

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, January 27, 2022

4:00 to 5:00 pm

Zoom

Attendees: Elisa Bandera, Adam Berger, Stephen Burley, Chang Chan, David Foran, Carolyn Heckman, Christian Hinrichs, Howard Hochster, Edmund Lattime, Steven Libutti, Hao Liu, Gina Londino-Greenberg, Zhiyuan Shen, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White, X. F. Steven Zheng, Wei-Xing Zong

Agenda

1. Year of Record Preparations

- Please see attached presentation. It is important to understand how the peer-reviewed funding statistics could look in November 2022, as that is when the Data Table 2As and Research Program funding tables will be prepared.
- The Research Program Leaders can still cover projects that will also be covered in the Director's Overview because this section provides just a high-level overview of the research projects. However, Dr. Libutti can also cover research projects that cannot be included in the Research Program narratives due to space limitations.
- Rutgers President Holloway is planning to make resources available to facilitate recruitment of diverse faculty members.
- Neither the NCI, nor the site visit reviewers prescribe how to assign cancer relevance. Rather, each Cancer Center establishes its own criteria and must be prepared to defend it.
 - o While Rutgers Cancer Institute must be stringent in applying its cancer relevance policy, it is also necessary to be flexible, so as to not inappropriately lower the funding numbers.
 - o The Program Leaders should plan meetings with Dr. White and the Research Administration Office to plan out how to assign relevance to their funding.
 - o Additional efforts to increase the NCI funding for each Research Program might include:
 - Working with the Research Administration Office to identify and consider for membership recruitment any PIs with cancer relevant funding at Rutgers University or Princeton University who are not yet part of the Research Programs.
 - Priority could also be placed on recruiting faculty from other institutions who will bring peer-reviewed funding.
- The CMG Research Program Leaders need to look closely at whether they were too stringent when assigning percent cancer relevance. They also need to look at ways to improve the amount of NCI funding.
 - o The Program Leaders can see if any new members can be added to the Program through strategic recruitment and/or invitations to PIs currently with Rutgers University or Princeton University.
 - o Dr. Zong noted that Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy currently has two open faculty positions, and perhaps a more senior faculty member could be brought in who could also belong to the CMG Research Program.
 - o Dr. Libutti can extend resources to supplement a recruitment package for peer-reviewed funded research faculty recruits.

- Center Administration will confirm whether Dr. Hinrichs' Moonshot grant and Dr. White's award from Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research can be included in the peer-reviewed funding of the CMG Program, since Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research follows a peer-reviewed process similar to Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
 - Dr. White should also see if any other NCI-Designated Cancer Centers with a Ludwig branch have a precedent of counting their funding as peer-reviewed.
- The CMG Program may also need to remove some Members whose cancer focused research has diminished.
- There may be opportunities for the GICG Program to obtain additional MPI awards, as well as reassessing the percent cancer relevance assigned to the current active funding.
 - Recruitment of Molecular Biology faculty could help the GICG Program's metrics too.
- The CP Program needs to ensure that it is not assigning cancer relevance to its funding too generously.
 - It was noted that CP Program Members often do not pursue NCI funding, as many of them are engineers.
 - There is opportunity to recruit cancer-focused faculty into the Cancer Pharmacology Department.
- The CIPT Program must be mindful of the 12 grants ending between November 2022 and March 2023.
- Program Leaders should provide their plans to address any potential funding issues.
- G. Londino-Greenberg will send Dr. Libutti updated funding metrics once the cancer relevance has been reassigned across the Programs.
- Dr. Libutti will rent wet laboratory space in Piscataway, if needed to help with recruitment.
- The CPC Program Leaders noted that they have some faculty recruits soon joining who will bring peer-reviewed funding.
- The Research Administration Office will have a more in-depth review of all of the funding data, to ensure that all of the calculations correlate.
- Any grants that need to be transferred to Rutgers Cancer Institute should have the transfer process initiated ASAP.