Classes of Interactions

• RAS research reagents
  – DNA clones of all Ras mutant alleles and Ras pathway proteins in a variety of vectors
  – Other reagent access planned

• Ras Initiative website
  – Includes access to reagents, blogs from experts, discussion forums for hot topics; videos of recent Ras research talks; highlights of recent papers of interest; sharing of data sets; other useful resources for the Ras community; more planned

• Ras Workshops
  – Tied to current research goals of Ras Initiative
  – Next generation synthetic lethal screens; Measuring and modeling the Ras pathway; The surface of Ras tumor cells
  – Follow up has led to one PAR for new applications from community, new collaborations with researchers in community; re-focusing of Initiative work

• Collaborations and CRADAs with Ras research experts in community
• Rock star visits
• Ras post-doc programs is funding trainees at FNL and in community
• Growing interest in pharma/biotech consortium
• Hiring of CROs to deliver specific services
• Deficiencies....
Finding compelling ideas for new National Initiative

NFAC Meeting
September 30, 2014
Features of a FNL National Initiative

• Formed around problem of note
  – Recognized issue of importance
  – Right scale
  – Not obviously attackable with other mechanism(s)
  – Sufficient data to suggest chance of success
  – Little current organized work

• Success would provide a major advance

• Tangible output of success

• ?? Needs interactions with community for success

• ?? Difficult enough not to guarantee immediate success
Potential Sources for Initiative Ideas

• Internal to NCI
• Advisory groups
• Cancer Center Directors
• Special panel of national experts
• “Provocative Question”-style workshop
PQ Workshop experience

- Gains attention of community
- Establishes credibility to process
- Workshop prep challenges participants
- Discussions almost invariably lead to “Eureka” moments
Large Scale Challenges Suggested at Recent Boston PQ Workshops

• Prevention (2X)
• Link epidemiologically identified events to cancer cell biology/genetics
• Develop drugs for transcription factors
• Drug MYC
Potential Sources for Initiative Proposals

- Internal to NCI
- Advisory groups
- Cancer Center Directors
- Special panel of national experts
- “Provocative Question”-style workshop