

Associate Directors Meeting MINUTES

MEETING DATE/TIME	February 14 th , 2022 / 1:00 – 2:00 pm			
EXECUTIVE OWNER	Eileen White/Anita Kinney			
EXECUTIVE NOTE TAKER	Gina Londino-Greenberg			
ATTENDEES		Present		Present
	David August	X	Edmund Lattime	X
	Adam Berger		Zhiyuan Shen	X
	Andrew Evens	X	Linda Tanzer	X
	Shridar Ganesan	X	Eileen White	X
	Howard Hochster	X	Gina Londino-Greenberg	X
	Yibin Kang		Ioannis Stasinopoulos	X
	Anita Kinney	X		
	Haejin In	X		

AGENDA TOPICS		
TOPIC	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION /ACTION
Urgent Issues (Team)		
New Business (Team)		
Deputy Director's Report (White)	<p>E. White discussed how she has been stepping away from several roles. B. Xia recently took on the role of Laboratory Safety Officer and has begun development of lab safety policies, building walkthroughs, etc. A. Kinney has begun helping E. White to chair the AD Meetings. Z. Shen has taken on the role of Assistant Director, Basic Research, with the plan to eventually transition into the Associate Director, Basic Research role currently held by E. White.</p> <p>The Ludwig-Princeton branch has developed a new process for identifying additional collaborative awardees. Recently, W. Hu, Y. Pritykin, B. Raphael, A. Ploss, D. MacMillan, and S. Campbell-Staton were selected for Ludwig Princeton Branch collaborative research awards. There are multiple other researchers at Princeton University performing cancer-relevant research, identified via a recent funding opportunity from the Ludwig-Princeton Branch. An RFA could be developed for CINJ, and the researchers not funded through Ludwig-Princeton Branch could be invited to apply for the funding, and thereby, for Research Program Membership. Faculty recruitment continues in the area of cancer metabolism and immunology at Princeton University, which also opens opportunity for new Research Program Members. The <i>in vivo</i> isotope trial for pancreatic cancer patients that is being sponsored via the partnership with Ludwig-Princeton Branch has been IRB approved, and it will be a step toward looking at metabolism <i>in vivo</i>. The Prometheon and EcoMRI systems were recently installed in the CINJ vivarium for <i>in vivo</i> metabolic analyses in mice and rats. The technician for the animal production facility also started this week.</p>	G. Londino-Greenberg will investigate options for offering a pilot award to the Princeton University PIs who previously applied to the Ludwig-Princeton Branch opportunity.
Catchment Area Updates (Kinney)	<p>The COE team is working on preparing for a mobile unit for statewide initiatives and anticipates that it will arrive later this month. Parking space has already been ascertained. High schools, colleges and other organizations with a focus on URM populations will participate in a contest for designing the branding of this mobile unit (artwork and slogan).</p> <p>The "Science to Sidewalk" videos should be going live soon, with those who participated receiving emails with links directly to the videos.</p>	

	<p>A new committee is being started to boost clinical trials enrollments throughout the health system. CCAB Chair Dorothy Reed was recommended to participate in this committee, and a patient representative who participates in the SRB could also be asked. A. Kinney also wants to participate in the committee.</p> <p>ScreenNJ has been evaluating the sites to see which ones are performing and underperforming. The community organization Save Lives has been identified as a partner for Newark; it has a small mobile unit that might be more accessible in the narrow streets throughout the city.</p> <p>There are currently three offers out to Health Equity researchers for open CPC Faculty positions.</p> <p>There was agreement that all CINJ pilot award applications should include questions on whether the research is catchment area relevant. Recently awarded clinical research and translational research pilot awards assessed applications for relevance to the priority cancers. The wording on the attached slide was approved. The COE team has a slide set on the catchment area cancer burden and priorities that can be included with future RFAs.</p>	
<p>DEI Strategic Plan (In)</p>	<p>Please see attached presentation. It was noted how, when RBHS tracks race/ethnicity, the options "Black", "Latino", and "Native American" are listed together. "Latino" should be its own category. The diversity statistics for CINJ presented showed substantial room for improvement especially at the higher levels. They should be compared to statistics on overall racial/ethnic composition of New Jersey.</p> <p>H. In is working on implementing some policies for the cancer institute to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Rutgers Cancer Institute often needs to have its own policies, which are more specific than the ones provided by Rutgers University.</p> <p>There was agreement that Communications should plan to take pictures of events that feature diversity. When event-planning is done, there should be the consideration of how to involve/highlight women and URMs.</p> <p>All search committees need to reflect diversity. There needs to be a mindset change before behaviors will change.</p> <p>Equity also needs to be at the forefront of promotion and retention. Not doing so causes the cancer institute to lose Members and makes recruitment harder.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>March 14th at 1:00 pm</p>	