

National Cancer Advisory Board

Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Facilitation of Industry Interactions

The ad hoc NCAB subcommittee on Facilitation of Industry Interactions would like to support efforts to attract and retain first rate faculty to the intramural program. The ad hoc Working Group to Create a Strategic Scientific Vision for the National Cancer Program and Review of the National Cancer Institute report identified several factors that significantly impeded this effort. One of the most prominent impediments was the difficulty of intramural clinical and translational researchers working with industry in the area of drug and technology development. The report also noted that rules and practices that retard, rather than facilitate interactions with industry, include:

- an inability of NCI staff to accept re-imbursement for travel or meals, associated with advisory boards or protocol planning meetings with industry. All such expenses must come out of intramural NCI travel budgets and prohibit sharing of meals or refreshments provided by industry.
- a cumbersome process for establishing confidentiality agreements between single investigators and industry
- a long and cumbersome process for establishing clinical trials agreements and CRADAs that could bring dollars to intramural NCI for covering the cost of collaborative trials. Currently, such trials are done at NCI expense.
- the lack of regular contacts between NCI intramural staff and industry, i.e. "Pipeline Presentations", to discuss possible collaborations. No such regular meetings exist at present.

The purpose of the subcommittee is to advise the NCAB, NCI Director and other NCI Staff and consider changes to rules and processes that would expedite and enhance interactions with industry. The subcommittee may add expertise from industry and other academic centers to aid its deliberations. The subcommittee realizes that these changes might require administrative action at the level of NIH or DHHS, but feels that its input might prompt a reconsideration of current policies that encumber the interaction.

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