

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

Attendees:

Shridar Ganesan (by phone), Cristine Delnevo (by phone), Eileen White, Elisa Bandera, Howard Hochster, Chang Chan, Zhiyuan Shen, Edmund Lattime, Anita Kinney, Gina Londino-Greenberg

Agenda

1. New Seed Funding mechanism for consortium collaboration
 - Dr. White explained that there was a need to promote collaboration on federal grants between members at Rutgers and Princeton Universities. While CINJ was not heavily critiqued on the lack of these collaborations in the last CCSG, the lack of such collaborations could be critiqued heavily on the next CCSG if not addressed.
 - There is currently an RFA out for collaborative Cancer Genomics projects between Rutgers and Princeton University investigators. CINJ is still waiting on all of the applications.
 - In the meantime, Dr. White has learned about some other promising collaborations between members at Rutgers and Princeton Universities. Using some of her Associate Director of Basic Research funding, she plans to award two pilot awards to support such promising collaborations.
 - The council members agreed that there have been critiques of how it appears that the only consortium collaborations are between Dr. White and Dr. Rabinowitz, and Dr. Haffty and Dr. Kang. It is necessary to address this issue by encouraging other multi-PI grants.
 - Dr. White explained that the upcoming RFA can be sent to those already collaborating, though all members will be eligible to apply. Dr. White further clarified that this RFA would be independent from the Cancer Genomics RFA currently out. Both RFAs' titles were made to clearly state that there must be collaboration between Rutgers and Princeton Universities. Dr. Ganesan suggested that the RFA should be circulated to all of the Princeton University faculty, since some new faculty might be involved with cancer research.
 - Britt Adamson, a new faculty member at Princeton University, was suggested as a potential collaborator. It was noted that the GICG Program had invited her to give a talk. It was also recommended that the new RFA be sent to Alexei Korennykh.
 - It was agreed that this type of seed funding pilot award should be available every year, and so funding should be allotted accordingly.

2. Other business
 - Dr. Kinney mentioned that she was hearing about a new term that would be employed by the NIH of "impact area" versus "catchment area". It seems that an impact area could be any place where an institute makes an impact in cancer care, beyond its catchment area.
 - Dr. Lattime spoke on an upcoming new internship program being established in collaboration with Princeton University, in which several undergraduate students who are Pre-Med will intern over the summer.
 - He asked for recommendations for available laboratories to house some of the students. They would do both research and clinical volunteering.

- Dr. Lattime also explained that Rutgers University policy would not allow students in the clinic areas, so the interns will instead volunteer over at RWJ Hospital. He further explained that the reasoning behind this policy was that there was too much potential liability for the institution to have students interacting with patients and being in the clinic. The students can be in the hospital's areas, but not be in any Rutgers-affiliated clinics. However, the students would be allowed to round with the Heme/Onc Fellows.
- There was dissatisfaction voiced around this policy, due to its potential to limit the educational capacity at CINJ.
- It was agreed that everyone should have undergraduate students in their laboratories, but only if these students are at least 18 years old.
- These undergraduate students typically work for credit during the semesters, but then can be paid during the summer and winter breaks.
- There are a number of programs through Rutgers University's various schools that place students in laboratories.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 7, 2019 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, CINJ Boardroom 2003)