



**Medical Affairs Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 15, 2025, 7:30-8:30 am

Circulated: 12/4/2025

Approved: 12/10/2025

Present: John Magee (Chair), Keith Aaronson, Rajiv Bapuraj, Sybil Biermann, Steven Buchman, James Carpenter, Katherine Gold, Naomi Lavalentha, Ann Marshall (FSO, Coordinator), Shahzad Mian, David Miller (CEO & Executive VP for Medical Affairs), Sara Pasquali, Soumya Rangarajan (SACUA liaison), Lauren Smith, Travis Souza (EVPMA Special Advisor), Emily Stoneman, Aysha Thomas (EVPMA, Executive Administrative Partner), Patricia Tillman-Meakins

Absent: Lindsay Admon, Nancy Allee, Jennifer Romano

Presenters & Guests

- *Thomas Wang*, Dean, Medical School; Josiah Macy, Jr. Professor of Health Professions Education; Professor of Internal Medicine; Chief Academic Officer, Michigan Medicine
- *Steve Kunkel*, Executive Vice Dean for Research, Medical School; Peter A. Ward Distinguished University Professor of Pathology; Endowed Professor of Pathology Research and Professor of Pathology; Chief Scientific Officer, Michigan Medicine
- *Karl Jepsen*, Associate Dean for Research; Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; Professor of Biomedical Engineering; College of Engineering and Medical School
- *Heather Offhaus*, Director of Grant Services & Analysis, Michigan Medicine
- *Kim Ross*, Chief Government Relations Officer, Michigan Medicine
- *Matt Comstock*, Chief Operating Officer, Adjunct Lecturer in Learning Health Science, Medical School and Adjunct Lecturer in Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health

1. Chair John Magee called the meeting to order and the minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

2. CEO & EVPMA David Miller welcomed the committee to the first meeting of the academic year and shared appreciation for Michigan Medicine faculty and for MAAC as a venue for faculty engagement.

3. Presentation on federal issues impacting research and planning

- The century-long partnership between government and academic institutions experienced abrupt changes in 2025, including changes to regulations, indirect cost coverage policy, and visa procedures. There has been uncertainty about multi-year funding awards, impacts on intermittent peer-review award timing, and less communication with federal agencies. There are also some possible strategic health-focused grant opportunities with the new administration.
- Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) is a model recommended by JAG (Joint Associations Group) on behalf of research institutions and universities. The model provides publicly accountable calculations of overhead support, eliminates confusing IDC/NICRAs, visibly connects research with institutional support, and provides a direct cost relationship to reimbursement. U-M leadership has endorsed JAG and, if enacted, there would be a two-year transition for FAIR to replace the existing indirect cost models. The intent is to make cost calculations more transparent. An example of how FAIR might work was shared with MAAC members.

4. Discussion

- Discussion covered the following topics. Faculty reflected on questions about the use of terminology



within grants and whether AI should be used to adjust terminology. There was concern about the loss of datasets, questions about the status of CDC staff, and discussion about health disparity research. There was discussion about challenges facing early career researchers, possible tenure and promotion extensions, and about communication. There is widespread MM support for preserving the faculty pipeline and MM offers grant application support to faculty. Cuts greater than 1% could be difficult for units, and faculty morale has been impacted. One of the pillars of the Look to Michigan Campaign is health and wellness.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marshall, Faculty Governance Coordinator