

**129th MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CANCER ADVISORY BOARD (NCAB)
MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET**

February 18, 2004

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Welcome—Dr. Larry Norton

Dr. Larry Norton, Norma S. Sarofim Chair in Clinical Oncology, Deputy Physician-in-Chief and Director of Breast Cancer Programs, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, chaired the Subcommittee and welcomed the attendees. Dr. Norton noted that the Fiscal Year (FY) 04 Budget as presented to the NCAB was at best flat when all fiscal requirements and assessments were taken into account. Efforts by the NCI leadership and staff to deal productively with this budgetary reality, including a commitment to support investigator-initiated programs and to maximize efficiency through creative strategic partnerships, were noted.

Discussion

The members of the Subcommittee considered the following points:

- It would be helpful to future discussions if the presentation of the Bypass Budget were simplified and clarified in documents intended for distribution in the community. This could include information about the importance of the Bypass Budget and its relationship to the Presidential Budget and the NCI's program, plans, and initiatives.
- Additionally, because the timing of the Bypass Budget could be a cause for confusion, it would be useful to present in public documents a simple, diagrammatic explanation of the temporal relationships between budgetary requests. The history of proposed and approved funding for several previous years would help put current year budgets in perspective.
- The presentation of these items in an unambiguous, straightforward manner, coupled with a clear exposition of the importance of the requested funding for the national cancer program, could be very useful in gaining wide community support.

Follow-up to the Presentation to the NCAB on the NCI FY 2006 Bypass Plan and Budget

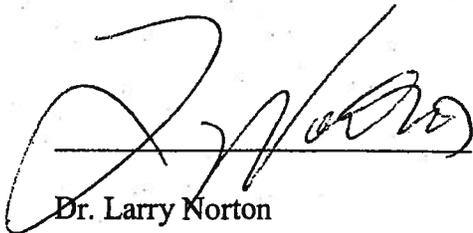
Ms. Reed provided an update on the Solicitation of External Input for the FY 2006 Bypass and Budget. The Solicitation was e-mailed to advisory groups, cancer center directors, advocacy group leaders, and professional societies (~479 people). Each person sent the Solicitation was also sent a hardcopy. Subcommittee members discussed how to increase stakeholder feedback.

- If the response rate to this mailing is low, it might be because people do not understand the process and importance of the document. To improve this situation it was suggested

that a FAQ style be considered, emphasizing the importance of the budget, the need for community feedback, and historical context. In addition, reminder e-mail messages could be used.

- To explain subtle aspects of the budget, including the impact of community feedback, it may be useful to post comments about the responses on a Web site. The response rate may increase if people see that their input has been productive.
- With respect to this discussion, it was noted that the NCI will send reminders via e-mail, will distribute flyers at appropriate meetings, and will prominently post a request for community input on the NCI Cancer Bulletin. It was acknowledged that follow-up on all of these points would be critical to increase the response rate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

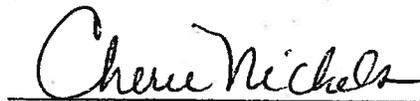


Dr. Larry Norton

Chair

5/3/04

Date



Ms. Cherie Nichols

Executive Secretary

5/13/04

Date