

Interactions among the RAS Initiative and the Community

NFAC Meeting
September 30, 2014

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
 - <http://www.cancer.gov/researchandfunding/priorities/ras>
 - 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

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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

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