

RESEARCH
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Thursday, March 30, 2023
4:00 to 5:00 pm
Zoom

Attendees: Wadih Arap, Elisa Bandera, Stephen Burley, Nando Cirelli, Chang Chan, Sunita Chaudhary, Shridar Ganesan, Sanjay Goel, Carolyn Heckman, Anita Kinney, Edmund Lattime, Gina Londino-Greenberg, Cristina Montagna, Renata Pasqualini, Sarah Scharf, Zhiyuan Shen, Ioannis Stasinopoulos, Antoinette Stroup, Linda Tanzer, X. F. Zheng

Agenda

1. Catchment Area Updates

- Each set of the Program Leaders were asked to discuss a way that collaboration with the COE team and bidirectional communication had helped to shape a research project within their Membership.
- CIPT reported that Coral Omene's work with the CCAB helped to define her Susan G. Komen grant that focuses on getting more Black women onto breast cancer trials.
 - o There were also numerous CIPT members engaging with the CCAB on how to increase minority accruals to clinical trials.
 - o Another example is that of Dr. Mattes's work to recruit faculty from Underrepresented Groups into Rad Onc, which involved community surveys.
 - o Dr. Sabaawy's organoid study (which got a Cancer Health Equiry pilot award) was adjusted due to his interactions with the community, in which he changed his study design to better include participation by Black males.
- For GICG, Dr. Sharon Pine had CCAB input that led her to focus her research on lung cancer disparities in Black patients.
- Dr. Stroup and the COE Program Liaisons have lists of examples of work/dialogue with the community across the various Research programs.
 - o Dr. Stroup will give this list to Gina Londino-Greenberg to upload to the CCSG Page for Presenters.
- For CP, Dr. Jang's work on chemobrain was discussed at a Community Science Café, where she got feedback on some of the patients' experiences with the various chemotherapy drugs. The feedback impacted the way that she will study the drugs.
 - o It was also noted that CP Member Dr. Tromp should be invited to a Community Science Café.

2. Streamlining Seminars

- There was discussion around the perception that there are too many seminars being held, which contributes to poor attendance.
 - o Also, there appears to be a lack of coordination between the various teams/departments scheduling the seminars, such that the same speakers may get booked for seminars occurring close together.
- It was noted that the PIs need to push their trainees to attend the weekly trainee lectures.
- The suggestion was made for the Grand Rounds/Distinguished Lectures events to be moved to lunchtime in order to promote attendance.

- There was overall agreement on pursuing this option.
- The Program Leaders and the other PIs should also be asked to encourage the trainees to attend the Grand Rounds and Distinguished Lectures.
- It was noted that attendance to in-person meetings has not picked up to the same level of attendance that existed prior to COVID-19.
 - However, going back to virtual meetings could inhibit interactions occurring between the researchers.
 - Hybrid meetings could similarly lead to people just staying in their offices to attend, and thus not interacting with others.
- The comment was made about the need to change CINJ's culture in the sense of setting forth the expectations to attend these types of meetings and be engaged (e.g., turn on cameras when participating virtually).
- There was agreement to make the Grand Rounds and Distinguished Lectures occur every other week.
- Education and Training was also encouraged to establish a committee to help to promote attendance and engagement at seminars.
 - This committee could perhaps also centralize the process for internal and external presentations, which would help to address the issue of double-booking speakers.
- The need to have a centralized calendar of seminars on the CINJ website was also discussed.
 - Rutgers School of Public Health has a technological interface that could send out reminders automatically about seminars.
- Central Administration was advised to put these topics on the agenda for the upcoming AD meeting, so that CINJ can start to craft a policy to promote better attendance to seminars.

Next Meeting

April 27, 2023 via Zoom