

Meeting Minutes September 12, 2007

In Attendance:

David Rawlings
Bob Boucek
Andrew Scharenberg
Anne Stevens
Carol Miao
Christian Roth
Ed Clark

Jan Corrison
Noel Blake
Sihoun Hahn
Troy Torgerson
Mark Ruffo
Heather Lindemann
Delila Katzka

Introduction:

After brief introductions, Heather Lindemann discussed the goals for today's meeting. The team will review and evaluate feedback from the forum and make any modifications as appropriate to their strategic plan.

She then introduced Mark Ruffo, Marketing Manager for Research who is helping some centers fine tune their names and vision statements. He will run a focus group with donor and parent participants in order to get feedback from their perspective. If there is anything specific that this team would like the focus group to consider, Mark can make sure that they are asked during the session. Feedback from the focus group will be distributed to the committee for consideration prior to finalizing the document. This document will then go to the Center Director Advisory Committee (CDAC) for approval and then be published. Publication via the print and the web is planned for mid-October.

Center name and vision:

The team considered the center name and discussed Immunotherapies vs. Immunotherapy. The general consensus was that Immunotherapy sounded singular and therefore limiting. They retained use of Immunotherapies but also agreed to ask the focus group for input on this item.

It was suggested at the forum that the 3rd sentence of the vision statement be modified to include "chronic". Team members considered ways to include this element and decided to use "serious" as a way to include this term. The new vision statement tentatively reads:

Keeping children healthy through the gift of immunity. Immunity influences almost every medical illness. Through scientific discovery and innovation we will harness the power of the immune system to prevent, treat or cure **serious or** life-threatening childhood diseases.

Programs:

Next the team reviewed forum input regarding the programs. David mentioned that he had tentatively ranked with the perspective of clustering them in ways that fit together. Feedback received indicated that there is some potential for disagreement related to the ranking and that it

was more appropriate to find a way to show how these programs are interrelated and linked in many ways. The team decided to portray their programs in graphic format showing the program descriptors in a circle surrounding the word “program”. Heather agreed to have a graphic designer work up a design for committee review based on this concept. Short names for the programs are: Molecular definition and diagnosis; Immune monitoring and analysis, Improving hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; Gene therapy and gene repair; Vaccine strategies; Small molecule immune therapeutics.

At the suggestion of Dr. Clark who wished to allow a broader interpretation, the team added “in particular” to one of the program statements. The new wording is:

- Vaccine strategies, **in particular** for immunologically vulnerable populations.

Priorities:

A forum attendee mentioned GMP facilities. The team felt that if we were to develop this on-site it should be an Institute-wide initiative. Other than this comment there was not much additional input related to the priorities from the forum.

There was some discussion around the general nature of the priorities. It was suggested that as objectives are developed for each priority, it will provide further definition.

Additional discussion:

Bob Boucek discussed “cardiac-derived stem cells” research and the potential fit with this center’s objectives. There was a detailed discussion of the potential links between this specific research area and other current programs within the I & I center (eg including interest in stem cell therapies, the potential for genetic manipulation of these populations, and synergy with existing core and bench expertise). It was concluded that this specific program (and possibly other “venture” projects) that did not readily align with the current center programs will be taken to CDAC for further discussion.

Conclusion:

With the changes noted above, the strategic plan was approved pending the outcome of the focus group. Any suggestions that come out of the focus group will be distributed to the team for comment.

Action: Create graphic for programs. **(Lindemann)**

Submitted by:

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