RUTGERS

Cancer Institute
of New Jersey
RUTGERS HEALTH

### RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



Thursday, December 13, 2018 3:00 to 4:00 pm CINJ Boardroom 2003

#### Attendees:

Paul Novembre, Willetta Boswell, Edmund Lattime, Chang Chan, Zhiyuan Shen, Eileen White, Cristine Delnevo (by phone), XF Steven Zheng, Sharon Manne, Linda Tanzer, Janice Mehnert, Anita Kinney, Howard Hochster, Gina Londino-Greenberg

#### **Agenda**

- 1. Assignments for EAB Members
  - The EAB members were assigned which CCSG components they should review.
    - Director's Strategy/Overview Candace Johnson, David Goldman, and Louis Weiner
    - COE Chanita Hughes-Halbert and Ernie Hawk
    - Admin Core Marcy Waldinger and Ted Yank
    - o Leadership, Planning, & Evaluation (LPE) Marcy Waldinger and Ted Yank
    - Developmental Funds Marcy Waldinger and Ted Yank
    - CRCERA Kunle Odunsi and Danny R. Welch (Candace Johnson was removed so that she would have no more than 3 components to review.)
    - o CPDM and PRMS Peter O'Dwyer, Lauren Hackett, and Jeff Weber
    - CMG Benjamin Neel and Ralph Deberardinis
    - GICG Stan Gerson and Ramon Parsons (It was noted that someone with Genomics expertise is needed to review the GICG component. Dr. Shen and Dr. Chan will send nominations of potential individuals to be invited onto the EAB.)
    - o CP David Goldman and Candace Johnson
    - o CIPT Maha Hussain and Thomas Lynch
    - CPC Dorothy Hatsukami, Ernie Hawk, and Pamela Ling (It was noted that someone with Epidemiology expertise should review the CPC component. Dr. Manne, Dr. Bandera, and Dr. Kinney will send nominations of potential individuals to be invited onto the EAB.)
    - Biomedical Info Michael Becich (It was agreed that this component only needed one reviewer.)
    - Biometrics Maha Hussain and Thomas Lynch
    - o Biorepository & Histo (BRHS) Michael Becich and Louis Weiner
    - Comp Genomics Michael Becich and Eric Fearon
    - Flow Kunle Odunsi and Jeff Weber
    - o Genome Edit Eric Fearon and Ramon Parsons
    - o Immune Monitoring (Developing) Kunle Odunsi and Louis Weiner
    - Metabolomics Ralph Deberardinis and Benjamin Neel
    - ResPharm Maha Hussain and Thomas Lynch
    - Sm Molecule Screening (Developing) David Goldman and Candace Johnson
    - It was suggested that Kunle Odunsi and Jeff Weber be the reviewers for the Cancer Immunology Research Program that CINJ plans to create.

- Dr. Kinney advised that CINJ might consider adding a patient advocate onto the EAB, and that there is someone on her Community Advisory Committee who might be a good option.
- It was noted that Ramon Parsons will not be joining the EAB until 2020, and so will not be attending the 2019 EAB meeting.
- 2. Planning and preparation for Multi-PI funding opportunities (e.g. SPOREs, P01s, etc.)
  - Dr. Shen and Dr. Chan discussed their plans for the GICG program to pursue a P01 grant, which would focus on the relationship between DNA repair and tumor development.
    - In late November, Bruce Haffty had made a presentation to the NCI about plans for a P01 that would involve 4 projects (PIs: Samuel Bunting, Bing Xia, Shridar Ganesan, and Zhiyuan Shen), as well as have an Admin Core and utilize the Genome Editing shared resource.
    - Their planned timeline is to apply in May. The PIs are currently in the process of preparing 15-page documents about their projects, which will then be compared to identify overlap.
    - They stated that they would require assistance in establishing the advisory committee, which could have 3 to 5 internal members and 3 to 5 external members.
       It would be preferable for the advisors to have experience more with P01 grants rather than with DNA repair. Dr. Shen requested that he be sent recommendations.
    - The Council expressed concern about this plan, because P01 grants are typically not appropriate for junior faculty, according to guidance from NCI Program Officers. Samuel Bunting's current lack of tenure could pose a challenge. Since Dr. Bunting is expected to receive tenure by the summer, it was advised to postpone the application to mid-July, when all of the PIs would then have sufficient seniority.
    - It was further advised that the project needed to have a greater tying theme than the current one of "the relationship between DNA repair and tumor development".
  - It was agreed that those preparing P01 applications should present to the members of the Research Leadership Council on their theme and program integration. The presentation must make a clear case that for the proposed projects, the "whole is greater than the sum of the parts".
    - Such presentations must be made very soon in the process of P01 application planning.
  - Cristine Delnevo and Sharon Manne next presented on the CPC Program's plan for a P01 grant application on "Evidence-based intervention to reduce skin cancer risk in at-risk populations".
    - While there did not appear to be much overlap between the proposed projects, the Council expressed concern over how all of the projects depended on mobile apps for the interventions, as that might not appeal to the NCI.
    - It was also noted how Just In Time requirements surrounding work with mobile apps were becoming excessive.
  - XF Steven Zheng reported that the CP Program is gathering names of potential collaborators.
    - Potential themes could be "toxicity of targeted chemotherapy" and "chronic pain", as they both are linked to mTOR.
    - He also noted a burgeoning relationship with the CIPT Program, working with Janice Mehnert for tissue.
  - Eileen White reported that the CMG Program has potential to put together a SPORE application. The science is available, but the translation will be needed. They will need to present to the CIPT Program.
    - Research around arginase inhibitors has already resulted in a study with Incyte and another one is being pursued with Aeglea.

- Wei-Xing Zong and Daniel Herranz Benito have separate projects that have resulted in multiple papers on glutaminase inhibitors. There would be need for evidence from the clinic. There is already a CTEP for this.
- Aspariginase (which is already used to treat Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia) is another research opportunity. Tracy Anthony is studying mechanisms of how it depletes nutrients for tumor growth. Her work could be one of the collaborative projects. It was suggested that Dr. Anthony be a speaker at a CIPT Program meeting.
- Joshua Rabinowitz and one of his graduate students, Jon Ghergurovich, are doing G6P research that involves small molecule screening.
- Metabolic tumor profiling could be done around thyroid cancer, involving the CINJ physicians and the new imaging mass spectrometer in the Metabolomics core.
- Dr. White is also collaborating with Elisa Bandera and Bo Qin on a project around obesity and breast cancer.
- Dr. Kinney advised that a disparities-centered RFA for P01 grants is expected to be distributed next year.
- It was agreed that pilot study needs and data must be included in the presentations around plans to pursue P01 and SPORE grants.
- Janice Mehnert reported that the CIPT Program had a few burgeoning areas of research that were not yet ready, but that there were some burgeoning immunology trials.
  - It will be necessary to engage Basic Research faculty into trials by Kristen Spencer, Salma Jabbour, and others. As new immunologists are recruited, new opportunities may emerge.

## 3. New Consortium Steering Committee members

- Princeton faculty members Ben Raphael and Janet Currie were suggested as potential members. They are both currently on sabbatical.
- Dr. Raphael's interest in holding a regular (i.e. yearly or every 6 months) Genomics Symposium was mentioned.
  - A discussion then ensued about whether there were any opportunities to engage Dr. Raphael in a research collaboration.
  - Dr. Chan stated that while there were currently no opportunities with anyone in the GICG program, efforts would be made to develop the program so as to present such collaborative opportunities.
  - Dr. White reiterated the importance of engaging Dr. Raphael, and that it would be acceptable to recruit CINJ faculty to do so, as well as to engage a partner from another institution if necessary.
  - It was agreed that there would be a regular ongoing dialogue about engaging Dr. Raphael in research collaboration.

# 4. Revising Program Membership guidelines

- Due to timing constraints, it was decided that this agenda item would be moved to the January meeting.

### Next Meeting