinner]. Pilot money should be available [with some kind of internal review process] to allow for the collection of significant pilot data in preparation for grant applications. A fund should also be provided for statistical and methodological consultants, as needed. Additional items include improving existing infrastructure with respect to equipment, start up, hires, core facilities [e.g. statistical capacity]. For the enterprise to succeed staff support will be required for communication and logistics.	
Implementation time frame	Our expectation is that there will be a 6 to 12 month planning period,		

	eventuating in the submission of a R21 grant. For the 5 year period the goal is 2 to 3 major grant submissions.		
Open hearing	An open hearing will be scheduled between the February 20 meeting and the March 5 meeting.	DK and available work group members will attend	DK will arrange
General call for researchers	When we have our report in a more final state, in March, we will ask the provost's office to distribute a broadcast message soliciting information from faculty whose research is relevant.		DK will see that this is done