

## **IICAC Meeting – Oct. 26, 2017, 12:00-1:30 PM**

University of Illinois-Chicago  
Research Resources Center  
835 S. Wolcott Ave  
Chicago, IL 60612-3748

### Agenda

1. Introductions and Mission Statement – Phil Hockberger
2. CBC Update – Jim Audia
3. Discussion of Usage Data (see attachments) – Phil Hockberger
4. Update on Joint Grants and Partnerships – SHyNE, CTSA, Cryo-EM – Phil Hockberger
  - A. Regional Chicago CTSA Consortium
  - B. Chicago Consortium for Community Engagement
  - C. NSF National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure Grant
  - D. NIEHS Environmental Health Center Grant
  - E. National Cryo-EM Research Center Grant
  - F. Update on Big 10 Cancer Research Consortium Summit 2017 – Rich Minshall
  - G. Single-Cell Initiative
5. Animal Sharing and Husbandry across Institutions – Rich Minshall
6. Update on Entrepreneurial Partnerships (involving our universities)
  - A. Polsky Center at UC
  - B. Discovery Partners Institute
7. Other business – NUcore, social event - Phil Hockberger

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** there was discussion of extending the length of the OAI beyond one year at a time (as required by the MOU). Attendees agreed that annual meetings are useful, but they noted advantages of extending the agreement to 3-yr or 5-yr cycles (see section II, red text). A vote was taken by the committee and results are highlighted in Section II.

### In attendance:

UIC – Rich Minshall, Vaiva Liakaite, Tarra Bollinger, Chunfang Dai, Brian Kay, Tom Royston, Bob Klie, Wonhwa Cho, JoAnna Burdette  
NU – Phil Hockberger, Andy Ott, John Disterhoft, Aaron Rosen, Karl Scheidt (by phone)  
UC (by phone) – George Langan, Ben Glick, Andrew Cleland, Kay Macleod, Angie Charles  
CBC – Jim Audia, Karen Snapp

Unable to attend: Susan Ross (UIC), Greg Thatcher (UIC), Lyndon Cooper (UIC), Vinayak Dravid (NU), Amy Paller (NU), Suzanne Conzen (UC), Bozhi Tian (UC)

I. Mission Statement: Phil went over recommendations in the 2010 Huron Report (Feasibility Study) noting that many have been implemented.

A. **Joint Vision, Decision-Making, and Investment** – establish overarching MOU agreement (completed March 13, 2014); facilitate joint decision-making and investment in large-scale,

strategic facilities (see section IV); explore charging internal rates to partner institutions (part of MOU)

**B. Facility Operations and Management Structures** – create inter-institutional coordination committee (meets annually in October); establish working group to address administrative issues across institutions (not yet); establish rigorous rate development and related compliance policies and procedures (required by NIH in 2013: NOT-OD-13-053)

**C. Detailed Partnership Opportunity Exploration** – facilitate transfer of research animals (see section V); facilitate partnerships and opportunities among core facilities across institutions (see section IV)

**D. Facilitating Networking and Training Opportunities** – facilitate networking among core facilities across institutions (see section VII); facilitate and enable cross-institutional educational and training opportunities (limited success to date)

II. CBC Update – Jim presented an overview of Phase 2 programs supported by the Chicago Community Trust through the CBC: **Catalyst Awards Program** (continuation from Phase 1), new **Accelerator Award Program**, and new **Entrepreneurial Fellows Program**. These programs are intended to stimulate collaboration among scientists at partner institutions by funding research that bridges institutional boundaries, develops biomedical leaders and entrepreneurs in the Chicago area, facilitates development of therapeutics that will improve the health of Chicagoans and beyond, and enhances and promotes development of the biomedical ecosystem in Chicago. Jim noted that core facilities are integral components of CBC programs.

Jim raised the issue whether it makes sense to change the duration of the OAI? He noted that the CBC funds awards that often involve use of core facilities across institutions, and that the uncertainty of renewal of the OAI raised concern by some reviewers. The committee discussed this concern and noted that this uncertainty also impacts other funding opportunities where there is inter-institutional use of core facilities (see section IV). There was consensus that the full committee should vote on three options: annual, 3-yr and 5-yr cycles of renewal of the OAI. Each committee member is asked to select one of the options below and reply to this message.

**\*IICAC VOTE TALLY**

- A. Renewal of the OAI every year **3 votes**
- B. Renewal of the OAI every 3 years **10 votes**
- C. Renewal of the OAI every 5 years **3 votes**

III. Usage Data – Phil led discussion of usage data and related issues (summary graphs provided for FY11, FY13-FY16). A major rationale for eliminating the indirect (F&A) cost from rates charged to researchers at partner institutions is the premise that there is equivalent, reciprocal use of core facilities that balances out the loss of F&A revenue across institutions. In general, this is the case and justifies the practice. Phil noted, however, that NU's heavy use of the Functional Genomics Core at UC is an exception. George responded that this Core is not subsidized by UC, and so this is not a financial burden for UC. Andy reminded the committee that the "opt-out option" provides a means for any core facility to drop out of the initiative, if waving indirect costs has a negative impact on their finances. Phil reported that revenue of

NU's NextGen Sequencing Core increased by \$300K in FY17, so he surmised that NU's continued use of UC's genomics core may simply reflect the growing use of genomics by NU researchers and the variety of genomic platforms available across our institutions. This is an example of the value of the OAI to our researchers as they can find the solution that matches their needs without concern over where that solution resides.

Committee members asked whether there might be other metrics besides revenue that would be useful to track across institutions? Suggestions included number of users (to identify heavy users), availability of unique facilities or services, and cooperation between facilities. Leadership will look into these metrics and assess whether to include them in subsequent years.

Phil raised the point that one reason other institutions in the Chicago area have not been invited to join the OAI is because there is not enough usage of their facilities to justify dropping the indirect cost. Core leadership at each institution will continue to monitor this activity to ensure that this rationale is justified. Should our researchers begin to use facilities at other regional institutions, then they will revisit this issue.

IV. Update on Joint Grants and Partnerships – the committee discussed how the OAI has facilitated our institutions to compete successfully for regional and national center grants.

**A. Regional Chicago CTSA Consortium** (since 2008) – although each institution has its own NIH-funded Clinical and Translational Sciences Award (CTSA), we are partners in this regional consortium to facilitate best practices and coordinate clinical trials across institutions - <https://nucats.northwestern.edu/about/ctsa-collaborations/regional-chicago-ctsa-consortium-rc3>

**B. Chicago Consortium for Community Engagement** (since 2010) – is another regional partnership among our three CTSA-funded institutions along with community stakeholders to enhance community engagement in research to improve population health and health equity throughout Chicago - <https://nucats.northwestern.edu/about/newsroom/2015/10/chicagoland-ctsas-collaborate-advance-translational-research>

**C. NSF National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure Grant** (2015-2019) – was awarded to NU and UC to provide nanofabrication and characterization services for researchers studying soft (biological) and hybrid (hard-soft) materials. IICAC members Dravid (NU) and Cleland (UC) are the PIs - <http://www.nuance.northwestern.edu/news-and-events/articles/2015/20150915-NSF-NNCI.html> Andrew provided an update and noted that the partnership is one of 16 nodes in a national network of facilities in nanotechnology.

**D. NIEHS Environmental Health Center Grant** (2017-2021) – was recently awarded to UIC and UC to study and ultimately reduce environmental health-related disparities among residents of Chicago. The gap between life expectancy of blacks and whites in Chicago remains one of the largest in the nation - <https://today.uic.edu/nih-taps-chicago-universities-for-center-on-environmental-health>

**E. National Cryo-EM Research Center Grant** (submitted June '17) – is a partnership among NU, UC, Purdue and Argonne National Lab to create a NIH-funded national cryo-EM center at

Argonne. UC hosted a national symposium of cryo-EM experts in March '17, and the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to 3 international researchers who pioneered this technique. Results of the NIH competition to support three national centers will be announced in December.

**F. Update on Big 10 Cancer Research Consortium Summit 2017** – the Cancer Centers at UIC and NU co-hosted the Summit meeting on October 21, 2017. Rich provided a handout and summary of the meeting that included exploration of the role of precision oncology and use of genomics data tailored to individual patients -<https://www.bigtenrc.org/summit/>

**G. Single-Cell Initiative** – Rich reported that UIC submitted a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) proposal to analyze T1 Diabetic samples from the TrialNet consortium. The proposal included consultants from NU (Aleppo), UC (Philipson) as well as UIC (Prabhakar, Unterman, Layden). Rich is the contact PI as this is a "service" grant, and the Co-Is are all Core Directors. CyTOF, 6- way sorting, RNA extraction, library preps, and sequencing are all proposed.

V. Animals – Rich noted that moving animals between institutions has improved in the past year. UIC researchers have used core facilities at NU and UC to create transgenic mice, and moving the animals back to UIC has not been a problem as long as the mice are non-infectious. UIC researchers also take advantage of *in vivo* imaging facilities at NU, and have been able to retain animals at NU for these purposes. UC and NU have a MOU that allows sharing of non-human primates as well. This enables researchers to take advantage of different technical capabilities at each university. George indicated agreed to organize a meeting of directors of animal facilities at the 3 universities to discuss how these transfers are working and whether there are issues that still need to be addressed.

VI. Update on Entrepreneurial Partnerships (involving our universities)

A. **Polsky Center at UC** - has announced that UC and UIUC have formed a partnership to develop and commercialize groundbreaking technology, driving the formation of startup companies and other links to industry

- <https://news.uchicago.edu/article/2017/10/19/uchicago-university-illinois-urbana-champaign-partner-major-innovation-initiative>

B. **Discovery Partners Institute** – is an interdisciplinary public-private research institute located in Chicago that is intended to galvanize economic growth and development in the state. It is a partnership between the State of Illinois, the University of Illinois System, and other academic partners (including UC and NU) to bring together faculty, students and companies to work side-by-side to develop solutions, promote entrepreneurship and empower inventors of the future.

VII. Social Event – Phil asked the committee whether they thought a social event for core administrators, faculty directors, operations directors and staff would be welcomed? The idea behind this would be to facilitate closer cooperation among our faculty and facilities. There was consensus that this was worth pursuing. Phil, Rich and George will organize the event around a Valentine's Day theme in February.