Five Year Review
Self-Study Report

Center for Neurodynamics

College of Arts and Sciences
University of Missouri at St. Louis

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1. Overview: History, Mission and Goals of the Center for Neurodynamics

1.1 Mission of the Center for Neurodynamics

The mission of the Center for Neurodynamics remains, as described in the previous self-study, to fulfill the objectives of the Mission Statement of the University of Missouri – St. Louis, specifically

- to maintain a commitment to advance knowledge as part of a comprehensive research university, and
- to contribute significantly to theoretical and applied research in the fields of its faculty scholars.

The Center further advances the mission of the University by

- providing quality undergraduate and graduate research experiences to students from the urban St. Louis region,
- forming successful collaborative partnerships regionally within the metropolitan community, as well as internationally, and
- helping to raise the University's national and international profile by publications in major scientific journals and presence at major scientific meetings both within the United States and abroad.

During the years since the previous self-study, the Center has continued to pursue this mission. However, the Center has seen significant changes over the past five years. In Section 1.2 below, we review the history of the Center up to 2003. In Section 1.3, we provide an overview of how the Center has changed and grown over the past five years.

1.2 Governance of the Center for Neurodynamics

The Center is an entity of the St. Louis campus of the University of Missouri. The general governance of the Center is by a three voting member Board, consisting of one person each representing the Department of Biology and the Department of Physics plus a Director. Additional nonvoting members can be added as approved by the Board. The board determines general policy for the Center. The Board elects the Director who will also be a member of the Board. The Board also elects one of its own members to be its Chairperson. The day-to-day operations of the Center are governed by a Director and an Associate Director. The Director reports directly to the Vice Provost for Research and through that office to the Provost.

As of the end of the Board meeting of March 10, 2006, the current Board members were Dr. Sonya Bahar, Director, Dr. Lon Wilkens, Associate Director, Dr. Steve Lehmkuhle, member, and Dr. Frank Moss, nonvoting member. With the retirement of Dr. Moss, and Dr. Lehmkuhle's departure from the UM system, the board, as of March 2008 is comprised of two members, Drs. Bahar and Wilkens.