

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, April 21, 2022
4:00 to 5:00 pm
Zoom

Attendees: Wadih Arap, Elisa Bandera, Adam Berger, Stephen Burley, Nando Cirelli, Chang Chan, Carolyn Heckman, Christian Hinrichs, Anita Kinney, Gina Londino-Greenberg, Renata Pasqualini, Zhiyuan Shen, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White, Wei-Xing Zong

Agenda

1. Monthly Catchment Area Updates (Kinney) (10 minutes)
 - Currently, sun/UV light exposure is one of the catchment area priority risk factors.
 - o The proposal was made that this priority risk factor should be broadened to “environmental exposures”.
 - o Multiple Members within the Basic Research and CPC Research Programs have areas of research focus on the impact of other types of environmental exposures, such as ozone exposure and the impact on first responders to the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks. Other new faculty recruits have research focused on the impact of exposure to pollution.
 - o It was agreed that “environmental exposures” should replace “sun/UV light exposure” as a priority risk factor, and that CINJ must specify what is included in the term “environmental exposures”.
 - All Research Program Leaders and Catchment Area Program Liaisons were recently provided information on catchment area-relevant grants and publications and examples of bidirectional communication within the respective Programs.
 - o Ideally, each Research Program should have at least two examples of bidirectional communication and responsiveness with the community.
 - Citizen Scientists and attendees at the Research Cafés have given feedback that many PIs still have challenges communicating their science in lay terms.
 - o Consequently, at the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence (CHECoE) 2022 Annual Conference, a session will be offered to help researchers to communicate about their science to the general public.
 - o The Research Leadership Council was asked to encourage the Research Program Members to attend this annual conference.
 - o Gina Londino-Greenberg was asked to ensure that notifications about this conference were sent out to the appropriate mailing lists.
2. Selecting Shared Resources for the CCSG (Berger) (50 minutes)
 - See attached presentation.
 - There was agreement that the Population Science Research Support Shared Resource should be renamed to better indicate what it does.
 - There was approval to not include the Research Pharmacy as a CCSG Shared Resource in the competing renewal application.
 - There was discussion around whether to include the Small Molecule Screening Center as a developing Shared Resource.

- If no longer included as a CCSG Shared Resource, we would provide an explanation and plan for how this service would still be available and used to build drug development at Rutgers Cancer Institute.
- It was noted that it is not unusual for Shared Resources to show an initial major investment up front, to eventually demonstrate return on investment. The Immune Monitoring Core, Metabolomics Core, and Comprehensive Genomics facility all received significant financial investment.
- The recommendation was made that a term other than “Developing Shared Resource” could be used for the Small Molecule Screening Center, to place focus on how its access is unique from other Shared Resources.
- Dr. Burley noted how it is not unusual in industry for screens to fail, and that half of the Members granted access to the Small Molecule Screening Center eventually ran out of funding for their projects. He suggested that, prior to granting a Member access, there should be an assessment of whether the Member has the appropriate resources to make all of the necessary steps occur. It would be better to commit to doing fewer screens for only those who have enough resources for their project.
- Dr. Shen noted that Dr. Sabine Petry is interested in doing a screen. If she gets the appropriate grant funding, Dr. Shen will collaborate with her on a mouse model.
- The Small Molecule Screening Center has fostered several such collaborations between Rutgers Cancer Institute and Princeton University.
- While not every screen will yield a drug discovery program, it could still be useful for other science projects.
- It was agreed to view use of the Small Molecule Screening Center as a consortium-wide activity, not just a Cancer Pharmacology Research Program activity.
- There was agreement that the Immune Monitoring Core should be considered a full Shared Resource for this CCSG, combined with Flow Cytometry.
- There was discussion on potential integration of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Research Genomics Laboratory into the Comprehensive Genomics Shared Resource.
 - Rutgers Cancer Institute needs to determine if it is economically sensible to contribute financially to the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Research Genomics Laboratory, in terms of whether the Members would use the facility, in general and instead of a commercial vendor, and what the contribution would be.
 - If Members’ projects could be given prioritization in addition to being discounted, such an arrangement would justify this partnership.
 - It was agreed that if integrating the Rutgers NJMS Research Genomics Laboratory into the Comprehensive Genomics Shared Resource is financially feasible and makes sense, then it would be appropriate for inclusion in the CCSG.
 - Dr. Berger was advised to present again on this proposal at either a future Associate Directors meeting or Research Leadership Council meeting, one at which Dr. Ganesan would also be present.
- For Patient-Derived Organoids, Dr. Berger was advised to form a committee to determine how many investigators would likely utilize this service in order to best determine how to proceed.
 - Findings from this committee should be presented at a future RLC meeting.
- The Biomedical Informatics Shared Resource is facing an issue with the Clinical Data Warehouse.
 - A committee needs to be formed to develop solutions to the issue.
 - Dr. Berger, Dr. Stasinopoulos, and Dr. Foran should also attend the May Associate Directors meeting and present follow up on the matter.

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2022 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Zoom)