NIH IRP Long Term Planning

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NIH IRP Long Term Planning

• Early in 2014, Dr. Collins charged all ICs with developing a long-term plan with the broad goal of developing a ‘10 year vision’ for the NIH IRP

• Two major goals:
  1. Develop large-scale initiatives that capitalize on the distinctive features of the NIH IRP
  2. Develop a blue-print for maintaining scientifically distinctive and outstanding science within the NIH IRP- including a sustainable Clinical Research Center
NCI IRP Vision

- Support NCI’s mission by identifying timely projects for broad collaborations across NCI’s IRP
- Strengthen trans-NCI, trans-NIH collaboration
- Expand opportunities for collaboration with extramural investigators and/or industry
- Develop new ways to improve the use and fiscal health of the Clinical Center
- Identify new organizational elements and cultural features that further enhance the distinctiveness and success of the NIH IRP
- Identify barriers to achieving these goals
IRP Process

Jan 31
ICD input
due

Feb 5
SDs
review
process

Feb 12
ICs complete
review plans

May 16
BSC chairs
meet at
NIH

July 31
IC reports
due

Aug 6
SDs
Integrate
IC reports

Aug 10
Reports to ad hoc
ICD
group

Sept 15
Final reports
from ad hoc
ICD sub-
committee

Oct 31
ACD draft
report to
NIH

Dec 12
Presentation
of report to
ACD

ICD= Institute &
Center Director
SD= Scientific Director
ACD= Advisory
Committee to the
Director
Each IC formed a review and planning committee composed of ~50% IC senior staff + ~50% BSC/extramural members
## Current NCI IRP Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tenure Track PIs</th>
<th>Senior Investigators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCR-Basic</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCR-Clinical</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCEG</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
<td><strong>230</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of PIs in the NCI IRP has been reduced by 18% from a high of 375 in 2002 to the current number of 307. 180 departures and 113 new principal investigators.

Active engagement with the two Board of Scientific Councilors (BSC)
## Organization Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>No. CCR Members/Fellows</th>
<th>No. DCEG Members/Fellows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Academy of Sciences</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Academy of Arts and Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Academy of Microbiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association of American Physicians</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Society of Clinical Investigation</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH Distinguished Investigators</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Epidemiological Society</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Distinctive Features of NCI’s IRP

• Size- nearly 30% of PI in the NIH IRP program are part of the NCI IRP

• The breadth and depth of its interdisciplinary science, which includes basic biology across multiple disciplines, clinical trials and the largest IRP population science effort

• The close geographic proximity of basic and clinical researchers in a “culture of the corridors” environment which facilitates bench to bedside to bench outcomes

• Disproportionate commitment to patient-based science that culminates in 35-40% of all clinical activity performed in the NIH Clinical Center, a unique venue that allows uncommon ability to perform intensive mechanistic studies

• Partnership with the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research
Distinctive Features of NCI’s IRP

• Supports a substantial number of commitments to long-term projects that would be difficult to sustain by standard extramural funding mechanisms

• **Strong commitment to the study of rare diseases, or diseases disproportionately afflicting underserved patient populations**

• Commitment to address challenging epidemiological questions, which are often pursued as a governmental function in most countries
  – Ability to respond to important mandates by access to large populations and the ability to move quickly to exploit opportunities provided by natural experiments wherever they occur throughout the nation or the world

• Charge to address questions in public health within the federal government, free from the constraint of revenue and profit
Some of Our Past and Ongoing Basic and Clinical Achievements

Enabled through collaboration and long-term commitment of resources and retrospective review

• Development of multiple FDA approved drugs for cancer and HIV
• Development of technology to enable HPV vaccine
• Contributions to understanding and treatment of rare cancers
• Key studies demonstrating success of adoptive immunotherapy of cancer
• Development of new, commercialized technology for imaging of prostate cancer
• Notable contributions:
  – Genetic susceptibility to kidney cancer leading to novel interventions
  – New insights leading to targeted interventions for lymphoma
  – Understanding of the role of chromatin structure and genome organization to cancer
  – Organization and regulation of the immune system, including the discovery of multiple key regulatory proteins
Creating New Opportunities

New competitive, time-limited funding options to support novel, high-risk and/or distinctive science

- **Major Opportunities Program**
  - 3 ongoing projects (matrix drug screening; metabolic features of cancer; chromatin profiling)
  - Projects aimed at accelerating development of innovative cancer treatment strategies by exploiting technological strengths within the CCR

- **Rare Tumor Initiative**
  - Apply existing NCI expertise in basic and clinical studies of patients with rare tumors in the CC to identify and translate new therapies
  - Pilot: Focused effort on desmoid tumors and plexiform neurofibromas (Widemann/Kummar)

- **New FLEX Programs**
  - Series of new, competitive programs to support methods development, new intra-CCR collaborations
    - Methods and Technology Development Program
    - Synergy Award
    - “New Directions” Program
  - To be launched fall/winter 2014
Clinical Research Priorities

• Design and execute novel, science-based clinical trials

• Take discoveries from within the CCR or other NIH laboratories to the point of first-in-human trials

• Focus on molecularly-based, tailored medicine

• Utilize technology and correlative science difficult to support elsewhere

• Foster the education and research of physician-scientists

• Study rare cancers that are not being adequately studied elsewhere
Areas of Clinical Strength

- NCI IRP will continue its active and growing programs in:
  - Lymphoma
  - Genitourinary malignancies (prostate, bladder and renal)
  - Neuro-oncology
  - Pediatric malignancies
  - Thoracic tumors
  - Marrow transplant
  - Immunotherapy
  - Rare cancers
Reengineering of the NCI’s Clinical Research Program

• Major changes over the last few years:
  – Reorganization of Labs and Branches
  – Creation of Medical Oncology Clinical Service
  – Changes to protocol concepts and review
  – Accelerated the timeline for development and execution of clinical trials
  – Created a Protocol Support Office for Staff Training and Administrative Support in Protocol Development
Scientific Opportunities for Consideration

• 30 proposals received
• CSB reviewed all proposals
• 5 emerged for further consideration**
  – Precision Medicine and Prevention
  – Cell-based Therapies
  – The Human Microbiome
  – National Program for Natural Products Discovery
  – Human RNA Project

**All currently included in draft consolidated document for the NIH to the NIH Director’s Advisory Committee to the Director
**Precision Medicine and Prevention**

**Approach:**
Develop PM strategies tailored to several pediatric and rare cancers, as well as several tumor types already prominently featured in the IRP portfolio.

**Exploit:**
- access to well-characterized patient populations in the Clinical Center
- availability of molecular epidemiological datasets in DCEG
- strong expertise in molecular cancer mechanisms in CCR’s basic science labs
Developing Cell-based Therapies at the IRP

**Approach:**
Drive a new wave of cell-based therapies by combining genome engineering, cell engineering and immunobiology

**Goals:**
Development of novel cell-based therapy approaches for:
- Cell therapy to common epithelial cancers using antigen identification with personal genomics
- Correction of monogenic disorders using genome engineering methods

Establish infrastructure for dissemination of cell-based therapies

- Focus on approaches and disease types that are not desirable for the current business plans of commercial entities, but which may inform future commercialization.
The Human Metaorganism in Cancer Biology and Medicine

**Approach:**
Focus resources and efforts to move the field from descriptive biology to mechanistic insight and metaorganism processes affecting cancer initiation, progression and therapy

**Goals:**
- Microbiome mapping in health and disease (genomic approaches)
- Mechanistic studies of microbiome function (inflammation, signaling, immune function)
- Microbiome in cancer treatment (susceptibility, progression, drug response, biomarkers)
National Program for Natural Products

Approach:
Contribute to a National Program for Natural Products Discovery for new molecules that target biological processes central to human disease -- a national resource fully accessible to extramural investigators

Goals:
- Develop a comprehensive Natural Products Library (NPL) that includes:
  - pre-fractionated compounds (1 million) for modern high-throughput targeted screening technologies
  - analytical resources for isolation, structure elucidation, medicinal chemistry
  - public database and bioinformatics platform to integrate source organism, activity, structural, and genomic data
- Establish a national resource for Natural Products screening efforts for:
  - assay development
  - execution of natural product drug screens
  - resupply of active molecules
  - bioinformatics support to extramural users
The Human RNA Project

Approach:
Take leadership role in the development of a comprehensive program for the investigation and therapeutic exploitation of RNA

Goals:
Use a strong foundation in molecular biology and synergy with other ICs for:
- Systematic mapping of the RNAome in health and disease
  - genome-wide sequencing of mRNAs and unconventional RNAs
  - synergy with Precision Medicine data collection
- Elucidation of RNA structure
  - develop and apply methods to determine RNA structure (SHAPE, SAXS)
- Development of RNA-based therapeutic approaches
- Development of new clinical targets and trials
Next Steps

• CCR planning series of workshops on each of these 5 topics this spring
  – To include extramural experts

• Clear opportunity to partner with extramural programs on rare tumors
  – Would like to engage specifically in Precision Medicine workshop

• Other opportunities?