Drug and Device Discovery and Development (D4) Workgroup

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Drug and Device Discovery and Development Workgroup (D4)

- Who we are:
  - Faculty and staff at Clinical and Translation Science Centers, Industry Alliance offices, Technology Management offices at 5 campuses interested in accelerating academic translational research

- Core team
  - June Lee, MD – Chair, UCSF campus lead
  - Steven Cramer, MD – UCI campus lead
  - Robert Damoiseaux, PhD – UCLA campus lead
  - Michael Gilson, MD PhD – UCSD campus lead
  - Michael Rogawski, MD – UCD campus lead
  - Irina Gitlin, PhD – UCSF, program manager
D4 Objective and Goals

• Our objective
  – To leverage the combined strengths and resources to accelerate the early translation of academic discovery research into valuable therapies

• Our goals
  – To improve competitiveness of UC researchers for translational funding opportunities
  – To develop cross-campus collaborations for early translational projects
  – To facilitate access to translational resources and infrastructure on each campus
  – To share successful programs and services that support translational researchers
Why D4 within BRAID consortium?

- Total greater than the sum of the parts
  - World’s leading biomedical institutions
  - >$1.5B in combined NIH funding in 2012
  - >8,500 active inventions
  - Patient access: 5 UC Medical Centers serve ~12M people; rare diseases well-represented

- Technical expertise and excellent reputation in discovery research

- Complementary strengths in resources and infrastructure to make drug and device development more efficient

- Regional complementarity in industry partners
D4 History

• Established originally in 2010 by Dan Cooper (UCI)
  – Initial focus on resource cataloguing and resource sharing

• New directions starting April, 2013
  – In-person summit at UCI to bring together appropriate stakeholders on each campus
  – Formation of campus leads group
  – Expansion of D4 objectives beyond resource sharing
  – Brainstorm for new initiatives at the summit
  – Review of initiatives by BRAID EC, selection of high-value initiatives
Current Areas of Focus for D4

- These areas of focus are critical to accelerating drug and device development in the academic setting
  - Academic – Private partnerships
  - Training and Mentorship
  - Translational Resource Sharing
  - Collaborations and Grant Opportunities
Initiative #1: Academic-Private Partnerships

• Assessing the feasibility of creating Catalyst program-like resources
  – Catalyst award program (at UCSF) is characterized by extensive industry engagement in review and development of translational proposals
  – High level of interest from each campus in this type of program
  – Resource-intensive initiative (to establish and to manage)

• Impact
  – New and effective model of academic-private partnership at each UC BRAID campus
  – Unique resource/toolbox to take discovery through meaningful translation

• Next steps
  – Work closely with CAI efforts
  – Disseminate Catalyst processes to other UC campuses
Feasibility assessment of multi-campus collaborations with industry partners
- Complementary to ongoing BRAID initiative on clinical studies agreement
- Expect to increase industry engagement with multiple UC campuses at a time
- Provision of SPOC for engagement with UC BRAID D4 efforts
  - Simplify negotiation process

Impact
- Attractive to industry partners

Next Steps
- Survey potential industry partners to create potential framework for engagement
Initiative #3:
Translational resource sharing

• Develop a database of translational resources available on each campus for drug/device development
  – Emphasize unique resources. Examples include
  – Emphasize user-friendly interface, up-to-date information

• Impact:
  – Simplify access and increase utilization of drug/device development facilities across UC

• Next steps:
  – Currently working on online resource database across the 5 campuses
Future Initiatives:  

*Grants and Collaborations*

- **Form cross-campus disease biology teams with translational focus**
  - Each campus to lead one disease biology team
    - Team to include basic, pre-clinical and clinical researchers
- **Impact**
  - Seeding of cross-campus collaborations
  - Attractive to industry partners
  - Competitive for collaborative funding opportunities
- **Next steps:**
  - Identifying key focus areas with champions to lead building the DBTs
  - First opportunity to test this concept through CAI
Future Initiatives:  
*Grants and Collaborations*

- **Develop a process for responding to large translational funding opportunities**
  - Analyze the summary statement and the process of responding to U54 Center for Accelerated Innovation grant
  - Determine the process for future responses

- **Impact**
  - Rapid and smooth response to funding opportunities
  - Improved competitiveness for funding

- **Next steps:**
  - UC BRAID Exec committee to take on this initiative
  - D4 group to organize specifically to be ready for future translational grant opportunities.
D4: Challenges

• Funding!
  – D4 is not funded through current UCOP grant to BRAID
  – We are applying for UCOP Opportunity fund grants
  – Identifying additional opportunities
  – Modest request: 0.5-0.75 FTE for a PM

• Maintaining momentum while looking for support