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# **NCI Cancer Centers Working Group**

## **Phase II: Streamlining the CCSG Application and Evaluation Process**

**Joint NCAB/BSA  
June 24, 2015**

# Membership

- Mary Beckerle, PhD (Huntsman/Utah), Co-Chair
- Brian Springer, MHA (Moffitt), Co-Chair
- Frederick Appelbaum, MD (Fred Hutchinson) 9 Center Dir.
- Kevin Cullen, MD (Greenebaum/Maryland) 4 Assoc. Dir. Admin.
- Chi Dang, MD, PhD (Abramson/Pennsylvania)
- Robert Gerlach, MPA (Norris Cotton/Dartmouth) 3 NCI Staff
- Stanton Gerson, MD (Case Western)
- Lauren Hackett, MPA (Vanderbilt-Ingram)
- Anita Harrison, MPA (Hollings/Med Univ of South Carolina)
- Michelle LeBeau, PhD (Univ of Chicago)
- Craig Thompson, MD (Memorial Sloan-Kettering)
- Kristiina Vuori, MD, PhD (Sanford-Burnham)
- George Weiner, MD (Holden/Iowa)
- Sonya Roberson, PhD (NCI) - Liaison
- Shamala Srinivas, PhD (NCI) - Liaison
- Linda Weiss, PhD (NCI) – Executive Secretary

# Goals

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- Enhance CCSG application and review process
- Amplify referee ability to assess impact and innovation
- Reduce administrative burden and streamline the process

# Timeline

- April-May 2014
  - Preparation/planning and committee recruitment
- June-August 2014
  - 4 working subgroups
  - 8 team calls
  - E-mail dialogue
- September-October 2014
  - Final report/recommendations assembled
- December 11, 2014
  - Discussion at Subcommittee A “Parent Committee”
- February 9, 2015
  - Review at Center Director’s meeting

## Recommendations in 4 Major Areas:

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- 1. Explore value and enhance efficiency of the site visit**
- 2. Increase clarity of requirements and review criteria**
- 3. Streamline data collection**
- 4. Streamline annual CCSG progress report**

*The Working Group also assembled a collection of specific suggestions for improvement of CCSG application and review guidelines. (Appendix document)*

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All final recommendations  
were discussed & endorsed by  
participants of

- ✓ Working Group (unanimously)
- ✓ Subcommittee A
- ✓ Center Directors

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# **Summary of WG Recommendations**

# 1. Explore Value & Efficiency of the Site Visit

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--Evaluate impact and merit of site visit

- Document and collect metrics on the value of site visit
  - *Other mechanisms (U, P, etc) have eliminated site visits*
  - *Significant time and cost savings for Centers and NCI*
  - *Scoring impact may balance out*

– Eliminate site visit tours and poster presentations for Shared Resources

– Replace with Q&A session for Shared Resources

– *Parent committee comments:*

- *Teambuilding value of site visit for Centers*
- *Site visit provides opportunity to answer questions*

## Recommendations



## 2. Increase Clarity of Requirement/Review Criteria

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- Modify instructions and review criteria to eliminate redundancy
- Restore individual review of Shared Resources
  - eliminate current “grouping” approach
- Better define eligibility requirements for “comprehensive” designation while avoiding “one size fits all” approach
- *Parent Committee comments:*
  - *Redundancy has some value for reviewers*
  - *Individual review of Shared Resources is preferred*
  - *Added specificity may constrain Centers and reviewers*

### Recommendations

### 3. Streamline Data Collection

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- Make greater use of direct data acquisition methods for Data Tables to reduce administrative burden
  - Tap existing systems (e.g., CTRP, RePORTER)
- Use *electronically available resources for Biosketches*
  - *Consider My NIH Biosketch for non-key personnel*
  - *Enhance utilization of existing central NIH resources*
- *Parent Committee comments*
  - *No concerns raised*
  - *Several of these actions already underway*

### Recommendations

## 4. Streamline Annual CCSG Progress Reports

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- Simplify process for annual Progress Report
  - Reduce narrative length to emphasize key accomplishments & major changes
  - Provide annually updated Data Tables to enable Program staff to track progress
    - Annual Progress Reports are time-consuming to produce and don't have actionable consequences
    - NCI Office of Cancer Centers utilizes progress reports in many ways
  
- *Not discussed by the Parent Committee.*

# Next Steps

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- National Cancer Advisory Board review
  - today
- Final report to Dr. Paulette Gray, Division of Extramural Activities
- Office of Cancer Centers implementation

# Implementation timeline

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“When issued” update by OCC for elements not defined in the CCSG FOA

Progress report & site visit structure

CCSG FOA “Guidelines” reissue

September 2016

First new format CCSG submission

January 25, 2017

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# **Discussion and vote**