

Thursday, January 24, 2019
4:00 to 5:00 pm
CINJ Boardroom 2003

Attendees:

Paul Novembre, Elisa Bandera, Linda Tanzer (by phone), Eileen White, X.F. Steven Zheng, Zhiyuan Shen, Sharon Manne, Howard Hochster, Anita Kinney, Edmund Lattime, Janice Mehnert, Chang Chan, Gina Londino-Greenberg

Agenda

1. Review of revised Membership SOPs
 - It was explained that the membership classifications need to be revised. The changes are driven by the need to reduce confusion about membership levels as well as to categorize so as appropriately recognize investigators' funding and research focuses.
 - While the "Full" membership category would remain unchanged, it was proposed that the categories of "Associate I" and "Associate II" be replaced with "Associate" and "Associate*", respectively.
 - It was further proposed that a new membership category, "Clinical Trialist", be added. This category would apply to members who are PIs on clinical trials but do not have peer-reviewed funding.
 - The "Advisory" membership category would remain, but there would not be too many members placed into this category.
 - Another new membership category, "Trainee", was also proposed. This category could comprise postdoctoral appointees and graduate students who were engaged in cancer research with a mentor as member of CINJ. This category would be modeled after standards that passed NCI review.
 - The question was raised of whether the revised membership categorization would appear on the Research Profiles on the CINJ website. There was concern about some members taking offense at their categorization if it was "lower". Consequently, it was agreed that membership categorizations would no longer appear on the Research Profiles.
 - There was also concern about creating a separate category for clinical trial PIs, as it could be seen as implying that these researchers have an inferior status. It was further noted that other NCI centers do not appear to have this category.
 - Paul Novembre explained that the plan would be for members classified as "Associate" and "Associate*" to only be listed as "Associate" on the online Research Profiles. The "Associate*" categories would be kept internally, for purposes of determining eligibility for Shared Resource discounts and funding opportunities. Similarly, members categorized as "Advisory" would only be reported on CCSG documents based on their leadership expertise.
 - There was concern about having so many different membership categories. The situation could be difficult to explain to CCSG reviewers.
 - It was noted that CINJ was critiqued in the last CCSG cycle for having too many Associate I members who did not seem appropriate for the Associate I status. The suggestion was made to change these members to Advisory status, such that they would not be reported on the CCSG, but would still be given an appropriate title and respect.
 - It was further explained that "Advisory" would be an internal terminology, not published on the website.

- It was reiterated how multiple senior faculty have complained about having Associate II member status. In order to avoid both offending faculty and reporting on them for the CCSG, the solution could be to remove these members approximately 4 months prior to the official CCSG submission.
- It was agreed that more information had to be gathered on the exact expectations around calling someone a “trainee”. It was further agreed that internal records would be kept, such that only trainees with funding would be reported as members for the CCSG. However, all trainees should be tracked and reported on for the CRCERA portion of the CCSG. There will not be Research Profiles on the CINJ website for Trainee members.
- It was agreed that Associate* members would be reclassified as Associate members upon receiving a pilot award. It was confirmed that all members were eligible to apply for a pilot award.
- Discussion began around tracking of needed data on trainees, including the importance of capturing information on their mentors.
- It was stated that clinical fellows should count as trainees.
- It is necessary to gather information on all of the graduate students, fellows, and other trainees at Rutgers. There would not be a membership review process for trainees, though. The suggestion was made that all of the CINJ members could be asked to refer their trainees who could be eligible for CINJ membership. Besides having PIs able to nominate their trainees, the trainees could also be allowed to self-nominate. However, these trainees would have to first pass their qualifying exams in order to apply.
- The question was raised of whether information on all graduate students who would be relevant to the CCSG could be obtained from the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies.
- It was agreed that tracking all of the needed information on the trainees would be a tremendous task. Paul Novembre will contact Case Cancer Center to inquire about its process of tracking of the trainee information. In the meantime, an unpublished profile will be created for any trainee with funding.
- It was explained that, for any members being mentioned in the pending T32 grant application, CINJ will have to provide information on their trainees from the past 10 years. It will therefore be important to have information on the members’ training history, in order to identify who should be included in this T32 grant.

2. NIA nomination for Shawn Davidson

- Dr. White explained that originally, CCSG funding had been allotted to award a New Investigator Award to the MacMillan Chair recruit. However, there have been ongoing difficulties in finalizing the recruitment. CINJ’s commitment, which will be \$100,000 over a two-year time frame, remains.
- It is necessary to award NIA funding in the current year. Consequently, Dr. White is presenting a NIA nomination for Shawn Davidson, PhD.
- Dr. Davidson is an independent investigator at Princeton University with a start-up package that included mass-spectrometry capacity. There are similar investigational fellowships like his at places such as MIT. Due to their great capacity, these individuals have the chance to bypass time spent as postdoctoral appointees. The NCI is recognizing this new track and starting to give funding to support them.
- CINJ also invested in the Bruker mass spectrometry instrument at Princeton University’s Metabolomics shared resource, which Dr. Davidson has been brought on to develop and use. There is interest in giving him human tissue samples to use for research with this machine.
- The council agreed that Dr. Davidson merited the NIA and approved that he be its recipient.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 14, 2019 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, CINJ Boardroom 2003)