

**130<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB)**  
**Meeting of the Subcommittee on Clinical Investigations**  
**Meeting of the Subcommittee on Cancer Centers**

**June 2, 2004**

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Because many individuals had been assigned to both Subcommittees, and they were scheduled to meet simultaneously, the Subcommittees decided to combine their meetings into one session.

**Subcommittee on Clinical Investigations**

Dr. James Doroshov discussed the Subcommittee's two main charges. The first charge involves envisioning a new way to conduct clinical trials across the Institute. Emerging technologies (e.g., bioinformatics) will allow clinical trials to be conducted in new ways. The Subcommittee's charge is to develop a blueprint for a new clinical trials system that would include maximizing the use of current resources to complete trials as quickly as possible. The second charge involves devising an ongoing process for addressing critical issues as they arise. A key aspect of the process is to develop a more global system for prioritizing clinical trials. There needs to be a trans-NCI process that includes NCI and other stakeholders (e.g., pharmaceuticals, FDA). A goal is to encourage increased participation by and feedback from the broader clinical research community.

Challenges to the implementation of such a process cited by the group include overcoming barriers among and between institutions, difficulties in producing adequate amounts of clinical-grade biological materials, the lack of a system for rapid translation, Institutional Review Board problems, and accrual issues. Another challenge is encouraging clinical trials that study a combination of investigative agents versus a single agent, which may result in the production of more effective therapies.

The topic was raised of advertising clinical trials directly to the public versus through practitioners. The intent is to stimulate greater public interest in clinical trials. One suggestion presented was to develop an NCI television program about the advantages to the public of cancer research. Another suggestion was to show characters in existing television shows participating in clinical trials. A major problem with promoting increased public interest is that currently there is insufficient funding and there are too few trials to accommodate increased public participation.

Dr. Doroshov volunteered to provide an update on clinical trials activities at each NCAB meeting.

**Subcommittee on Cancer Centers**

Dr. James Armitage commended the group that developed the current draft of the Cancer Center Support Grant Guidelines. The intents of the revisions included to:

- Incorporate the P30/P50 Working Group recommendations.
- Better organize the document.
- Condense the document.
- Better describe guidelines development process for new Cancer Center Directors.
- Add Cores for dissemination and imaging.
- Encourage the formation of consortia and affiliations.
- Define the scope of Cancer Center requirements.

The draft has been distributed to one-third of the Centers for initial feedback. This feedback will be combined with feedback from the current meeting and from the parent group. Participants are requested to send their feedback to Dr. Karen Antman, Dr. Linda Weiss, and Dr. David Rudman.

A concern was raised about more clearly defining interdisciplinary versus transdisciplinary collaboration. Transdisciplinary collaboration emphasizes a "team science" approach. A suggestion was made to include a reference to federal regulations Web site in the section on interacting with industry. Another suggestion was to clarify the language to encourage broader interaction among the scientific community as a whole. Research developments in areas other than cancer may be relevant to cancer research as well. Obesity and angiogenesis were cited as examples.

Additional suggestions included addressing the following issues:

- How Cancer Centers fit into their parent institutions
- Unfunded mandates
- Funding ratio
- Culture of review
- Current and future budgetary situation.

The draft will be revised to reflect feedback received. The final draft is to be presented at the next NCAB meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Dr. Jean deKernion, Chair  
Subcommittee on  
Clinical Investigations

Date

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Dr. James Doroshow  
Executive Secretary

9/14/04  
Date

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Dr. James Armitage, Chair  
Subcommittee on Cancer Centers

9/14/04  
Date

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Dr. Karen Antman  
Executive Secretary

9/14/04  
Date