

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, December 16, 2021
4:00 to 5:00 pm
Zoom

Attendees: Elisa Bandera, Stephen Burley, Chang Chan, Richelle Dalere, Carolyn Heckman, Shridar Ganesan, Howard Hochster, Anita Kinney, Edmund Lattime, Gina Londino-Greenberg, Renata Pasqualini, Stephanie Scott, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Zhiyuan Shen, Thomas Strano, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White, X.F. Steven Zheng, Wei-Xing Zong

Agenda

1. Catchment Area Updates (Kinney)
 - Recruitment of minority patients and of women into clinical trials is going well for the Lung, Head, and Neck DSG.
 - The STRIDE database is not set up yet, due to RStudio issues. The COE team is hopeful that it will be ready by the end of the year.
 - The Catchment Area Program Liaisons have been working closely with the COE team to prepare a summary of bidirectional activities within each Research Program by February 1, 2022.
 - o The aim is to have at least 2 Members per Research Program who have conducted bidirectional communication via the Research Cafés and other activities.
 - Dr. Kinney noted that at a recent site visit she attended, a center's score decreased due to COE issues and poor clinical trials enrollments.
 - o The center had had issues with clinical trials enrollments at its prior site visit, and had not made progress on any plans put forth at that time for improving the situation.
 - Dr. Lattime will be asked to speak at an upcoming meeting of the CCAB.
 - CRTEC must incorporate COE engagement, and vice-versa, as expected in NCI-designated centers.
 - o Dr. Kinney needs to present to trainees, and the trainees need to begin attending Research Cafés.
 - COE/Catchment Area needs to be covered in presentations at the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey, if the retreat is held this upcoming year.
 - It was clarified that activities relating to the education of undergraduate students falls within the scope of CRTEC, not COE.
 - Involvement of patient advocates on grant applications and on ongoing advisory boards for a research project represents bi-directional communication activity.
 - o The COE team can refer patient advocates, and really should be engaged to do so, to facilitate engagement of the Research Programs by COE.
 - There was discussion around the importance of finding a way for more patient advocates to be involved in more grant applications, not just applications by Population Science researchers.
 - o A message should be sent to those writing grant applications that the patient advocates' involvement could greatly improve the application.
 - o The Catchment Area Program Liaisons could help in this capacity.
2. Review of Membership (Funding, Level, Program Alignment)
 - Please see attached PowerPoint presentation.

- It was noted that, based on the current funding tables presented for the Research Programs, CMG would need to be able to explain the relative flatness in overall and NCI funding and CP would need to explain why there was not greater NCI funding and be prepared to justify the cancer relevance of the other peer-reviewed funding.
- There was agreement that Wenwei Hu could appropriately be moved from the GICG Program to the CMG Program, due to recent directions in her research toward immunology.
- The question was raised of whether Jian Cao should transition from the CMG Program to the GICG Program, due to some of his work being more in the area of epigenetics.
 - o Upon clarification of the rest of his research being related to immunology and his role as Catchment Area Program Liaison, it was decided that Jian Cao should remain as part of the CMG Program.
- There was agreement that it is usually best to avoid having Members be in two Programs, especially those who are junior faculty.
- Prior to any official changes in the Research Program Membership being recommended to Dr. Libutti, the Program Leaders and ADs should review current funding and publications metrics (e.g., percentages of interprogrammatic and intraprogrammatic publications); Center Administration will provide.

3. Review of Members' Roles in Programs

- Please see PowerPoint presentation.
- There was agreement that the Liaisons being established for Education and Training, and all types of Liaisons (including the Catchment Area Program Liaisons), should fall under category #5
- Only the Full and Associate (CCSG) (formerly referred to as Associate I/Associate*) Members should be assigned roles in the Program.
 - o Program Leaders will be able to assign as many roles to a Member as they consider to be appropriate.
 - They will assign roles by inserting the category numbers in a column that will be added to the Membership Rosters.
 - o Any Member without at least one role in the Program should likely not be at the Full or Associate (CCSG) level.
- It was noted that Mary O'Dowd could be made an Associate (CCSG), due to performing at least one of the roles listed.
- In reviewing the list of non-aligned (ZY) Members who had funding, it was preliminarily recommended that:
 - o Jeffrey Laskin should be aligned with the CP Program
 - o Gary Brewer should be removed entirely from the Membership
 - o Beatrice Haimovich should be aligned with the CMG Program
 - o John Pintar should be removed entirely from the Membership
 - o Nancy Woychik should be removed entirely from the Membership
 - o Panos Georgopoulos should be aligned with the CPC Program

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 27, 2022 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Zoom)