

RESEARCH  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, May 14, 2020  
4:00 to 5:00 pm  
WebEx

**Attendees:**

Elisa Bandera, Adam Berger, Willetta Boswell, Stephen Burley, Chang Chan, Carolyn Heckman, Shridar Ganesan, Anita Kinney, Edmund Lattime, Paul Novembre, Adrian Rodriguez, Zhiyuan Shen, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White, X.F. Steven Zheng, Wei-Xing Zong

**Agenda**

1. Standardization of WebEx equipment for EAB virtual meeting (Adrian Rodriguez)
  - The WebEx events platform is being tested out to ensure that there will be no problems for when it is used to hold the EAB virtual meeting.
  - Jabra devices will be provided to all of the leaders, as there is a definite improvement in sound quality when using them.
  - IS&T is also working with Steven Libutti to identify the audio issues that Mac laptops have on the WebEx platform. Resolving the issues that he has been experiencing should lead to resolution for other faculty facing these issues.
  - The question was raised of whether switching between the various platforms could be having impact. The RLC recommended conducting a test of moving between WebEx and Zoom meeting to see if problems emerged.
    - o It was noted that any issues from switching between platforms could be resolved by rebooting the computer. The RLC advised that the EAB members should be instructed to reboot their computers prior to joining the virtual meeting.
  - IS&T will be preparing a set of detailed instructions to provide to the EAB members on using the virtual meeting's platform.
  - It was noted that for a recent NCI BSA virtual meeting, the participants were required to do a check-in the day before.
    - o Something similar could be asked of the EAB members and those presenting at the EAB virtual meeting.
  - The RLC recommended instructing the EAB and participants on how to mute and unmute, as well as using the "Raise Hand" feature.
    - o These features were tested on a virtual tech rehearsal held prior to the RLC meeting.
    - o It is best when presenters unmute themselves to present and then mute themselves when finished.
    - o This process has worked well for the MTB WebEx meetings.
  - It was recommended that the presenters not be given control of the meeting features except for when presenting.
  - The need for practice sessions was reiterated, as there could be issues such as screen freezes occurring as presenters change.
    - o The June 10<sup>th</sup> rehearsal of the EAB virtual meeting will be an opportunity to see how everything works with each presenter advancing their own slides.
    - o It was noted how there must be consistency throughout the course of the meeting, so that time can be built in for the transitions from host to presenter and back.

2. Recap of Key Messaging from EAB prep meeting (White/Tanzer)
  - Dr. Libutti's recent emails reiterated his message about how to proceed for the EAB.
3. EAB Slide Content Preparations (Novembre)
  - Catchment Area slides should have their content reviewed by Anita Kinney to ensure appropriate messaging.
    - o It was noted that meetings for Anita Kinney with leaders of each of the Research Programs had already been scheduled.
  - Scientific Examples slides need to be reviewed by the Research Program's respective Associate Director
  - The Program Leaders should work with Shridar Ganesan on new and appropriate examples to include in the Translational Research slides.
  - Paul Novembre is updating the funding reports for the Funding slides.
    - o The DOD, NSF, and NIH databases were scanned for updated information.
    - o The funding report Excel files will now include a column to provide the justification for the percent cancer relevance assigned to each award.
    - o The Program Leaders were advised to again review the previously-assigned cancer relevance percents.
    - o Rutgers Cancer Institute has a policy on assigning cancer relevance to funding, which will be included in the email with the new funding reports.
    - o Members who hold no active peer-reviewed funding will be shown in one tab of the funding reports and another tab will show grants that have expired. Information on whether these expired grants are done or being renewed will also be included.
  - Updated membership rosters were recently sent out.
    - o Associate (formerly Associate I) members are those included in the CCSG reporting. They are without peer-reviewed funding but otherwise important to the Research Programs.
    - o The policy on assigning member levels will be provided again.
    - o The Program Leaders were advised to focus on the quality of the members, not the number of them., and to be vigorous and rigorous in determining who are made Associate and Associate\* members.
      - Members whose status is changed to Associate\* will not know.
      - Associate members should be limited to new hires and others who are notable to highlight.
    - o The new Post-Doc member classification will be seen in the lists. However, they will only be included in the CRCERA section.
  - It will be necessary to include information on the number of publications with an impact factor of 10 or greater.
    - o Population Science will need to identify an appropriate metric for impact factor.
      - It might be necessary to show the number of publications with an impact factor of 10 or greater, followed by the number of publications with an impact factor of 5 or greater.
    - o The past year's publication data should be sufficient and the Program Leaders should be able to identify the journals that were high impact.
4. Shared Resources (Berger/Stasinopoulos)
  - Ioannis Stasinopoulos was introduced as the new Assistant Director of Shared Resources.
  - Updates were given on the Shared Resources
    - o Biomedical Informatics has increased its chargeback rates and efforts are underway to stimulate use through allocated funding support.
    - o Biometrics will have Shou-En Lu acting Interim Director as of July 1, 2020, due to Weichung Joe Shih's upcoming retirement. This Shared Resource has also been

recruiting for a biostatistician to support Population Science, but Rutgers University's current hiring freeze may impact hiring for this position.

- Biospecimen Repository and Histopathology Service has Parisa Javidian as Interim Director. Hatem Sabaawy was recently named Associate Director and will sit on a review committee for this Shared Resource that will include Steven Libutti and Adam Berger.
- Comprehensive Genomics is going to become part of the Immune Monitoring Core.
- Flow Cytometry/Cell Sorting is operating well, without much to report.
- Genome Editing has likewise not had much to report.
- Metabolomics has had its New Brunswick service expand rapidly and Co-Director Xiaoyang Su is currently applying for a SIG to obtain a new mass spectrometer. This SIG application has strong support from Rutgers ORED.
- Research Pharmacy is functioning at a high level.
- Immune Monitoring Core may be rebranded/renamed. Productivity for this developing Shared Resource has been great, such that it should be put forth as a fully developed Shared Resource for the next CCSG application.
- Population Sciences Research Support has Elisa Bandera as Interim Director. An External Advisory Group may be held for this Shared Resource in the Fall.
- Small Molecule Screening Center's projects can include collaborations that preceded the scientific agreement with Princeton University that made it a developing Shared Resource. Since the scientific agreement allowed for six projects, more than six projects can be counted for this developing Shared Resource in the next CCSG.
  - It was noted how the Small Molecule Screening Center will need to show the development of drugs.
  - It will also be necessary to see how this developing Shared Resource can relate to translational research. Shridar Ganesan should be sent this slide from the presentation, to advise on appropriate next steps.
  - Information about the new RFA to propose projects for the Small Molecule Screening Center should also be included. It is likely that only about one project per year will be proposed.

#### 5. Preparations for Program Projects (Shen, Kinney, Burley)

- The P01 with Shen/Ganesan/Xia/Bunting will be resubmitted next Wednesday.
  - Significant efforts were made to improve the project that had the weakest review, since the other three projects got strong feedback.
  - The P01 team feels better about this resubmission.
  - Their Program Officer stated that this resubmission could be the last time that they could apply for funding for these projects. Even R01 applications for these projects would not be possible.
  - This P01 application is not eligible for the P01 administrative supplement opportunity recently released.
- It was noted how the P01 administrative supplement is a good funding opportunity.
  - There are plans to submit a cancer metabolism P01 application. Aims for this project are currently being written.
  - Dr. Kinney reported that there are currently no plans to resubmit their P20 grant application, as they cannot feasibly address the issues around the Biorepository's samples.
  - Sharon Manne been working on a P01 application for the last two years. She and her collaborators might be able to use this opportunity.
  - The RFA stated that up to two projects could be supported.
  - Anita Kinney can help with planning for projects to impact the catchment area.

- Systems Biology has enough researchers at CINJ and Princeton University, so that could be a possibility for a P01 application.
  - There was the question of whether there has been enough collaboration for a P01 application. This kind of project might have to be planned for next year.
- It was noted how the NCI has been dismayed at the decrease in P01 applications.
  - It was further observed that lack of funding for projects contributed to this decrease, as applications with good scores went unfunded.
  - The amount of funding awarded also did not seem to reflect the amount of required work for these applications/projects.
  - There are indications that the NCI might be allotting greater funding for these applications again.
- A U24 application was submitted in the Fall by Zheng and Ganesan, and it was returned due to being viewed as submitted to the “wrong mechanism”.
  - There are plans to submit this project under the U01 mechanism due in early June (which will be mentioned at the EAB meeting) as well as via a R21 mechanism.
- There was agreement that the EAB should be asked to advise on and make recommendations for addressing the expensive nature of translational research, as that is a major issue for Basic Researchers.

## 6. Strategic Planning Updates (Tanzer)

- The following overarching goals have been identified for the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan:
  - Conduct exceptional, innovative, and collaborative research through Research Programs whose excellence is demonstrated by strong peer-reviewed funding, multi-Pi awards, high-impact publications, and impact on the catchment area
  - Expand and strengthen the Consortium Cancer Center relationship with Princeton University
  - Increase satisfaction/retention of research faculty
  - Offer an innovative and accessible portfolio of interventional and non-interventional cancer clinical trials that is facilitated by a strong and efficient Operations infrastructure
  - Expand and enhance Community Outreach and Engagement throughout the state of New Jersey
  - Maintain and enhance Shared Resources that provide researchers with access to technology, centralized intellectual and technical resources, and essential technical support that will drive innovative cancer research
  - Contribute to the evolution of investigators in cancer-related basic, clinical, and population science by providing training and career enhancement opportunities with broad-based multidisciplinary perspective
  - Strategically utilize developmental funds as pilot awards and other funding mechanisms that will support new investigators, innovation, and research projects intended to promote collaboration that will result in high-impact publications, peer review funding, and clinical trials
    - Prepare the center for future operational stability and growth
- It was reiterated how this Strategic Plan is independent of the RWJBH Strategic Plan, as this one focuses on research, outreach, and education.
- Focus groups will begin to be coordinated to advise on the various goals.
- It was noted how the last goal will focus on succession planning.
- Dr. Kinney stated that she had suggestions on how to incorporate the catchment area throughout the various goals and asked to be sent Linda Tanzer’s presentation.

## 7. Other Business

- The Dean’s Office is planning on ramping up laboratory activities.

- The Animal Facilities have overall net targets set.
- Laboratories conducting COVID-19 research are being ramped up. This type of research needs to be approved by the Department, Dr. Lattime, and Kathy Scotto.
- Dr. Lattime will be sending an email with more details.

**Next Meeting**

Thursday, June 18, 2020 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, WebEx)