

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, March 31, 2022
4:00 to 5:00 pm
Zoom

Attendance: Elisa Bandera, Adam Berger, Stephen Burley, Chang Chan, Nando Cirelli, Carolyn Heckman, Shridar Ganesan, Sanjay Goel, Howard Hochster, Edmund Lattime, Steven Libutti, Gina Londino-Greenberg, Cristina Montagna, Renata Pasqualini, Zhiyuan Shen, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Linda Tanzer, Eileen White, X. F. Steven Zheng, Wei-Xing Zong

Agenda

1. New Investigator Award Selection (Londino-Greenberg) (10 minutes)
 - Please see attached presentation.
 - There was discussion around how to best identify which nominees would most benefit from a New Investigator Award (NIA).
 - It was noted that the NIA can serve as a recruitment tool for Princeton Members.
 - Dr. Libutti stated that additional funds could be made available to help with recruitment currently going on at some of the other Rutgers Schools.
 - o NIAs could also be used to encourage collaboration.
 - The decision was made to award \$50,000 of New Investigator Awards to each of the four nominees. The awards would be covered by both CCSG funding and Operations funding.
 - G. Londino-Greenberg was advised that these NIAs should be publicized in the Research Programs' newsletters.
2. Clinical Research Updates (Hochster) (20 minutes)
 - Please see attached presentation.
 - It was noted that a breakdown of accruals according to ages, specifically, those over the age of 65, would need to be provided.
 - There are full research teams at CINJ-Newark.
 - Trinitas recently joined the RWJBH System, and is covered to participate in CINJ's clinical trials. There are a number of medical oncologists and patients there who could be engaged.
 - It was noted that CINJ's accrual of minority patients into interventional trials is exceeding the targets.
 - It will be necessary to demonstrate that CINJ's clinical trials reflect the catchment area priorities.
 - o Dr. Hochster will connect with Dr. Kinney to discuss further.
3. Translational Research Updates (Ganesan) (20 minutes)
 - Please see attached presentation.
 - It was noted that CINJ needs to determine how to drive forward the Zheng/Spencer and Sarkar/Nancy Chan translational research projects, due to the exits of Dr. Spencer and Dr. Nancy Chan.
 - o Dr. Zheng and Dr. Sarkar will need to be linked with new clinical collaborators.
 - Dr. Libutti stated that if a study shows promising pre-clinical data, he will allocate funding to support opening a clinical trial.

- Dr. Berger noted that Dr. Sarah Weiss has an interest in immune checkpoint therapy and could be a new collaborator. He will link Dr. Weiss with Dr. Ganesan.
- Dr. Wenwei Hu should also be linked with an industry partner due to her work with LIF.
- The Guo-Gitai antibiotic/antifolate research project should be added as an example of translational research, as should another project of Dr. White's. She will send Dr. Ganesan the details.
- The recommendation was made to create a translational pipeline figure, with the x axis as time and the y axis as the discoveries and phases of development. Examples of diagnostic translational research should be included along with those relating to treatment.
- The project focused on FGFR2 might be another chance to engage Dr. Sarah Weiss.
- It was recommended that all of the examples being shown should appear in the written components of the CCSG.
 - o The Program Leaders should also inform Dr. Ganesan of other translational research projects happening in their Programs.
- It was noted that possibly, an interventional trial could be designed that looked at changes in diet. It could tie into the Ludwig-Princeton Branch's work on the impact of exercise/diet on cancer, and Rutgers New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health (IFNH) and microbiome researchers could be engaged.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2022 (4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Zoom)