NCI Update

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Update Topics

- Budget
- Personnel
- Team Science Meeting
- CTAC Clinical Trials Strategic Subcommittee
- NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Working Group
Budget and Grants

- FY12 Budget
  - $5.071B
  - $12 M (0.2%) more than FY 11
  - Expect about 1100 grants
  - Grant approval process will be similar to last year with no strict pay line; expect success rate around 15%
  - Budget now official; should speed up the process of making awards

- FY13 President’s Budget
  - $3M increase over FY12

- Bypass narrative in progress – will focus on six types of cancer and some key initiatives such as genomics, global health, Cancer Centers, provocative questions, and precision medicine
Searches underway for:

- **Director of NCI’s Center for Biomedical and Information Technology (CBIIT)**
  - George Komatsoulis, Ph.D., appointed Acting Director
  - NCI working to restructure IT infrastructure
  - BSA/NCAB caBIG Subcommittee (Chair: Daniel Masys, M.D.)

- **Director of Center for Cancer Genomics (CCG)**

- **Head of Policy/Analysis Office**
NCI Workshop
Team-based Approaches to Scientific Research

- Held February 7-8, 2012 on NIH Campus
- Led by Harold Varmus, Ed Harlow, Jim Doroshow
- Staff support from the Coordinating Center for Clinical Trials

Overall Goal/Purpose:

Assess strategies that have been used for highly successful intra- and inter-institutional collaborative research. Primarily concentrated on the process and approaches used for building good team research projects...

What hurdles have occurred? How were these solved? What approaches worked best? What has failed?
Team-based Approaches to Scientific Research Workshop

- Small group of individuals from various outside organizations and different components of NCI including:
  - SPOREs, Cancer Centers, Cooperative Groups, P01 and U54 grantees, as well as Stand Up to Cancer, DoD, National Science Foundation, Broad Institute, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and others

- Combined experiences highlighted several current NCI team science mechanisms as well as team science projects led by other organizations.

- Presentations and discussions focused on how the teams have been organized around scientific goals and what unique features made them successful.
Team-based Approaches to Scientific Research Workshop: Key Findings

**Characteristics of successful teams**

- Strong leadership (single most commonly cited success factor at workshop)
- Meaningful but difficult goals with incentives
- Flexibility to redirect funds and alter other parts of project for team building and timeline management
- Sufficient finances to identify key problems, recruit/reward essential people, and help leverage resources from other sources

**Suggestions for future team science projects**

- Develop challenging ideas
- Use pilot projects to develop teams and refine ideas
- Enhance mentoring and training for leadership and team management
- Consider program managers to manage projects and inform about available resources at NCI and beyond
- Create new methods for project oversight and review
Clinical Trials Strategic Planning Subcommittee: Purpose and Scope

• **Purpose:** Advise NCI on the development of a fully integrated clinical trials system

• **Scope:** Trials funded through cooperative agreements and contracts
  - NCI National Clinical Trials Network trials reviewed by the Scientific Steering Committees (SSC) and generally conducted by the Cooperative Groups and CCOPs.
  - NCI Early Phase Trials sponsored by CTEP and the Division of Cancer Prevention early phase drug/agent development programs

• **Initially focus on the NCI National Clinical Trials Network trials**
Clinical Trials Strategic Planning Subcommittee: Objectives

• Assess the balance, coherence and appropriateness of NCI’s clinical trials portfolio.

• Advise on how to improve the scientific effectiveness of the NCI’s Scientific Steering Committees.

• Recommend new strategies, priorities and directions for clinical trials based on the NCI’s current portfolio, evolving clinical needs, and emerging scientific opportunities.

• Provide strategic advice to enhance other aspects of clinical trials operations across the system including collaboration and timeliness.
CTAC Clinical Trials Strategic Planning Subcommittee: Members

**CTAC**
Joel Tepper (Chair)
Jim Abbruzzese
Nancy Davidson
Nancy Roach
George Weiner

**NCI**
Jim Doroshow
Jeff Abrams
Lori Minasian
CTAC Committee Structure

Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory (CTAC)

Clinical Trials Strategic Planning Subcommittee*

NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Working Group

Other Working Groups as needed

*Adhoc
NCTN Working Group Composition

• **Co-chairs**
  - Senior leaders in the field
  - Individuals in leadership positions of the Cooperative Groups (Chair, Executive Committee members, or Disease Committee Chairs) are not eligible
  - Current Steering Committee Chairs are not eligible

• **Members**
  - 25 to 30 individuals
  - Staggered memberships to avoid turnover
  - Members selected from the following categories of stakeholders:
    • Cooperative Group Chairs
    • Cooperative Group Statisticians
    • CCOP/MBCCOP Principal Investigators
    • Cancer Control Research Base Principal Investigators
    • Cancer Center Directors
    • Steering Committee Chairs
    • Advocates
    • Translational Scientists
    • CTAC Clinical Trials Strategic Planning Subcommittee
    • NCI Leadership (DCTD, DCP, CCCT, Cancer Centers)
Robert B. Diasio, MD
Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

George W. Sledge, Jr., MD
Indiana University Cancer Center
NCTN Working Group Goals

• Assess the balance, coherence and appropriateness of the NCTN clinical trials portfolio.

• Advise on how to improve the scientific effectiveness of the NCTN Scientific Steering Committees.

• Recommend new strategies and directions for the NCTN clinical trials based on the NCI’s current portfolio, evolving clinical needs, and emerging scientific opportunities.

• Provide strategic advice to enhance other aspects of clinical trials operations affecting the NCTN including collaboration and timeliness.
Next Steps

• Complete solicitation of nominations for the membership categories from the various constituencies.

• Select members from the various constituencies to ensure appropriate expertise and balance across disease site, geography and institutions.

• Initial Working Group activities include:
  - Review responsibilities
  - Develop a process for assessing the NCTN clinical trials portfolio.

• Aim for initial meeting to occur before July 2012 CTAC meeting.