

Drug and Device Discovery and Development (D4) Workgroup

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UC BRAID

University of California Biomedical Research
Acceleration, Integration & Development

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

Initiative #2:

Academic-Private Partnerships

- **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