Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Update

For the Joint Meeting of the

Board of Scientific Advisors &
National Cancer Advisory Board

Jennifer A. Pietenpol, Ph.D.
June 25th, 2012
Established in 1972, designated as a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) in 1975 – minimized barriers to non-federal partners; government-owned and contractor-operated

Mission: Pursue innovative basic, applied and translational research leveraging technical expertise, physical infrastructure, and FFRDC status

Majority of focus is cancer research (NCI) with some usage by NIAID (~16%) for research on infectious disease

Main research areas currently: clinical trials support, drug development, vaccine development and genomics
Under Dr. Varmus’ leadership:

- NCI participation in SAIC search and recruitment of David Heimbrook, Ph.D. as CEO of SAIC-Frederick in June 2011

- Established first external advisory board to review state of research on Frederick campus, as per recommendation of NCAB special report in 2010 - to give greater attention to activities at NCI-Frederick

- Designated facility as Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research
NCI-Frederick Advisory Committee (NFAC)

- **NFAC charge** - review the state of research at FNLCR and make recommendations for the best use of its capabilities and infrastructure

- **15 member committee**

  Zachary Hall, Ph.D.
  Former Director, NINDS
  Former President; Institute of Regenerative Medicine, UCSF
  Emeritus Professor, UCSF

  **Chair**

  C. Barrett  D. Botstein  L. Garraway  J. Gray  B. Hahn  M. Justice  T. Look
  L. Marnett  J. Mesirov  G. Nolan  K. Olden  J. Pietenpol  S. Rosen  C. Willman
NCI-Frederick Advisory Committee (NFAC)

Organization meeting, August 31st, 2012
First meeting, January 21st, 2012

- Develop a process for approval, prioritization and scientific oversight of contractor-CRADA projects

- Update on website development

- Establish program(s) to allow extramural investigators to learn about and use FNLCR advanced technologies and capabilities

- Develop a strategic plan to guide direction & activities
Second meeting, May 30th, 2012

- Opening of the Advanced Technology Research Facility (ATRF)

- Update on partnership efforts with Contractor-CRADA process at FNLCR

  Request to examine process for scientific review/prioritization

- FNLCR Visiting Scholars Program (VSP) developed

- Beginning of Strategic Discussions
Working Sub-Groups recommendations (part I)

- **Optimize the use of FNLCR by NCI Divisions, Offices and Centers**
  - Carl Barrett*, Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Jim Doroshow, Ed Harlow, Jeff Strathern, Bob Wiltrout

- **Expand use of the FNLCR by other ICs, agencies, external investigators; build capabilities to do things that are not done elsewhere**
  - Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Jim Doroshow, Levi Garraway*, Ed Harlow, Bob Wiltrout

- **Expand interactions between NCI and industry through ATRF and contract mechanisms**
  - Carl Barrett*, Sara Courtneidge, John Czajkowski, Jim Doroshow, Bob Wiltrout, Bob Wittes

*NFAC Committee Member
Working Sub-Groups recommendations (part II)

- **Structural changes:** identify critical improvement to remove hazards; campus upgrades and redesigns when affordable - *Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Kevin Cullin, Jeff Strathern, Bob Wiltrout*

- **Enhance Communications with NIH, DHHS, and extramural researchers who can benefit from FNLCR** - *Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Doug Lowy, Anne Lubenow, Bob Wittes*

- **Expand and coordinate education and training programs** - *Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Kevin Cullin, Jim Doroshow, Doug Lowy, Jeff Strathern, Jonathan Wiest, Bob Wiltrout*

- **Opportunity to rapidly advance new initiatives** – NFAC suggested pursuit of "big idea(s)" – would have significant impact on cancer control
Defining Characteristics of FNLCR

• **Unique combination of scientific expertise;** breadth of operational capacity to serve all aspects of applied biology – from basic to FDA regulatory environment

• **Agile;** adapt rapidly to changes in NCI priorities

• **Special relationships;** integrate government agencies, extramural, and industry partners

• **Gateway to government assistance;** access to technologies, contractor expertise, project management
Operational pillars at FNLCR

- Integrated resources
- Support for Product/Project Development
- Training and Education
- Partnership facilitation
Conclusions

• Designation as a National Laboratory

• **Opportunity to be strategic** in future directions and activities in order to meet the demands of the national cancer program

• A facility to enable technology and resource development and deployment to cancer research community; amplifying effect on science in the intramural, extramural and private sector communities through creative ventures

• **Site for external community participation** – educational programs leveraging top-notch research programs

• **Opportunity to rapidly advance new bold initiatives** – NFAC suggested pursuit of "big idea(s)" - lead to significant advances in cancer prevention, treatment or control
Discussion