

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, March 11, 2021
4:00 to 5:00 pm
Zoom

Attendees: Elisa Bandera, Chang Chan, Shridar Ganesan, Carolyn Heckman, Christian Hinrichs, Edmund Lattime, Renata Pasqualini, Zhiyuan Shen, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White, X.F. Zheng, Wei-Xing Zong

Agenda

1. Translational Research RFA (Ganesan/Pasqualini)

- It would be ideal to have an RFA for a translational research pilot award distributed within the coming month.
- Applicants to other pilot award opportunities rarely do any translational research.
- Some potential projects to support with Developmental Funds have been identified via the CETI meetings.
- Linda Tanzer will review the FY22 budgets on Monday.
 - o After she gets more details about what level of funding may be available, an RFA can be drafted and then sent for review.

2. External Advisory Board Preparations (Tanzer/Londino-Greenberg)

- See attached slide set

3. Strategic Plan Updates (Londino-Greenberg)

- See attached slide set

4. Other Business

- The T32 grant application focused on the CMG Research Program seems likely to get funded.
- The Education and Training Department will be moving forward on another T32 grant application in September 2021. This one will be focused on Genomics.
 - o Perhaps another T32 grant application focused on the GICG Program will be planned for January 2022. The research could be focused on precision medicine, or it could again be around Genomics only with a clinical focus.
- The P01 grant application by Drs. Shen, Ganesan, Xia, and Bunting looks likely to be funded.
 - o The project may eventually be part of a U19 grant application.
- The following questions were raised about the current COVID-19 policy: 1) whether weekly COVID-19 testing was still required for laboratory personnel who have been vaccinated and 2) would there be a way to know who had been vaccinated and who had not.
- It was noted that freshman and sophomore undergraduate students might be allowed to start working in laboratories starting this summer.
 - o More updates will be needed on this topic.

- The possibility of allowing high school students in the laboratories is also being explored, but it does not seem likely, except perhaps for NIH-funded opportunities.
- Rutgers University is making efforts to have all of its students vaccinated.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 2021 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Zoom)