

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, February 13, 2020
4:00 to 5:00 pm
CINJ Boardroom 2003

Attendees:

Anita Kinney, Eileen White, Linda Tanzer, Edmund Lattime (WebEx), Chang Chan, Shridar Ganesan (WebEx), Adam Berger, Howard Hochster, Paul Novembre, Gina Londino-Greenberg

Agenda

1. Immuno-Oncology Updates (White)
 - A large philanthropic gift will be coming to support the new Center of Excellence in Immunology and Cancer Metabolism. An announcement will likely be sent by Rutgers University Foundation.
 - \$25 million has been obtained on contingency. \$10 million is guaranteed, and then another \$5 million per year for three more years will be given, if CINJ keeps fundraising.
 - It will be necessary to recruit a leader for this Center. There are three potential candidates being recruited, under the guise that they are giving lectures as part of a new seminar series on Immuno-Oncology. Two of the three candidates are physician scientists.
 - Ideally, a Co-Leader will also be recruited, but an intermediary would be acceptable.
 - A Job Description is being drafted for this new Leader position.
 - If a clinician has ties to a laboratory or is doing cellular therapy, they could have potential for recruitment.
 - Organoids will likely not play into the Shared Resources tied to this new Center.
2. Immune Monitoring Core Updates (Lattime)
 - This Developing Shared Resource seems to be doing better. The 10X sequencer is now functioning. It is the third version of the machine that was bought.
 - The End Stage Analytic software with the 10X does not seem to be working well. Joshua Vieth is reaching out to a Princeton University group to use their type of End Stage Analytic software. A commercial software might be advisable.
 - Groups use the software differently. Ideally, the technician in the core would learn to use this software. However, there will need to be liaising with the Genomics group.
 - The new Aurora Flow Cytometer has arrived and should be running soon.
 - The Nanostring is also working well.
 - The LSR II at Child Health Institute is being shared and now has an issue. Work is underway to get it repaired. The platforms cannot shift during an experiment.
 - o A service contract is not an area of interest for the LSR II. One-time preventive maintenance for another price is being explored.
3. Upcoming Educational Retreats (Lattime)
 - There are efforts to build Community-Engaged Research into the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey.
 - The Governor's Conference is being replaced with an annual Consortium Research Retreat held at Princeton University.
 - The Consortium Research Retreat will have 4 sequential group presentations covering subject matter deemed as key areas of interest.
 - o There will be 2 faculty presentations and 1-2 oral poster presentations.

- The tentative retreat date is November 20, 2020. A meeting location at Princeton University still needs to be identified.
 - All but one of the speakers for the Consortium Research Retreat has been confirmed.
 - Anita Kinney was advised that it was appropriate to invite the Community Advisory Board to the Consortium Research Retreat and the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey. She should provide the mailing list to Edmund Lattime and Sunita Chaudhary, so that the invitations can be sent to them.
 - They will also be in communication about developing a Public Forum for the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey.
4. Clinical Trials Progress Posters at Annual Retreat (Hochster)
- ASCO has a “Clinical Trials in Progress” poster section at all meetings.
 - Clinical trials take a while to get results, so this section gives opportunity to promote a trial, even if the data is not there.
 - Having this section might also help to pull physicians to attend the retreat.
 - It could be possible to have a separate section for these posters. However, there would first need to be discussion on their format and size and how many of them would be presented.
 - There could also be a talk session on “Clinical Trials in Progress”. The CIPT session has not been well-attended. This addition could boost attendance.
 - This new poster section could involve non-treatment (e.g. Population Science) trials.
5. Developmental Funds Discussion (White)
- It is necessary to reduce the timeline of RFA development.
 - CINJ should follow a process for distributing developmental funds similar to that of the NCI. That is, the RLC will approve the initial concept, then the ADs will develop RFAs and work is then done to distribute them.
 - The process will follow a cycle.
 - 6 months into the time of the award, the AD who issued the RFA will check in with the recipient, to ensure project is moving along appropriately.
 - This cycle will be a guideline, as there might still be some RFAs distributed at different times. However, the same timeline will be followed.
 - There will be one Developmental Funds budget, under Paul Novembre.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2020 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Director's Boardroom)