

**NCI Board of Scientific Advisors
Ad Hoc Working Group on Immunology of Therapies
& Vaccines and Research Structure**

Mission Statement

The purpose of this *ad hoc* Working Group is to provide further discussion and prioritization of the immunological aspects of developing therapeutic and preventative therapies and vaccines for virus-induced malignancies; understanding the interactions between the immune system and oncogenesis in tumor development; and understanding transmission of oncogenic viruses that cause HIV malignancies, especially KSHV and ways that the research infrastructure for AIDS-associated malignancies could be enhanced. The Working Group will provide their recommendations to the NCI Board of Scientific Advisors (BSA) and the *ad hoc* Subcommittee on HIV and AIDS Malignancy.

In terms of the immunological aspects, oncogenesis, and understanding the transmission of oncogenic viruses, some of the following issues will be discussed and prioritized: identifying public health measures to reduce transmission; predicting immunologic responders and utilizing immune responses to prevent disease and transmission; identifying target populations for vaccines; and the potential for leveraging established methods used for the HPV vaccine. The discussion and prioritization activities will also be centered around several factors that are needed to continue to support and sustain the general infrastructure for AIDS-associated malignancy research while also addressing disparities in the HIV-infected population related to social determinants of health. Such factors include some of the following: analyzing the immune approaches to viruses associated with cancer; the need for mechanisms to fund ongoing cohorts to collect, standardize, and store specimens; and the need for mechanisms to optimally coordinate cancer trials. The resulting recommendations of the Working Group will be invaluable towards advancing the NCI's research portfolio in AIDS and HIV-associated malignancy.

This Working Group shall be composed of members of the *ad hoc* Subcommittee on HIV and AIDS Malignancy and ad hoc participants from the scientific community with appropriate expertise.