

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, October 15, 2020
4:00 to 5:00 pm
Zoom

Attendees: Wadih Arap, Elisa Bandera, Adam Berger, Stephen Burley, Chang Chan, Shridar Ganesan, Carolyn Heckman, Anita Kinney, Edmund Lattime, Paul Novembre, Renata Pasqualini, Sarah Scharf, Zhiyuan Shen, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White, X. F. Steven Zheng, Wei-Xing Zong

Agenda

1. Computer Administrator Roles for Faculty (White)
 - Dr. White discussed having a productive meeting with David Foran, who will draft a plan to help researchers have the computer privileges needed. The timeline for further changes is April 2021.

2. Small animal imaging capabilities at RBHS and NJMS following the S10 award to Dr. Roger Howell (Berger/Stasinopoulos)
 - The small animal imaging core was not added onto the last CCSG competing renewal application as a developing Shared Resource.
 - A collaboration with Roger Howell could perhaps be added onto the next CCSG competing renewal application.
 - o Roger Howell is a Full member of the CIPT Program
 - The small animal imaging core was originally considered to be a developing Shared Resource, but it did not meet the CCSG criteria.
 - o There were not enough users, due to the cost.
 - The recommendation was made to split the IVIS and Ultrasound, considering them Shared Instruments.
 - Ed Yurkow is being consulted for models of working with his core in Piscataway.
 - o It was agreed not to move the instrument to the Piscataway campus.
 - It was noted that Shared Resources instrument location could be an issue for the CINJ Newark site.
 - o Keeping instrumentation in Newark could be problematic, due to needing to transport animals there.
 - There was agreement that a timeline needs to be set for resolving the CT Imaging at CINJ, now that laboratory operations are restarting.
 - o Dr. Lattime will follow up with Ed Yurkow next week.
 - o It would be helpful to know how many researchers would use this equipment.
 - o The revised online IACUC review system no longer allows for one protocol to cover use of this facility.
 - All animal research protocols that involve using this equipment now must have modifications made. Dr. Lattime has the boilerplate language that can be provided for these modifications.
 - Dr. Lattime will be seeing if there is another way to proceed with IACUC that does not require that the protocols be amended. He will see how Ed Yurkow works with IACUC at the Piscataway facility.

- Dr. Burley discussed how IQB funding had been used for an instrument purchase at Rutgers Cryo core, with the understanding that IQB personnel would not need to pay to use the instrument.
 - While the situation is not completely the same, perhaps a similar arrangement could be made where the instruments fall under ORED and CINJ members have access to it without charges.
- There was agreement about the need to have a discussion with David Kimball about the charges and the protocols.

3. Strategic Plan updates (Londino-Greenberg/Tanzer)

- There was agreement that Education and Training needs to emphasize getting more individuals from underrepresented populations into science.
- Representation and diversity should be major focuses in the recruitment of faculty and trainees. Competition for these recruits will be fierce.
- Rutgers University has a very diverse undergraduate student population that can be capitalized. CINJ could build a pipeline to cultivate the best and the brightest and keep them within the Rutgers environment.
- Sunita Chaudhary has been successful with the Rutgers URM Pipeline program to get underrepresented racial and ethnic minority students into medical school. She also recently got a significant NCI grant to expand on her work.
 - It was recommended that Sunita Chaudhary incorporate a focus on the development and retention of diverse trainees into this new grant and other programs.
- There needs to be a concerted effort and/or an official program focused on cultivating these students from the beginning of their education to becoming faculty.
- CINJ can still recruit from the outside, but “growing our own” trainees and faculty should be explored.
 - Undergraduate students can begin in the CINJ labs, and then be carried through.
- It is important to show academic careers as promising and attractive.
- CINJ should see about engaging medical students to also become physician scientists.
- It was noted that University of Texas – Southwestern has a similar program, in which medical school students were placed in other institutions for residency/fellowship, and then had an easier time returning to University of Texas – Southwestern after residency/fellowship.
- A discussion with the new President of Rutgers University could be useful for establishing such a program.
- There should be a focus on engaging promising diverse MD/PhD students and MD students at Rutgers, in addition to the undergraduate students.
 - It will be necessary to ensure appropriate commitment to the graduate school piece, to ensure proper research guidance.
- Efforts must be made to differentiate between the undergraduate students greatly interested in research versus those who are just trying to get into medical school.
- It may be necessary to see if financial contributions toward their education would be an incentive, in case student loans are making the trainees go into practice.
- The question was raised of whether student interns could be brought in to help to address the understaffing of IS&T at Rutgers Cancer Institute.
 - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center has a model.

4. Other Business

- There was the reminder of the updated December RLC meeting date.
- Dr. Lattime reported that the laboratories are still waiting on the delivery of plexiglass, but that it should be arriving tomorrow, with installation ready for next week.
- An email will be sent to the laboratories about the upcoming changes.