



Changing the NCI's Clinical Trials System to Meet the  
Needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
*Implementation of the Clinical Trials Working Group and  
the Institute of Medicine Recommendations*

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*Clinical Trials and Translational  
Research Advisory Committee*



# Changing the NCI's Clinical Trials System to Meet the Needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Report of the  
Clinical Trials Working Group  
of the  
National Cancer Advisory Board

Restructuring the  
National Cancer Clinical Trials  
Enterprise

June 2005



NATIONAL  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE



Operational Efficiency  
Working Group  
of the  
Biomedical Research  
and Translational  
Advisory Committee

Compressing the Timeline for Cancer  
Clinical Trial Activation

March 2010



NATIONAL  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE



A NATIONAL CANCER  
CLINICAL TRIALS SYSTEM  
FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Reinvigorating the NCI Cooperative Group Program



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

- *CTWGW – June 2005*
- *OEWWG – March 2010*
- *IOM – April 2010*
  
- *A comprehensive approach is needed to achieve a collaborative, public, national system that addresses the challenges and opportunities provided by our rapidly evolving understanding of cancer biology*

# IOM Goals Build on CTWG and OEWG

## IOM Goals: What do we need to change?

- Improve the speed and efficiency of the development and conduct of trials
- Incorporate innovative science and trial design into our studies
- Improve prioritization, support, and completion of trials
- Incentivize the participation of patients and physicians in clinical investigations

## What have we changed to date?

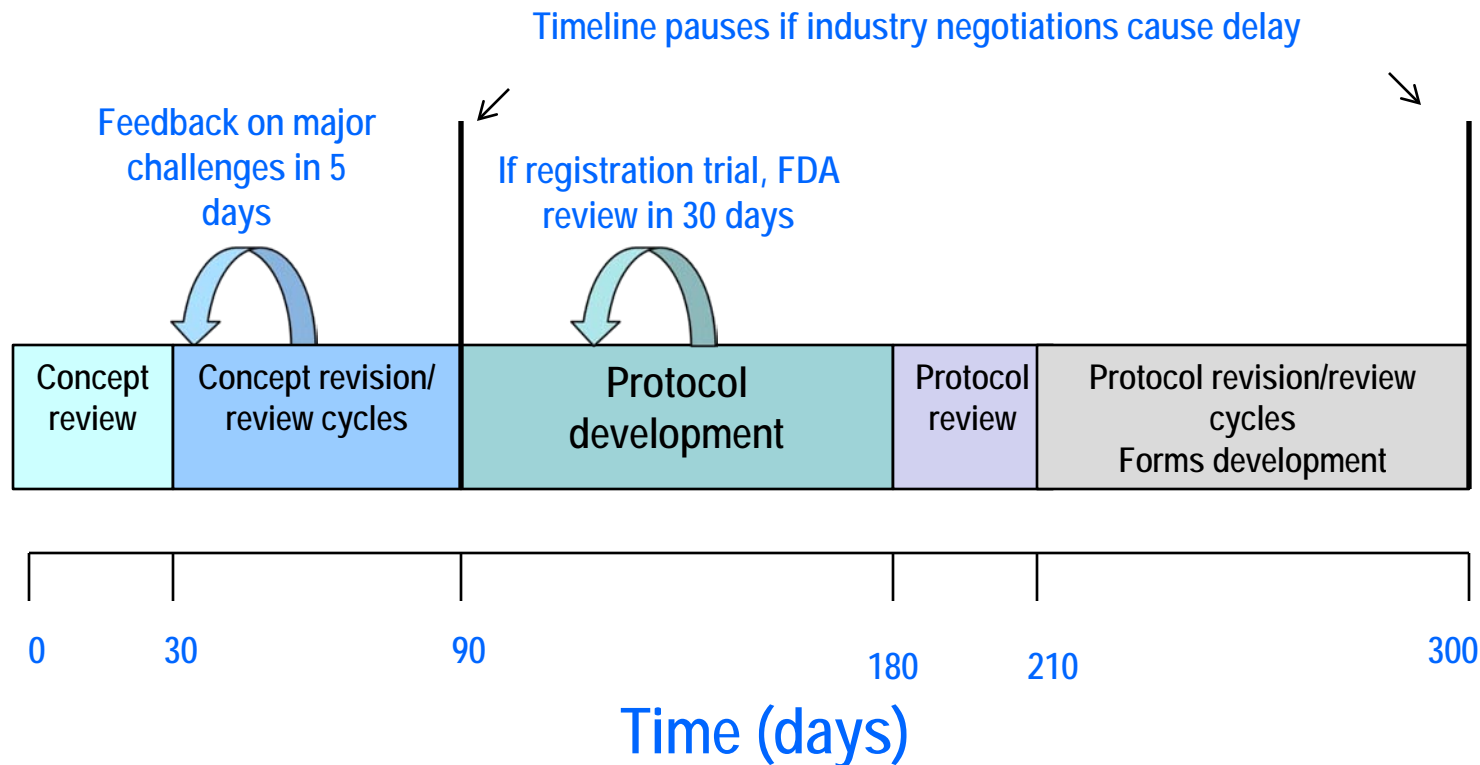
## Where do we go from here?

# IOM Goal 1: Improving Speed and Efficiency

## What have we changed to date?

- Developed operational efficiency standards for trial launch to achieve new target timelines for clinical trial activation
- Developed Standard Terms of Agreement for Research Trials (START) clauses for company and academic collaborations
- Enhanced & Speeded Up Central IRB functions (Jaci Goldberg)

# OEWG Target Timeline for Group Phase III Trials – 300 days



Timeline excludes contracting, drug supply, FDA review  
Protocol terminated if not activated in two years

# Phase III Concepts: Timeline Data as of August 20, 2010

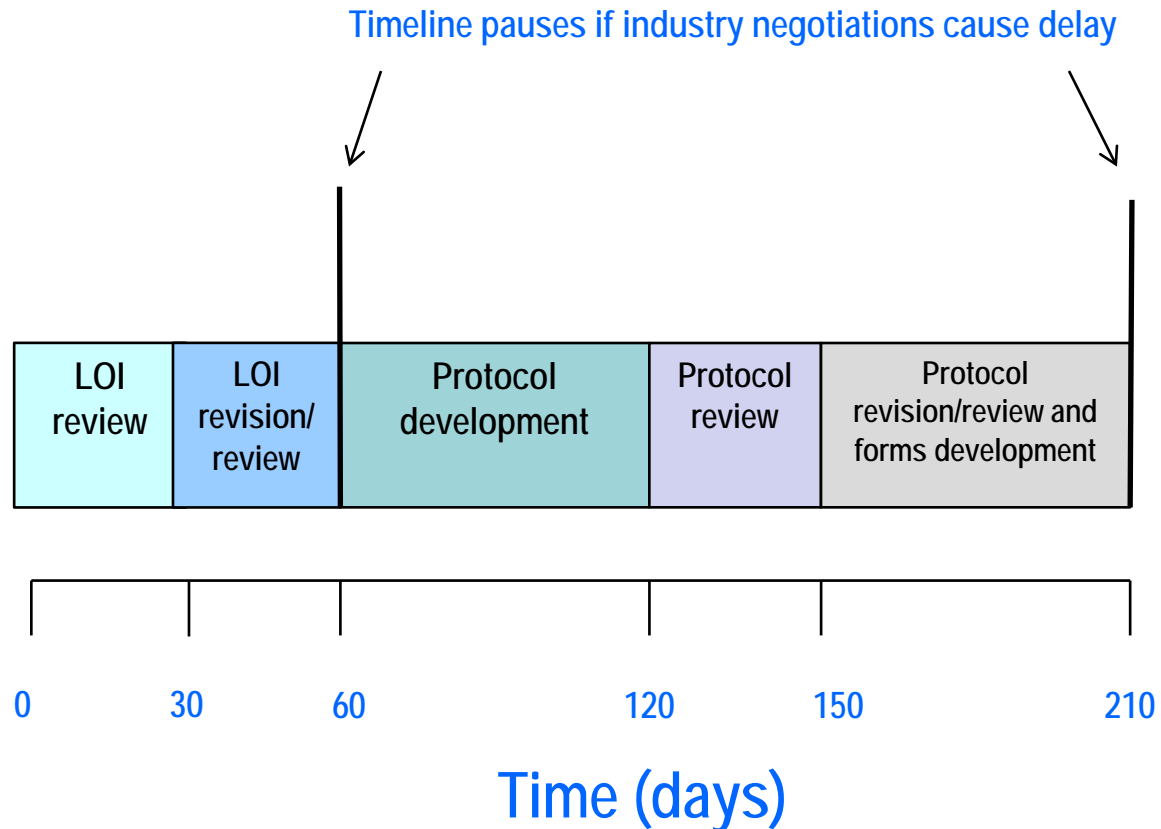
## 18 Concepts Proposing Phase III Trials Received Since April 1, 2010

- 3 concepts approved
- 6 concepts in review or in time-out (company &/or drug commitment)
- 5 concepts disapproved or withdrawn
- 4 concepts submitted to CTEP awaiting Steering Cmte. review

## Approved Concepts (3): Target timeline for Concept approval –90 days if Group phase II > 100 pts or Group phase III

- Average number of days for concept approval by Steering Cmte. (without time-outs) = **41 days (n=2)**
- Average number of days for ph II concept approval w/o SC (without time-outs) = **40 days (n=1)**
- Average time-out length: NA (no time-outs among approved concepts)
- 0 concepts have exceeded the 90 day target

## OEWG Target Timeline for Group Phase II Trials – 210 days



Timeline excludes contracting, drug supply, FDA

Protocol terminated if not activated in 18 months



# Group Phase II LOIs: Timeline Data as of August 20, 2010

## 21 Group LOIs received since April 1, 2010

- 5 Group LOIs approved; 2 protocols submitted
- 4 Group LOIs in review or in time-out
- 12 Group LOIs disapproved, withdrawn, or declined by Pharma

## Approved LOIs (5): Target timeline for Group LOI approval – 60 days

- Average number of days for Group LOI approval – **42 days**
- Average time-out length – 15 days (among the approved Group LOIs)
- 1 Group LOI has exceeded the 60-day target

## Protocols (2): Target timeline for Protocol Submission – 90 days

- Average time from Group LOI approval to Protocol submission – 61 days



# U01/N01 Phase I/II LOIs: Timeline Data as of August 20, 2010

## 20 U01/N01 LOI's received since April 1, 2010

- 8 U01/N01 LOI's approved; 1 U01/N01 Protocol submitted
- 7 U01/N01 LOI's in review or in time-out (drug commitment or grant approval)
- 5 U01/N01 LOI's disapproved or withdrawn

## Approved U01/N01 LOI's (8): Target timeline for LOI Approval – 60 days

- Average number of days for LOI approval (without time-outs) – 36 days
- Average time-out length – 32 days (*all for drug commitment*)
- No LOI's have exceeded the 60 day target

## 6 other (P50, R01, R21, DoD) LOIs submitted

- 4 in review
- 2 withdrawn/disapproved

# Intramural Phase I/II LOIs: Timeline Data as of August 20, 2010

## 6 intramural LOI's received since April 1, 2010

- 2 intramural LOI's approved; 2 protocols submitted
- 2 intramural LOI's in review
- 2 intramural LOI's disapproved

## Approved intramural LOI's (2): Target timeline for LOI Approval – 60 days

- Average number of days for LOI approval (without time-outs) – **38 days**
- Average time-out length – 2 days (drug commitment)
- No intramural LOI's have exceeded the 60 day target

## Protocols Submitted (2): Target timeline for Protocol Submission – 60 days

- Average time from LOI Approval to Protocol submission – **59 days**

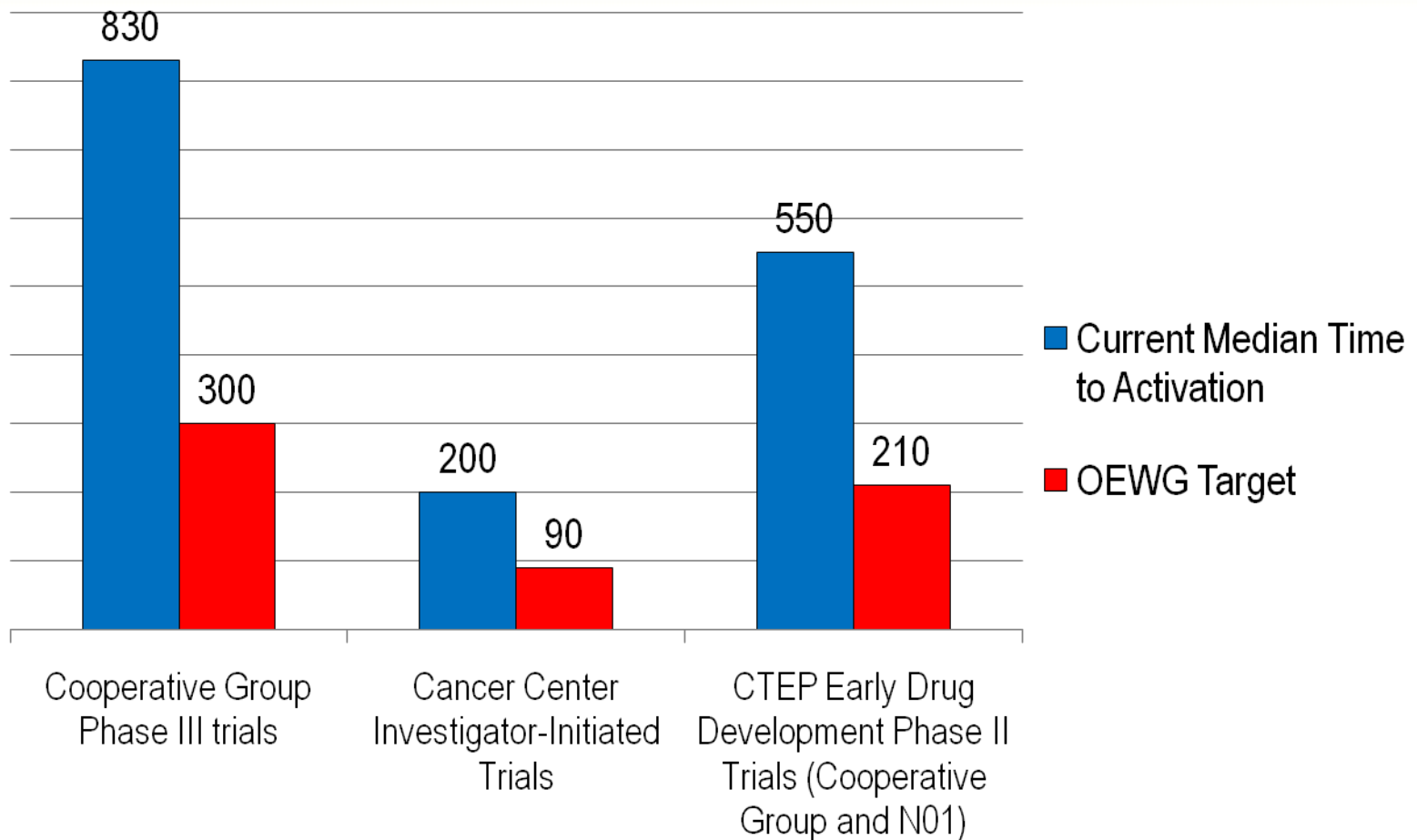
## NCI Initiatives to Achieve OEWG Goals

- Kick-off meeting late March with Groups, Consortia, and Phase I/II UO1s and NO1s to establish common understanding and collaborative procedures
- Hire Project Managers to oversee OEWG processes
- Standardized CTEP consensus reviews and provide comments in Track Change<sup>®</sup> Mode

## NCI Initiatives to Achieve OEWG Goals (cont.)

- Modified/developed internal SOPs to streamline processes and improve communication
- Identified at-risk trials (First quarter of CY11)
- Established teleconference calls to discuss/resolve outstanding issues
- Developed secure, role-based, web-portal to share tracking reports with intramural and extramural investigators and support staff
- Two OEWG working groups meet monthly via conference calls to discuss OEWG processes:
  - OEWG Cooperative Groups Working Group
  - OEWG Early-Phase Clinical Trials Working Group

# Changing the NCI's Clinical Trials System Improving Efficiency



**First 6 months of implementation (targets and absolute drop dead dates): Hitting timeline targets; 60% improvement**

# NCI Timeline Reports



National Cancer Institute

U.S. National Institutes of Health | www.cancer.gov

## Timeline Reports



The application is primarily for NCI CTEP internal and external collaborators to access data reports generated from the CTEP Enterprise System.

### Version 1.0:

The first version of the application will allow users to generate Protocol Development Timeline (PDT) reports to track the amount of time it takes to develop a protocol from Concept or LOI receipt to Protocol Activation. The PDT reports will be available in 4 different formats for comparison and analysis. The users of the application should have an ACTIVE CTEP-IAM account.

### LOGIN TO TIMELINE REPORTS

Username: Password: 


#### Account Management

[Forgot Password](#)
[Reset Password](#)
[Annual Registration](#)
[Request New Account](#)

#### Quick Reference Guide

[Quick Reference Guide](#)  
[Tutorial](#)

#### Version Information

1.0.0

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## IOM Goal 2: Incorporating Innovative Science

### What have we changed to date?

- Biomarker, Imaging, and Quality of Life Studies Funding Program (BIQSFP): a novel mechanism to facilitate the early development of integral components of phase 2 and 3 clinical trials
- Developed standards for biomarker assays used in clinical trials
- Consolidating Cooperative Group biospecimen banks into a national banking system that supports Cooperative Group and other NCI-supported clinical trials
- Developed the Clinical Assay Development Program and Patient Characterization Center: Operational 1/11
- Novel designs for phase 1/2 trials to better predict successful phase 3 trials (Adjei et al, Clin Cancer Res 2009)



# IOM Goal 3: Prioritizing and Supporting Trials

## What have we changed to date?

- **Scientific Steering Committees**
- **Developing a unified clinical trials informatics system**
  - Comprehensive database (Clinical Trials Reporting Program)
  - Standardized case report form modules
  - Credentialing repository (launched 2010)
  - NCI will be the first Institute to provide a robust, standardized, off-the-shelf clinical trials management (software) system to all of its grantees that includes a standardized “look and feel” as well as protocol development and data collection modules
- **Reimbursement for phase 2 trials increased**

# Disease-Specific Steering Committees: Prioritizing Clinical Trials

Steering Committee	Year Established	Co-Chairs Disease-Specific Steering Committees (SCs)
GI	2006	Dan Haller, MD & Joel Tepper, MD
Gyn	2006	David Gershenson, MD, Gillian Thomas, MD, & Michael Birrer, MD
Head & Neck	2007	Arlene Forastiere, MD, David Schuller, MD, & Andy Trotti, MD
GU	2008	Eric Klein, MD, George Wilding, MD, & Anthony Zietman, MD
Breast	2008	Charles Geyer, MD & Nancy Davidson, MD
Thoracic	2008	David Harpole, MD, William Sause, MD, & Mark Socinski, MD
Leukemia	2009	Wendy Stock, MD & Jerry Radich, MD
Lymphoma	2009	Oliver Press, MD Julie Vose, MD
Myeloma	2009	Morie Gertz, MD, & Nikhil Munshi, MD
Brain	2010	Ian Pollack, MD & W.K. (Al) Yung, MD
Pediatrics		TBD - 2010

**Approximately 98 Concepts evaluated since inception of SCs with an approval rate of 56% to 60%; see <http://ccct.nci.nih.gov> for other SSC & rosters**

## IOM Goal 4: Patient and Physician Participation

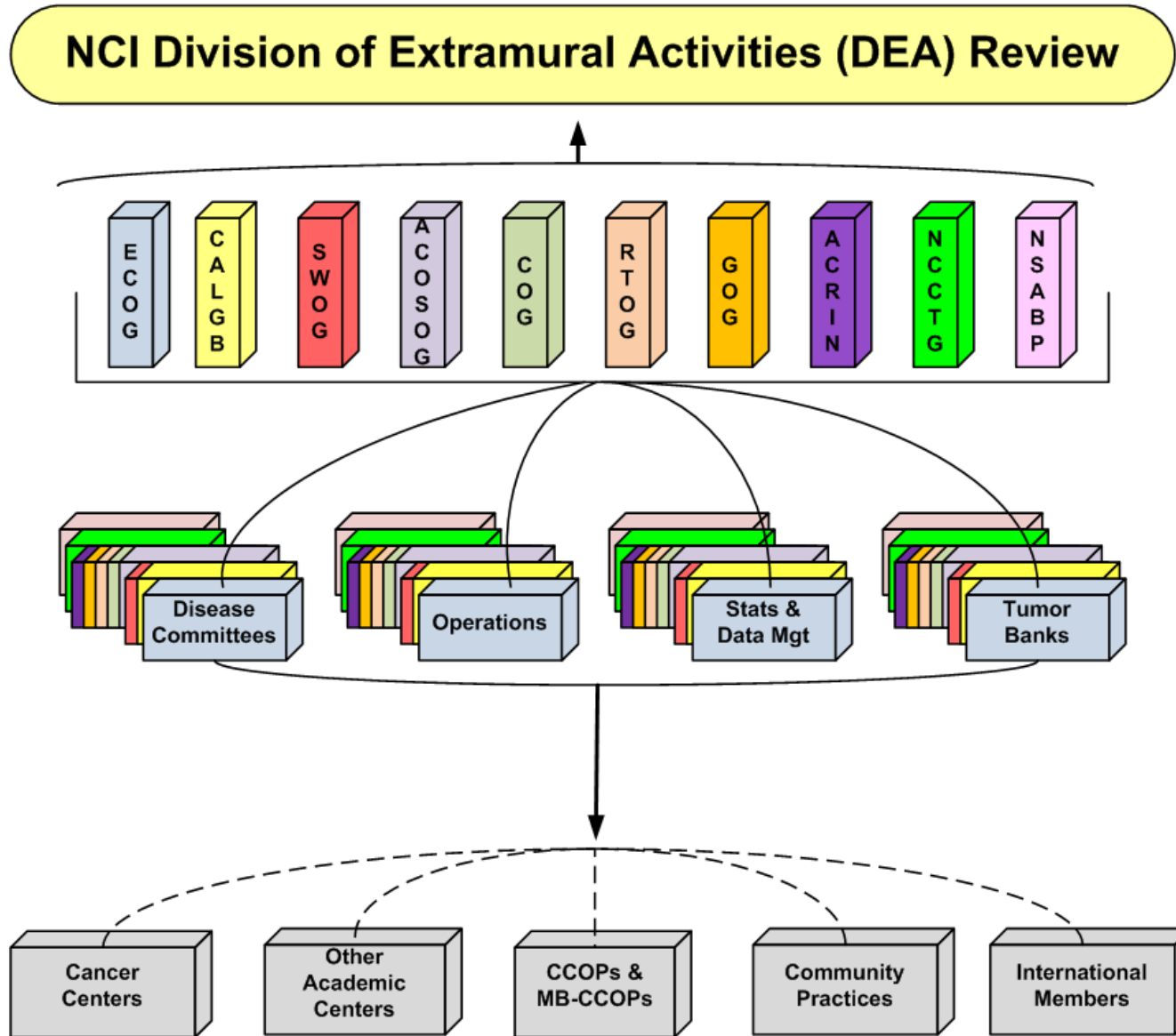
### What have we changed to date?

- **Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award**
  - CTWG initiative to enhance recognition for mid-level clinical investigators at academic institutions who promote successful clinical research programs
  - Program launched in 2009 with 11 awardees receiving partial salary support for up to \$50,000 per year for two years
  - 12 awardees in 2010
- **Guidelines Harmonization Working Group (GHWG)**
  - Chair: Jim Abbruzzese
  - Common clinical trials program guidelines to promote collaboration
  - Incentives

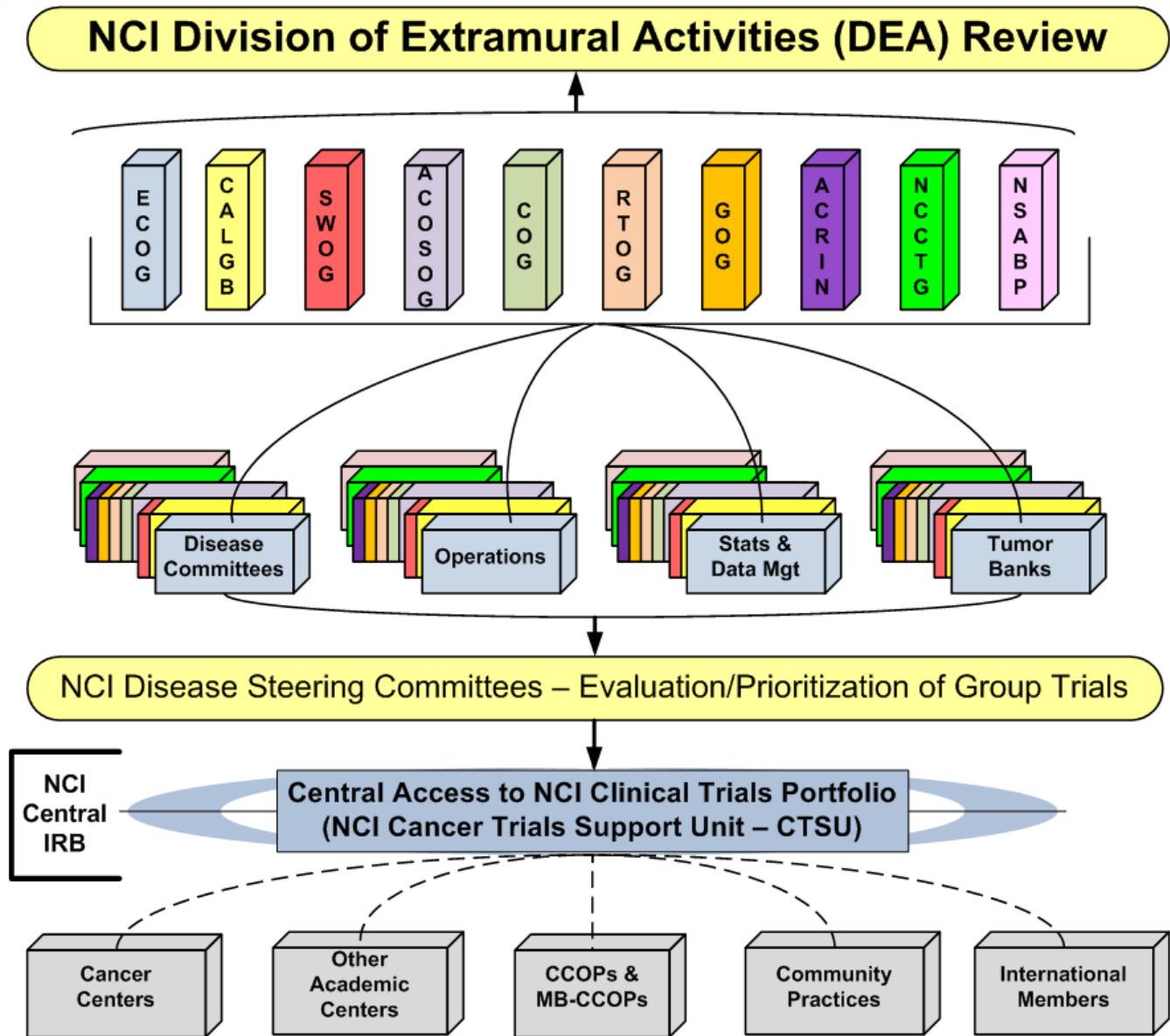
## 2010 Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Awardees

- **Dr. Rafat Abonour**, Indiana University
- **Dr. Jeffrey Bradley**, Washington University
- **Dr. Steven Cohen**, Fox Chase Cancer Center
- **Dr. Linda Duska**, University of Virginia
- **Dr. Naomi Haas**, University of Pennsylvania
- **Dr. Elisabeth Heath**, Wayne State University
- **Dr. Susan Kelly**, University of Texas MDACC
- **Dr. Smitha Krishnamurthi**, Case Western Reserve University
- **Dr. Suresh Ramalingam**, Emory University
- **Dr. David Rizzieri**, Duke University
- **Dr. Cheryl Saenz**, University of California-San Diego
- **Dr. Sheri Spunt**, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

# Organizational Structure 2005: Pre-CTWG



# Organizational Structure of the System: 2010



# Changing the NCI's Clinical Trials System What Else Do We Need To Do?

- **Consolidation:** How to restructure current system into a harmonized network; Size? Working parameters?
- How to incentivize cooperation and greater participation in the NCI's clinical trials system?
- How to optimally provide access to needed molecular tools to answer critical scientific questions?
- How best to facilitate interactions with FDA and CMS to bring the most effective treatments to patients rapidly?
- How best to extend benefits of clinical trials participation to underserved populations?