

Consortium Steering Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
5:30 pm to 6:30pm
Room 118, Lewis Thomas Laboratory
Princeton University

Committee Attendees: Stephen Burley (Call-In), Karla Ewalt, Shridar Ganesan, Yibin Kang, Anita Kinney, Edmund Lattime, Sharon Manne, Joshua Rabinowitz, Eileen White

Administration Attendee: Gina Londino-Greenberg

1. Updates on Cancer Prevention and Control/Population Science engagement of faculty at Princeton University
 - Sharon Manne reported that the CPC Program is actively seeking collaborative opportunities with Princeton University faculty.
 - Five faculty showed particular promise for collaboration:
 - o Ruha Benjamin (disparities)
 - o Janet Currie (equity)
 - o Noreen Goldman (equity)
 - o Keith Waloo (disparities, tobacco marketing)
 - o Elke Weber (social psych)
 - The CINJ Population Science internship program involving Princeton University students has been successful and proven to be a great deliverable from past meetings to foster building collaborations.
 - Janet Currie has been recruited as a Distinguished Lecturer
 - Ruha Benjamin has done disparities work, such that Anita Kinney had wanted to recruit her onto a committee or a project for the SPORE application she is currently preparing.
 - o Due to the current timeline of the SPORE application, Ruha Benjamin can no longer be involved.
 - There is interest in recruiting Ruha Benjamin and Keith Waloo to be speakers.
 - Co-mentoring opportunities are being explored.
 - Joshua Rabinowitz noted that Elke Weber might be the most promising to approach for collaboration.
 - Sharon Manne stated that she planned on having one of their tobacco researchers engage Keith Waloo.
 - o The committee agreed that that would be a strategic course of action.
 - Anita Kinney stated that a new bioethicist had recently started at the Rutgers School of Public Health, who collaborates with Princeton University faculty on bioethics and health economics.
 - Joshua Rabinowitz noted that Princeton University's Bioethics faculty typically do not receive summer salaries (those with Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs are the exception), such that offering such compensation could be a means of engagement.
 - o The committee agreed that while Princeton University faculty would not necessarily always be engaged by financial incentives, that it was an option to at least pursue.

- Eileen White asked about whether a retreat was being planned to engage the Princeton University faculty in collaboration, and Sharon Manne responded that they were not yet able to plan a Population Science-focused retreat.

2. Planning an Annual Fall Conference at Princeton University

- Eileen White, Yibin Kang, Edmund Lattime, and Steven Libutti have been in communication to coordinate an annual event at Princeton University that would showcase several presentations and then have a poster session.
 - o The possibility of this event including a Population Science-focused breakout session (such as one on tobacco policy) was discussed.
 - o Sharon Manne and Anita Kinney were advised to think about what topics they might want to cover at this new annual event.
- Yibin Kang suggested having this event include short talks by trainees, rather than just PIs.
 - o If the event is held on a Saturday, then it would be more likely that students and trainees could be involved.
 - o Refreshments could be provided at the end, during the poster session.
 - o This new event could follow the model of the Tristate Meeting on Cancer Metabolism.
 - o It does not have to be a full-day meeting.
 - o A keynote speaker would not be needed, as the focus should be on the PIs from Rutgers University and Princeton University.
- Karla Ewalt noted that Elke Weber leads the Science, Technology and Environmental Policy (STEP) Program at Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.
 - o This program focuses on intersections between science, policy, and engineering, such that their students could be engaged in this new annual event.
 - o Joshua Rabinowitz added that Princeton University looks favorably on events that engage undergraduate students.
- It was decided that there would be four sessions at this event, focused on Genomics, Tumor Microenvironment, Metabolism, and Population Science.
- Speakers from Rutgers University and Princeton University would be featured.
- Planning for this event will need to be done a year in advance.
 - o This event should also be held close to the beginning of the semester, so it will be necessary to start planning soon.
- Eileen White suggested that the event follow a process similar to the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey, in which the trainees could submit abstracts, and the best would be selected to give presentations while the rest could present posters.
 - o Yibin Kang stated that all of the students in the new Pre-Med Summer Program could be required to attend this event.
 - o Edmund Lattime suggested also involving the Population Science interns from Princeton University.
- It was agreed that the next step of the event planning process would be for the committee to communicate by email about potential speakers for this event.

3. Engaging Princeton Members in meetings/retreats via teleconferencing
 - Shridar Ganesan, Yibin Kang, and Ben Raphael are planning another Cancer Genomics retreat, which will be linked to one of the pilot awards that Yibin Kang will sponsor from his AD, Consortium Research budget.

4. New Rutgers/Princeton Pre-Med Student Summer Program
 - Edmund Lattime reported that there has been a major challenge to implementing the program, in that undergraduate students are not allowed to shadow in the cancer institute clinics.
 - o This policy is one intended to limit liability on behalf of Rutgers University.
 - o The committee members expressed dissatisfaction with this policy, which limits the clinical experience that can be offered to these students.
 - o Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital can at least be an option to offer the students the opportunity to shadow physicians.
 - Another issue has been establishing a process to pay the stipends that the students will receive for the 8-10 weeks spent working in the laboratories of Rutgers Cancer Institute faculty.
 - o The funding is available. However, going through Rutgers University to issue the funding will require extensive HR-related efforts.
 - o The decision was made to instead have Princeton University provide the stipends. A process must be initiated to transfer the funding from Rutgers University to Princeton University.
 - Yibin Kang reiterated the importance and value of this program, in providing the undergraduate students with the opportunity to learn from physician scientists.

5. IQB Crash Courses
 - Stephen Burley provided an overview of the upcoming Joint Institute for Quantitative Biomedicine and Cancer Institute of New Jersey Crash Course, scheduled for October 29, 2019 and entitled "Engineering Immune Cells to Fight Cancer".
 - He noted the expertise of the featured speakers, and stated that the event would be open to everyone and live-streamed.
 - Promotion of the event should begin the week of September 16th.
 - There is interest in collaborating on a future crash course event in the Spring of 2020, and the request was made for topic suggestions.

6. T32 Training Grant Applications
 - Edmund Lattime informed the committee that a new staff member had recently been hired to collect data for two T32 grant applications that will be prepared.
 - The process has begun to look at potential faculty to be involved.
 - o There are 16-18 members in the CMG and GICG Research Programs being considered.
 - These T32 applications are expected to be done jointly between Rutgers University and Princeton University.

- A previous T32 grant between the universities had focused on Translational Research.
- The applications will be for post-doctoral training, as the NIH no longer awards T32 grants for training graduate students.
- Discussion began among the committee about potential topics for these T32 grant applications.
 - Edmund Lattime explained that the topic could not be very general (e.g. Cancer Biology), as the NIH no longer accepts T32 grant applications on general topics.
 - Potential topics included Tumor Microenvironment, Cancer Metabolism, Chemical Biology, and Computational Biology.
- While the desire has been to branch out into other topics besides Cancer Metabolism, it was determined that the most competitive T32 application at this time would be in Cancer Metabolism.
- Stephen Burley stated that in the future, he and Tom Muir could potentially lead a T32 application on Chemical Biology.
- Sharon Manne noted that Cristine Delnevo (tobacco research) is also currently working on a T32 grant application.
- Shridar Ganesan advised that in the future, a T32 grant application focused on Computational Biology could be done, due to the strong capacity of the Systems Biologists.

7. Developing Consortium-related metrics for the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

- The committee agreed to discuss this topic at a later time.