NCAB Ad Hoc Working Group on Global Health

Drs. Deborah Bruner and Satish Gopal, Co-Chairs

Report to the NCAB
August 14, 2018
Working Group

MEMBERS

• **Co-chairs:** Drs. Deborah Bruner and Satish Gopal
• **Members:** Drs. Francis Ali-Osman, Otis Brawley, Bruce Chabner, Nelson Chao, David Christiani, Stephen Hahn, Patrick Loehrer, and Maria Elena Martinez
• **Ex Officio:** Drs. Stephen Chanock and Bob Croyle

CHARGE

• Advise NCAB and NCI Director on the vision, accomplishments, and operations of the NCI’s Center for Global Health (CGH)
• Focus on the mission, prioritization process, goals, and scientific activities of the CGH
Materials Reviewed

• **Written materials included:**
  • CGH vision and mission
  • staff capabilities
  • budget
  • internal review recommendations
  • prioritization process
  • scientific areas of focus
  • strategic plan, training
  • potential new areas
  • portfolio analyses including regional analyses

• **Presentations by:**
  • Dr. Ted Trimble (Director, CGH)
  • Dr. Bob Croyle, Division of Cancer Control & Population Sciences
  • Dr. Stephen Chanock, Director of Division Cancer Epi & Genetics
Integration of programmatic areas within NCI CGH
Recommendations

1. **Clarification of the CGH mission statement and goals**
   - **Mission** statement should include:
     - global oncology RESEARCH as clear primary focus. Other areas should be mediated through this primary focus, including:
       - surveillance of ongoing global cancer research
       - training for global oncology research
       - evidence dissemination to policy and practice
       - health science diplomacy
   - **Mission** should specifically address vulnerable pops and health disparities
   - **Research focus** should be on unique scientific opportunities in LMICs
     - eg, intersection of infectious diseases and cancer
   - **Training and capacity building** should be embedded in all research initiatives with a view toward sustainability
   - CGH should have grant-making authority
   - Strategic rethinking about focus on research vs diplomacy
     - Diplomacy should continue but strategic research portfolio should grow
     - A separate office within CGH should focus on diplomacy
   - CGH may want to review mission statements from successful academic global health programs for models
Recommendations

2. Enhanced coordination-communication within CGH, NCI, and NIH

• Clarify mission and align resources with goals
• Communication should be clear throughout CGH so that all staff understand and can articulate the mission
• A process is needed to better integrate the activities of the CGH with other NIH institutes
• Better coordinate research activities with Fogarty International, given Fogarty’s long history of working with NIH to support early career development for US and LMIC global health leaders
Recommendations

3. Clear process for setting priorities

• CGH priorities need to align with NCI mission and to the priorities.
• Priority setting should include consideration of issues such as:
  • cancer burden
  • current human and infrastructure capacity
  • critical mass of cancer center involvement for leverage
  • governmental structures and commitment
  • sustainability
  • CGH should consider key frameworks in this area.
• Metrics of success need to be defined
  • sustainability should be included as a key metric for any initiative.
4. External advisory group (either internal or external to NCI) to CGH is needed to review:
   - prioritization of new research
   - diplomacy activities
   - other activities
   - and to evaluate metrics of success
5. Establish better linkage with Cancer Centers

- Better support global health activities at Cancer Centers through larger funding opportunities with clearer long-term goals
  - Consider Global Oncology SPOREs or analogous competitive opportunities
- Cancer Centers could play a larger role in capacity building if built into the grants/supplements
- A coordinating CGH function with Cancer Centers would be helpful
  - eg. hosting a biannual meeting focusing on global health related issues