

RESEARCH  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, February 18, 2021  
4:00 to 5:00 pm  
Zoom

**Attendees:** Wadih Arap, Elisa Bandera, Adam Berger, Willetta Boswell, Stephen Burley, Chang Chan, Carolyn Heckman, Christian Hinrichs, Howard Hochster, Hahn Kim, Edmund Lattime, Gina Londino-Greenberg, Paul Novembre, Renata Pasqualini, Tracie Saunders, Sarah Scharf, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White

**Agenda**

1. Clinical Trials Updates
  - Tracie Saunders reported on the clinical trials accrual numbers broken down according to CINJ, RWJBarnabas Health, and affiliates (e.g., Trinitas Regional Medical Center)
  - It was agreed that accrual data must be entered on a rolling basis.
  - The accrual numbers have been impacted by the pause on enrollment into ORIEN.
2. Discussion of promoting collaboration through RWJBH statewide network
  - Clarification was provided about how the COE/Pop Sci trials help to engage the statewide health network.
3. Small Molecule Screening Center project updates and next steps
  - Dr. Berger presented on efforts to engage PIs to develop projects for the Small Molecule Screening Center, and gave an overview of the projects awarded access to the Small Molecule Screening Center, including those granted access via the pilot award funding mechanism to support assay development.
    - o Projects that used the Small Molecule Screening Center, but accessed it outside of the Shared Resource relationship with Princeton University, were also covered.
  - Dr. Kim noted that typically, the entire screening process spans 2-3 years, from initial concept to get to *in vivo* targets, to being able to publish.
    - o Screening is the “easy” part, while the “hard” part is identifying meaningful data and appropriate biological compounds.
  - There was agreement that the investment in the Small Molecule Screening Center seemed to be showing results, and that the agreement to provide access should be renewed.
    - o The aim will be to facilitate two screens per year, and two projects requiring assay development per year.
  - It was noted that CINJ’s drug development activities have been critiqued for not having screening support.
    - o The current Small Molecule Screening Center projects results could be very good for the CP Research Program. It is important to keep moving forward with more projects being connected to this Shared Resource.
  - The question was raised regarding whether any funding related to intellectual property that arose from use of the Small Molecule Screening Center could flow back to the Shared Resource, in order to keep it more self-sustaining.
    - o Rutgers ORED has established a similar precedent for other situations. Vince Smeraglia could be consulted.

- Distribution of any revenue resulting from work done at the Small Molecule Screening Center might need to be worked out in the agreement granting access.
- The option of including fees related to use of this Shared Resource into grant budgets had previously been discouraged, due to limits on funding requests and awards.
- It was noted that intellectual property only arises once there is a free molecule.
- Alexander Ploss could perhaps be given one of the remaining slots for access; the agreement would need to be expanded to give access to one of the assays in development.
  - Giving access to Dr. Ploss could help strengthen the consortium relationship.

#### 4. Recruitment of BRHS Permanent Director

- Most of the current Pathology Director candidates are clinically-focused, rather than research-focused, so it might be best for CINJ to do its own recruitment for a BRHS Director.
- There was agreement that the candidate must have Honest Broker expertise.
- It was noted that most places with a Biospecimen Repository Director have someone with a Pathology background, but Pathology is not their primary role.
- It was agreed that CINJ should move forward with its own search.