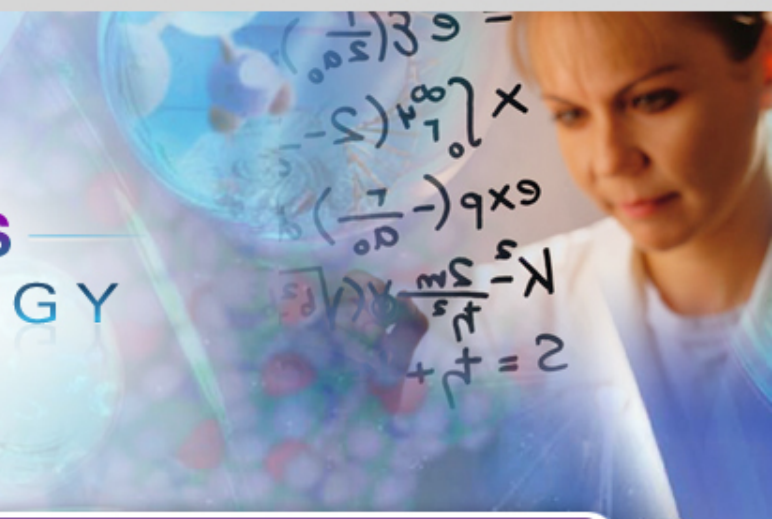
National Cancer Institute

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY



Status Report: Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OC) Program

Larry A. Nagahara

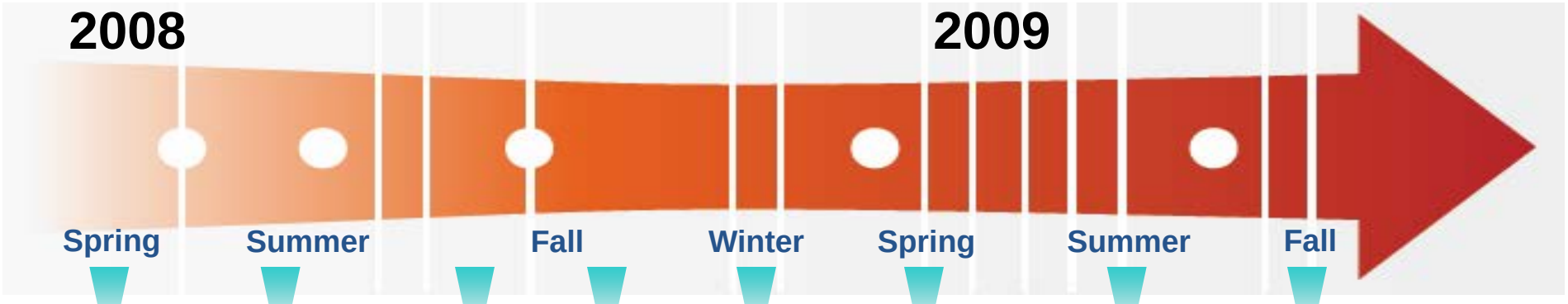
Board of Scientific Advisors, November 7, 2013

Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OC) Program: Premise

- Physical scientists have a history of contributing to cancer research (notably with advanced tools); however, they have faired less well in receiving grants where concepts from these disciplines are applied.
  - ***Advanced Tools: Proton Beam Therapy, MRI/PET/CT Imaging***
  - ***Concepts: Graph/Network Theory; Bayes' Theorem***
- Nascent concepts/ideas often take many years to establish and still more years to become "mainstream".
- Jerome Cornfield and team brought the concept of Bayesian methods, used more commonly by the information (encryption) community a decade earlier (1940's), to answer the following question:
  - **What's the probability that someone would develop lung cancer, given that he/she was/is a smoker?**
  - JNCI 1951, JNCI 1959, Surgeon General 1964

Bringing the Physics & "A Physicist" to (Cancer) Biology: PS-OC Timeline – Workshop to Award

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY



~300 extramural participants

NCI BSA → **RFA** → **Apps** → **Review** → **Award**

Invoking the physical sciences community

	PI	SI
1st NCI/NIH	5	2
1st NCI	3	1
NCI	4	9

Outcomes from Workshops

- Establish trans-disciplinary physical sciences-oncology centers
- Composed of integrated physical sciences-oncology teams
- Focus on theme(s) for center framework
- Centers led by physical scientist (PI) with senior co-investigator (SI) from oncology

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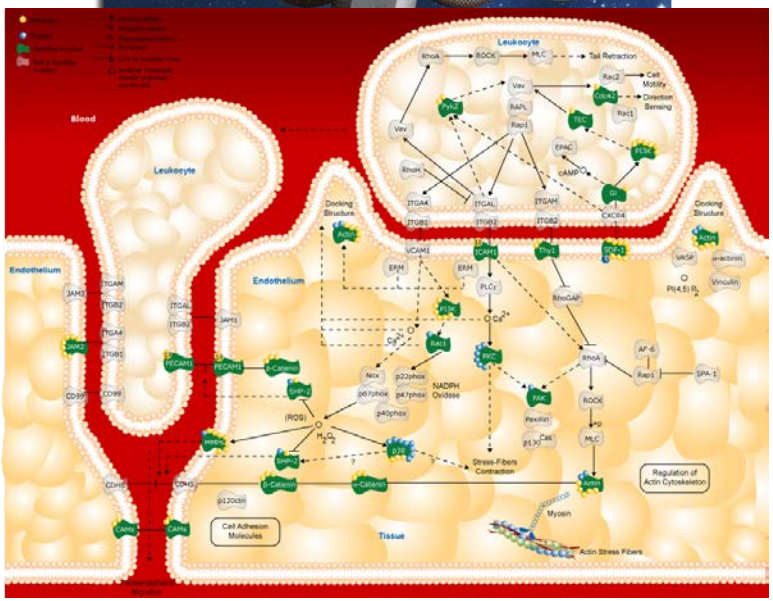
Merging “Perspectives”

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Physical Scientist

- How much energy is needed to do this?
- How much force does it take to cross this barrier?
- Are reactions rates altered during this process?
- How much time does it take?
- What are the spatial effects?



Cancer Biologist/Oncologist

- What cell, molecule, tissue is it?
- What changed?
- What’s up/down regulated?
- Do I see the same thing in several tumors?

Different ‘views’ of the same picture

Having both perspectives yields a more comprehensive (clearer) picture of what cancer is and how it functions at all levels – especially at the sub-molecular/atomic scales

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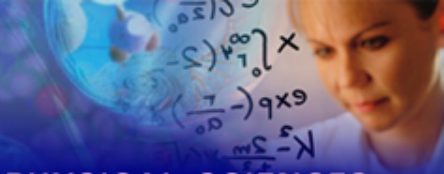
Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OC) Program: Premise

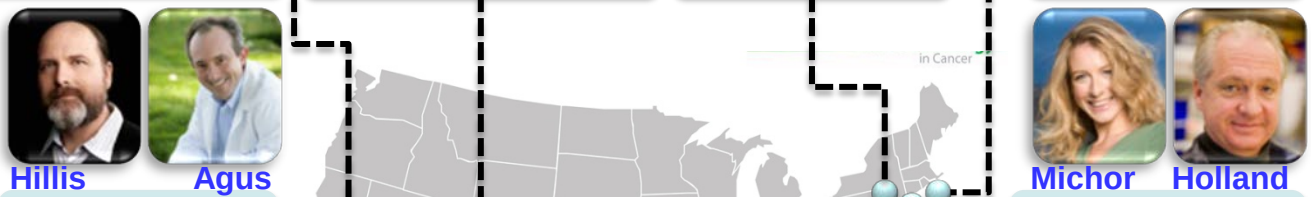


- Center/Network approach implemented for the PS-OC Program to **accelerate the adoption ("learning curve") of concepts and advanced tools from the physical sciences** that can be shared more readily with other investigators in the center/network and beyond.
- Increases cross-section for impact (*e.g.,* new insights) by **conjoining teams of physical scientists and cancer researchers** that are focused on relevant questions and systems in cancer.
- Training/career development is a key component for **generating early adopters** of these concepts/tools.
- **Investigator-initiated center pilots/trans-network pilots** to further accelerate adoption and enhance integration between the two fields.

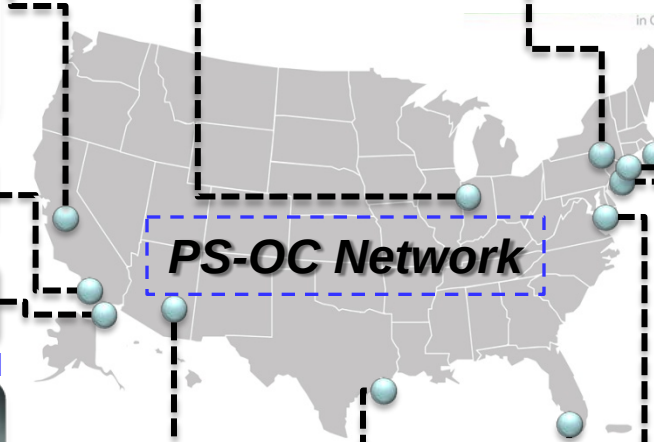
PS-OC Network (circa 2009): Physical scientists & cancer researchers integrated at the start

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

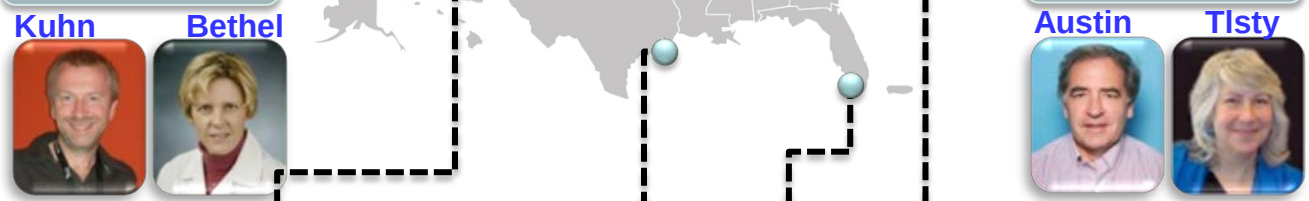
UC Berkeley | Northwestern | Cornell | MIT



USC | MSKCC



Scripps | Princeton



ASU | UTHSC | Moffitt | Johns Hopkins

PI + SI

12 "Virtual" Centers

Over 49 Institutions:
- 46 Domestic
- 3 Foreign

corresponding to:
- 350+ investigators, collaborators, & advisors
- 140+ trainees (post-docs, graduate, & undergraduate)

participating in the PS-OC Network

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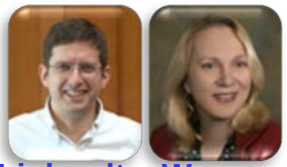
PS-OC Network (circa 2013): Physical scientists & cancer researchers integrated at the start

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY


Liphardt Weaver

Stanford


O'Halloran Licht

Northwestern


Shuler Hempstead

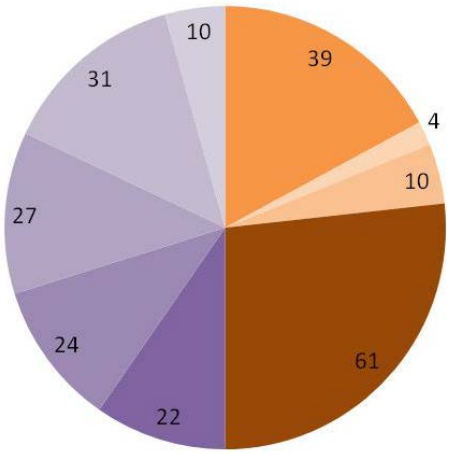
Cornell


Manalis Jacks

MIT


Hillis Agus

USC




Michor Holland

DFCI

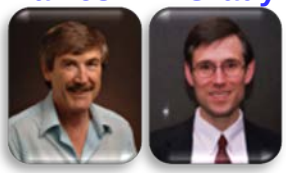
Scripps


Kuhn Bethel

Princeton


Austin Tlsty

ASU


Davies Grady

TMHRI


Ferrari Curley

Moffitt


Gatenby Gillies

Johns Hopkins


Wirtz Semenza

PI + SI

12 "Virtual" Centers

Over 110 Institutions:
- 83 Domestic
- 32 Foreign

corresponding to:
- 700+ investigators, collaborators, & advisors
- 550+ trainees (post-docs, graduate, & undergraduate)

participating in the PS-OC Network

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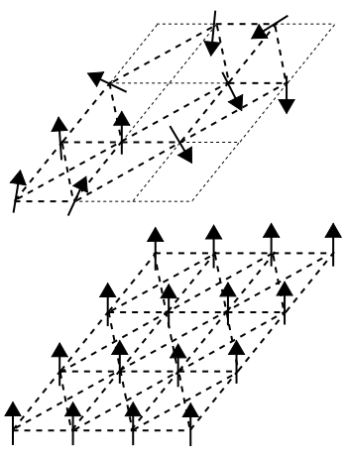
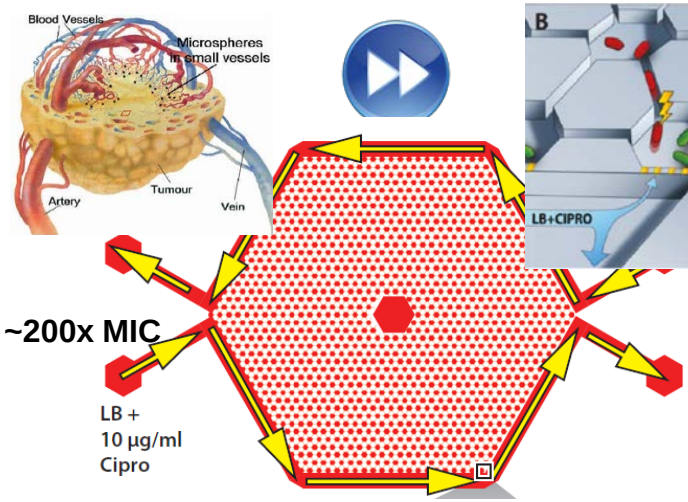
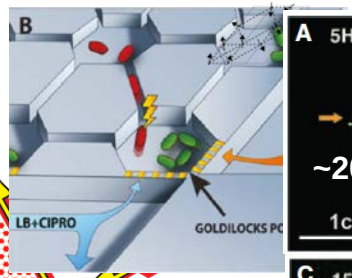
Scientific Advances from the PS-OC Program

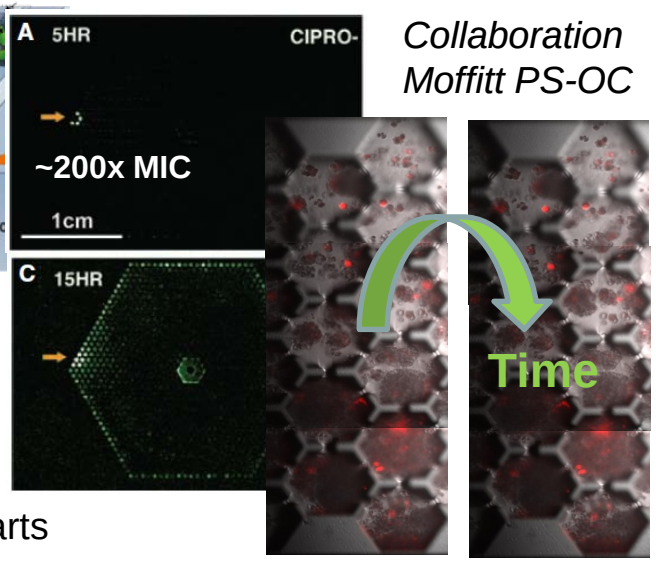
PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

What are the fundamental bases of rapid development of resistance?









Collaboration Moffitt PS-OC

Multiple Myeloma Cells

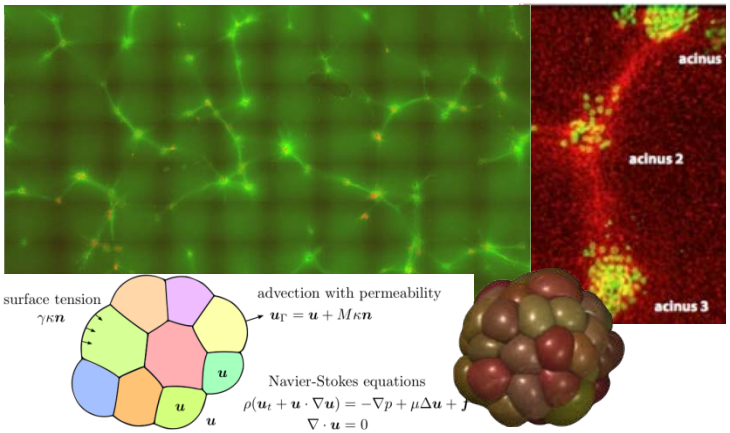
Spin glass model – long-range interactions amongst weakly interacting parts

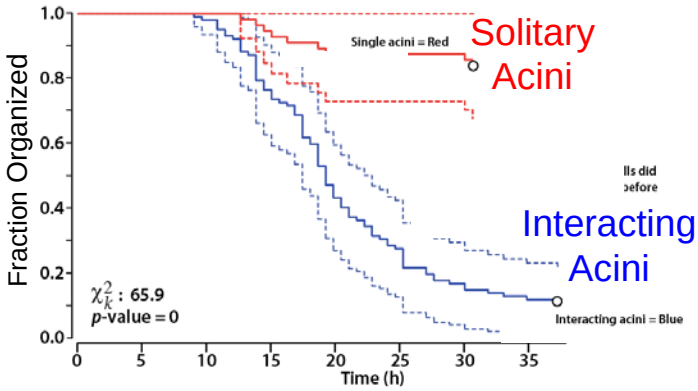
Princeton PS-OC (PI: Robert Austin, physicist)

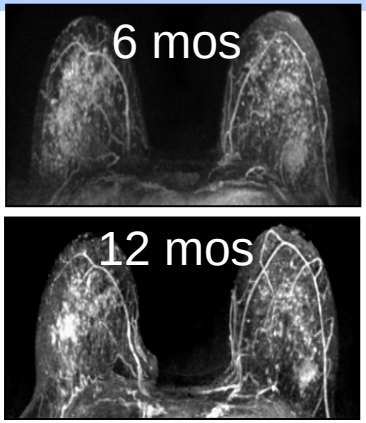
Scientific Advances from the PS-OC Program

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Why do distinct factors (genetic, anatomical, physical) strongly associate with increased risk/poor outcomes?







UC Berkeley PS-OC (PI: Jan Liphardt, physicist)

Pilot project: biophysical factor of 'silent' cancer in AA women.

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Collaborative and Scientific Output

PS-OC Program FY'09 – present:

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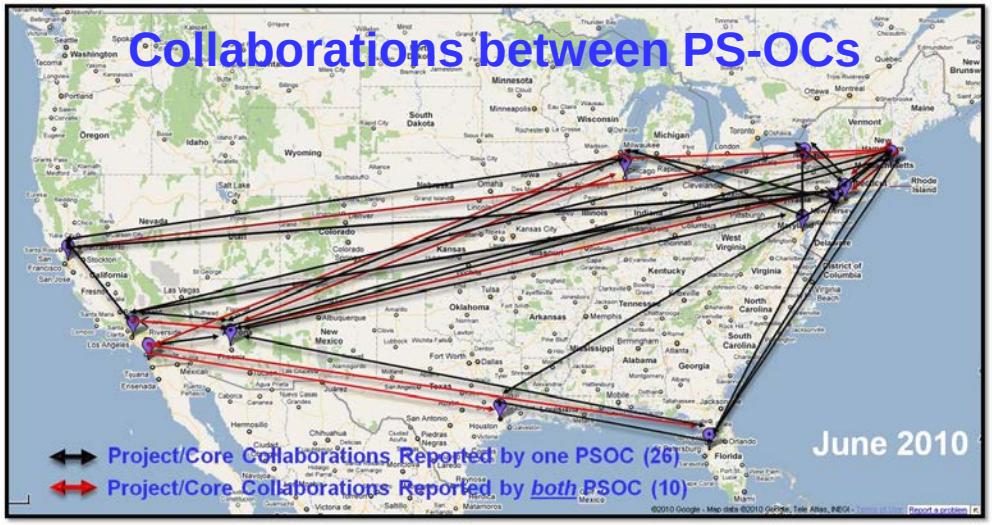
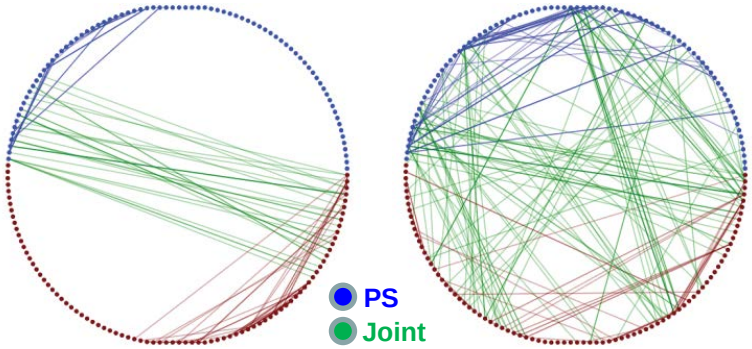
interdisciplinary iTRAQR
TEAM REPORTING, ANALYSIS, AND QUERY RESOURCE



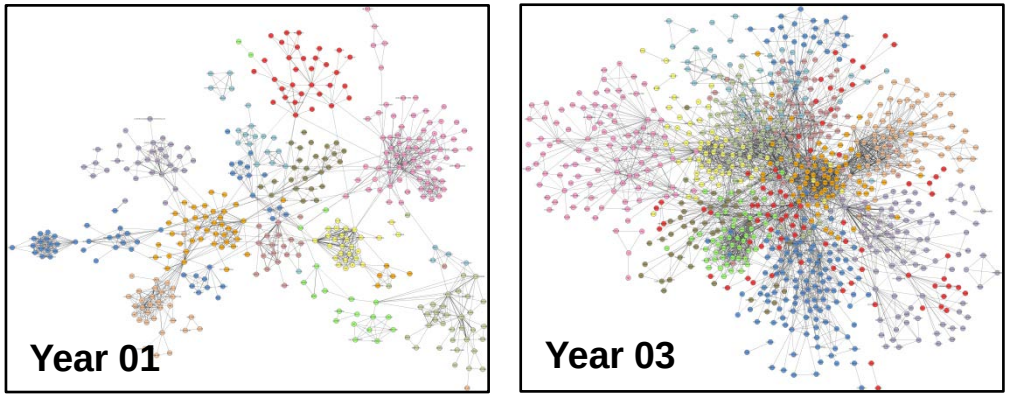
Increase in Transdisciplinary Authorship Compared to Pre-Award Years



Pre-Award 2006-2008

PS-OC Years 2010-2012

More Than 2-Fold Increase in Interactions* Resulting in a Further Integrated Network

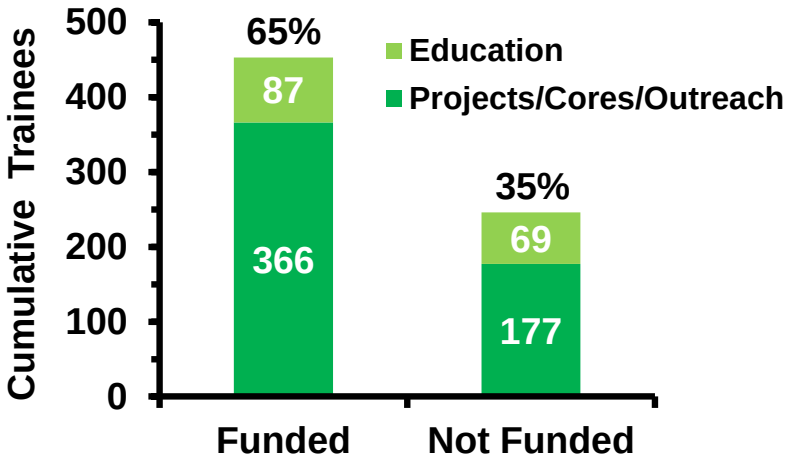


* Interactions (reported by investigators in progress report): joint publication, on-going collaboration (exchange material, students, etc.)

Training & Pilot Projects Output

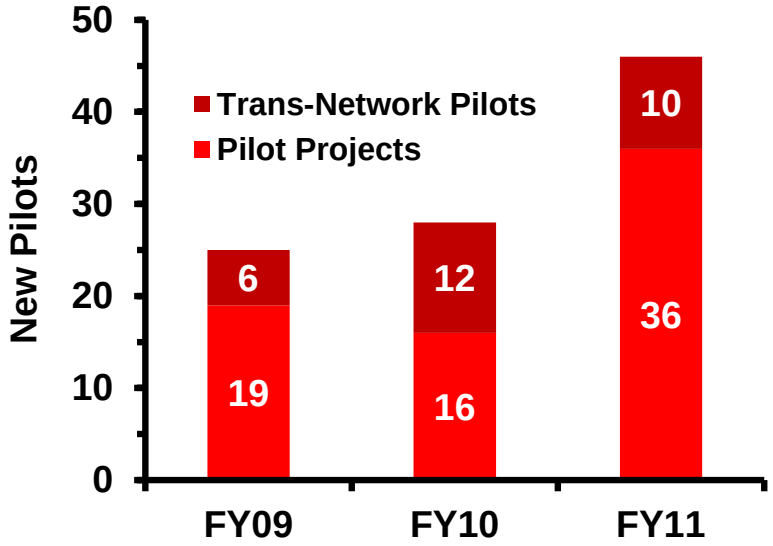
Various Components Provide Flexibility to Investigators

Network Supported ~ 450 Trainees and a Range of Training Opportunities



- Training is a key component for **generating early adopters** of these concepts.

Network Added ~100 Exploratory Studies



- **Investigator-initiated center pilots/trans-network pilots** to accelerate adoption and enhance integration between the two fields

Physical Scientist & Cancer Biologist

- **"helped many physicists make the transition to biology"**
- **They encouraged other investigators in the field to concentrate on seven bacteriophages ... That way, experimental results from different laboratories could be compared.**

calteches.library.caltech.edu/584/02/
Ann. Rev. Genet 1982. 16:501-05

Collective Insights of Physical Science Parameters: "Living Project"

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS | 3 : 1449 | DOI: 10.1038/srep01449

A physical sciences network characterization of non-tumorigenic and metastatic cells

The Physical Sciences - Oncology Centers Network*

- First large-scale, comprehensive, biophysical examination of identical cells
  - 17 Institutions
  - 20 Labs
  - 24 Techniques/approaches
- Combined analysis through Data Jamboree

- Continued as a "Living Project" through repository and database
- Raw data (published/ unpublished) for additional analysis
- Request for additional characterization (data upload required post-publication)

PS-OC Network Bioresource Core Facility

PS-OC → DCC

http://opso.cancer.gov/data/

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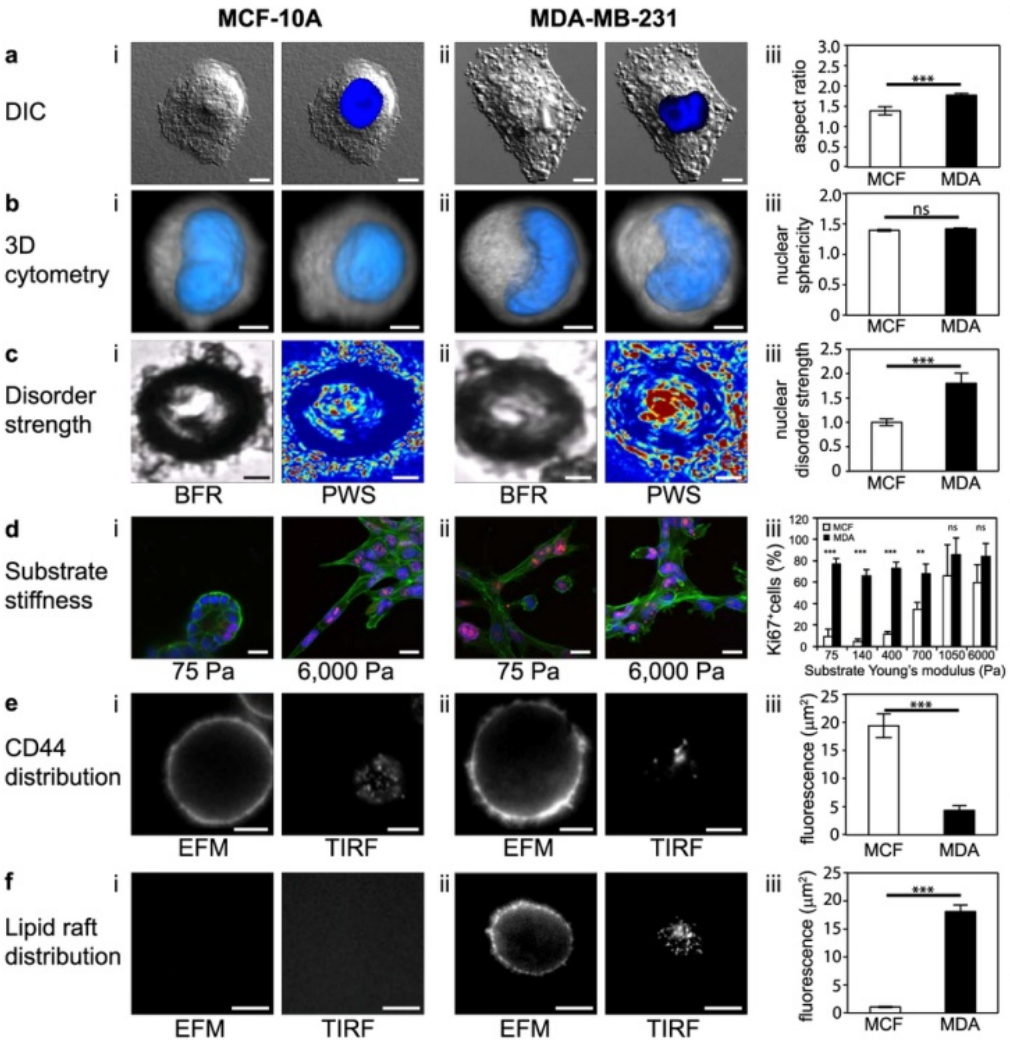
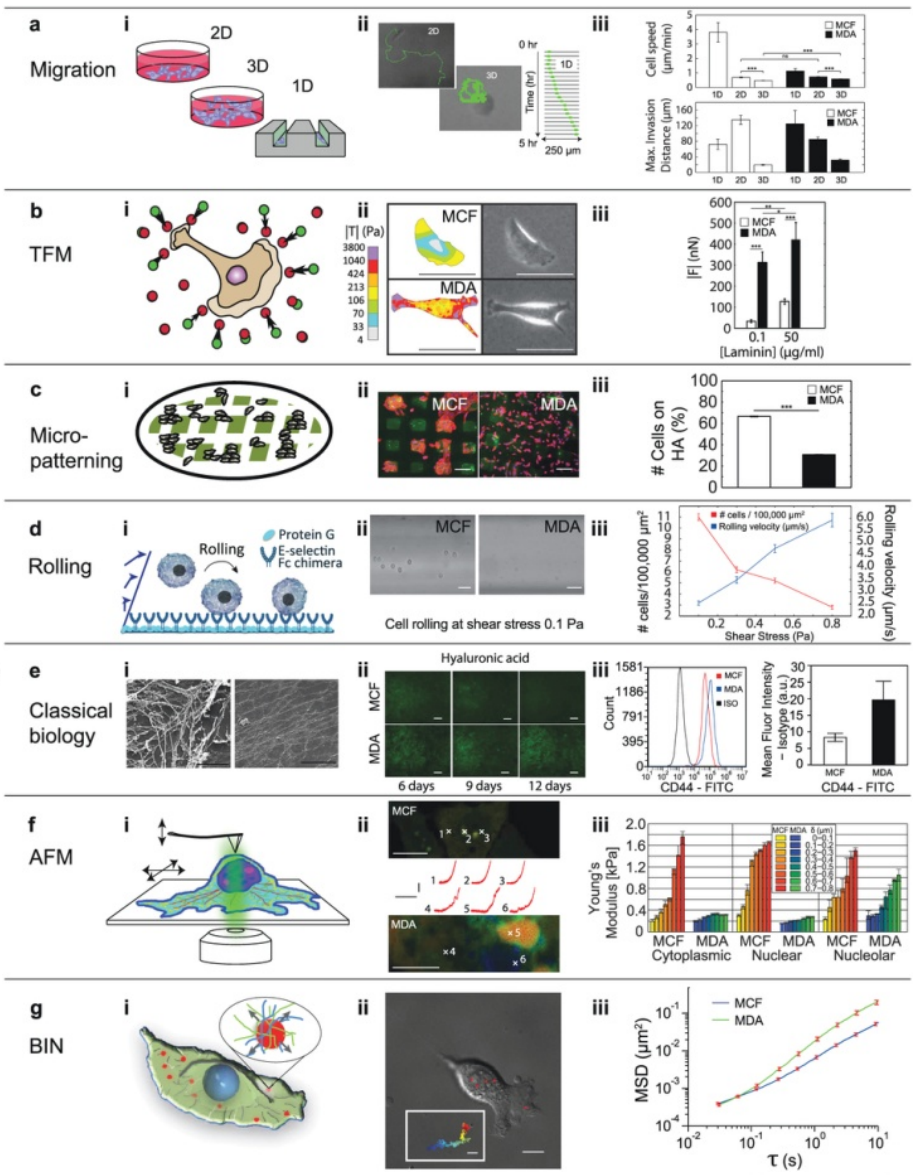
Collective Insights of Physical Science Parameters: "Living Project"

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY





APHELION – A Study by the World Technology Evaluation Center (WTEC)

- **APHELION**: Assessment of Physical Sciences and Engineering Advances in Life Sciences and Oncology
- **Goal**: To determine the status and trends of research and development whereby physical sciences and engineering principles are being applied to cancer research, oncology, and other biomedical research areas in leading laboratories and organizations via an on-site peer review process in Europe and Asia.

http://www.wtec.org/aphelion

APHELION - Distinguished Panelists and Advisors

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Expert panel

- Chair: Paul Janmey, UPenn
- Dan Fletcher, UCB
- Sharon Gerecht, JHU
- Parag Mallick, Stanford
- Owen McCarty, OHSU
- Lance Munn, Harvard
- Cindy Reinhart-King, Cornell

Advisors

- Tito Fojo, NCI
- Denis Wirtz, JHU


Paul

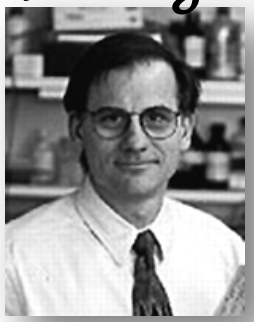

Dan


Sharon


Parag


Owen


Lance


Cindy


Denis

APHELION

http://www.wtec.org/aphelion

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APHELION Europe Sites (25) Visited

http://wtec.org/aphelion/index.php

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

FRANCE
- Institute Curie, Paris
- University of Paris Diderot

GERMANY
- Dresden Technical University
- Gottingen University
- Max Planck Institute (Dresden, Gottingen)
- Technical University of Munich
- University of Heidelberg
- University of Leipzig
- University of Rostock

ISRAEL
- Technion University
- Weizmann Institute

ITALY
- European Institute of Oncology
- University of Milan
- University of Padua

SWEDEN
- The Karolinksa Institute
- The Royal Institute of Technology
- Uppsala University

The NETHERLANDS
- Hubrecht Institute, Utrecht
- Radboud University Nijmegen
- The University of Leiden

SPAIN
- University of Barcelona
- University of Basque Country

SWITZERLAND
- Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne (EPFL)
- University of Basel

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APHELION Asia Sites (20) Visited

http://wtec.org/aphelion/index.php

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

CHINA

- East China University of Science and Technology
- Beijing Tumor Hospital
- Beijing University Medical Center
- Center for Theoretical Biology, Peking University
- Department of Biomedical Engineering, Peking University
- Institute of Physics, CAS

HONG KONG

- Centre for Cancer Research, University of Hong Kong
- Center for Quantitative Systems, Hong Kong Baptist University
- Institute for Computational and Theoretical Studies

JAPAN

- Center for Developmental Biology, RIKEN
- Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University
- Immunology Frontier Research Center, Osaka University
- Laboratory for Cellular Systems Modeling, RIKEN Yokohama
- Laboratory of Bioimaging and Cell Signaling, Kyoto University

SINGAPORE

- Cancer Science Institute, NUS
- Centre for BioImaging Sciences, NUS
- Institute of Molecular Biology, A*Star
- Mechanobiology Institute, NUS
- Nanyang Technological University

TAIWAN

- Institute of Biological Chemistry, Academia Sinica

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NCI-OPSO/NSF-ENG & MPS Joint Collaborations:

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Physical and LIfe Sciences Early Research (PLIER) Awards

Physical and Engineering Sciences in Oncology (PESO)

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
NSF 12-514

National Science Foundation

Directorate for Engineering (ENG)
- Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation
- Division of Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems
- Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems

Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)
- Division of Materials Research

National Cancer Institute

	Leverage Funding	Total Funds
2011: 6 Awards	~3:1	$2.6 M
2012: 6 Awards	>3:1	$3.2 M

NSF-MPS Workshops

November 1-2 2010	November 13-14 2012	November 5-6 2013
Physics of Cancer Metastasis	Theoretical Foundations of Drug and Immune Resistance in Cancer	Physical Principles of Human Cancer Imaging

Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OC) Program PAR Request

FY09 ★**FY14** **FY16**

Pre-Award | RFA-CA09-009 | **PS-OC Network PAR** | Future

OPSO staff discussions with:

- Other PAR programs w/ network
  - NIOSH Agriculture Disease Centers (U54) – PO: Allen Robinson
  - Quantitative Imaging Network (QIN: U01) – PO: Larry Clarke/Robert Nordstrom
  - Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE: P50) – PO: Toby Hecht
- Program Evaluations
- PS-OC Implementation Team

Issuances of PS-OC Program (PAR)

- **2 Themes (suggested):**
  - **The Physical Dynamics of Cancer**
  - **Spatial Organization and Cancer**
- **Competition under Type 1**
- **U54 mechanism up to $1.5M (DC)/year – center (5 years max.)**
  - **2-3 Projects/Center**
  - **Education/Training Unit**
  - **Pilot/Trans-Network Projects**
- **Two receipt dates per year for 3 years, except FY'14 having only one receipt date**

PS-OC PAR Suggested Thematic Areas

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

Based on:

1) **Inputs from scientific workshops (75% external to PS-OC Program);**
2) **Scientific advances from program;**
3) **Portfolio analysis of NCI portfolio;**
4) **NCI program leaders**

The Physical Dynamics of Cancer

- ***Overview:*** ***Physical properties such as bioelectric signals, transport phenomena, mechanical cues, and thermal fluctuations*** may regulate (+/-) the initiation and progression of cancer.
- ***Relevant Physical Science Approaches:*** Precision measurements on single-cells and bulk samples, high-dimensional analysis, computational physics

Spatio-Temporal Organization and Information Transfer in Cancer

- ***Overview:*** ***Organization of structures across all length scales (e.g., subcellular, cell, tissue, organ) and time scales*** is required for maintaining the transfer of information that is critical for controlled growth.
- ***Relevant Physical Science Approaches:*** Advanced imaging and measurements, tissue mimetic and engineering, computational physics

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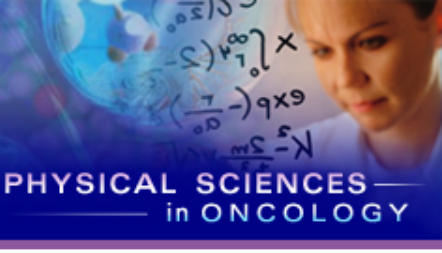
PS-OC PAR Implementation Team



NCI DOC Members

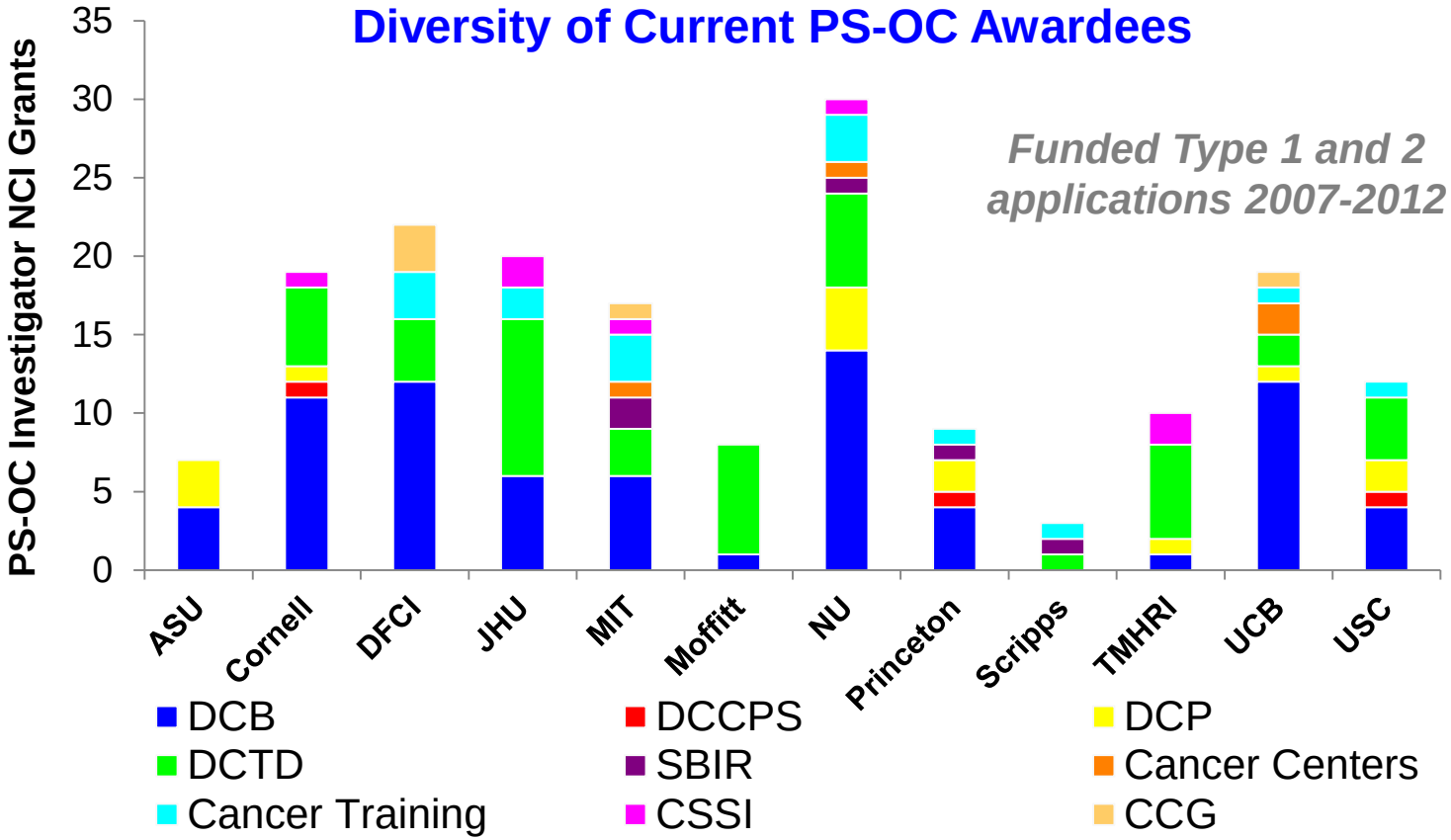
- CCT: Jonathan Wiest
- CRCHD: Alison Lin
- DCB: Dan Gallahan
- DCCPS: Mukesh Verma
- DCP: Nada Vydelingum
- DCTD: John (Kim) Jessup
- OPSO: Sean Hanlon

Extensive role of the Implementation Team:

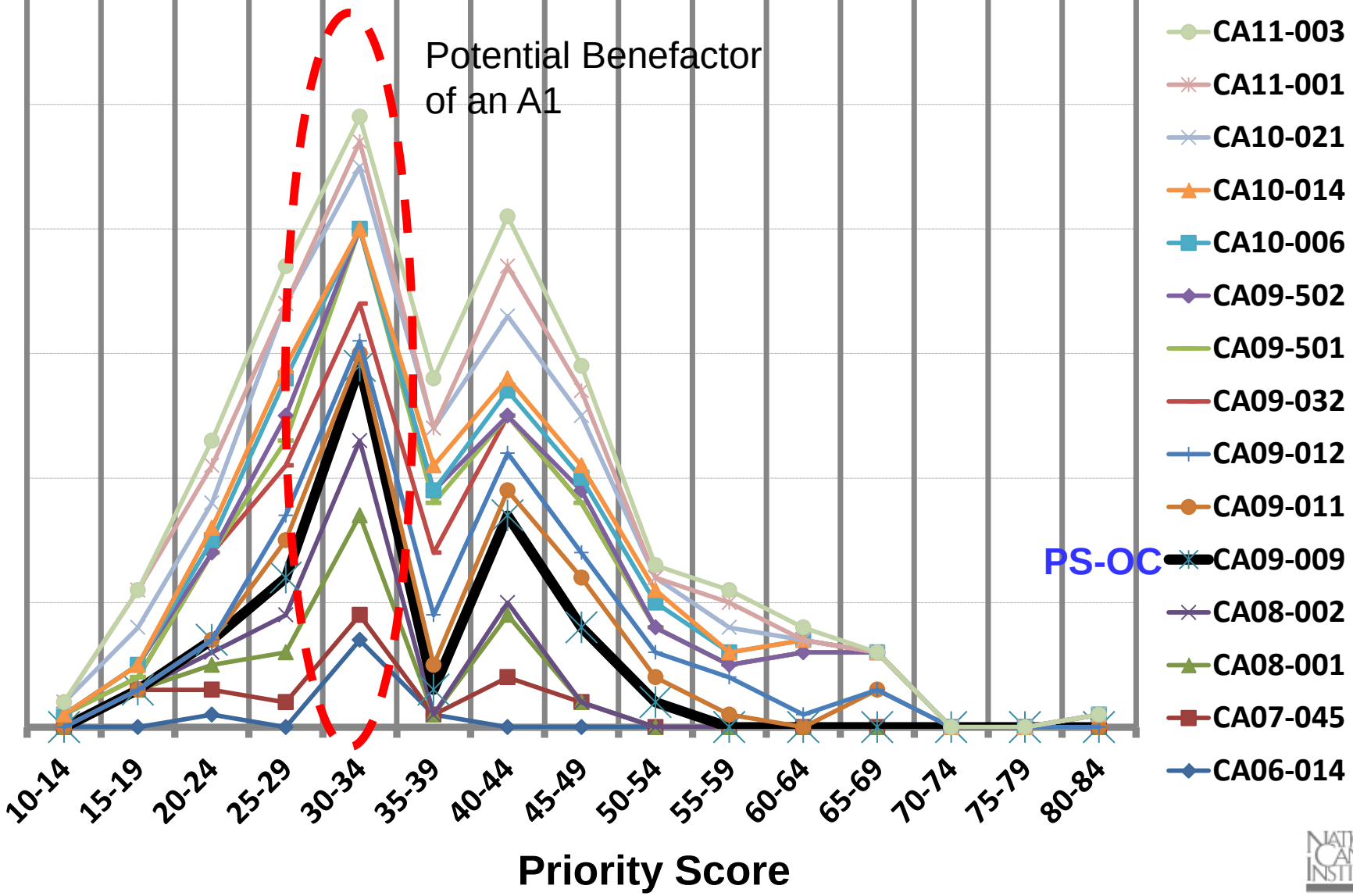
- **Provide programmatic suggestions and insights in preparing the PAR**
- **Assist in pre-application, application, post-review, and pre-award activities;**
- **Communicate and gather PS-OC-relevant information to your DOC's program staff in a timely fashion, as appropriate;**
- **Identification of a suitable DOC program official (PO) and/or project scientist (PS).**

Diversification of Potential Applicants

- Letter on Intent (LOI) to be due 6-8 weeks before application is due
- In case a DOC would like to hold the grant, ample time is allotted to obtain DOC approval with their respective director.



Bimodal Distribution: U54 Mechanisms



Proposed PS-OC PAR Program FY'14-FY'16:

Organization and Process

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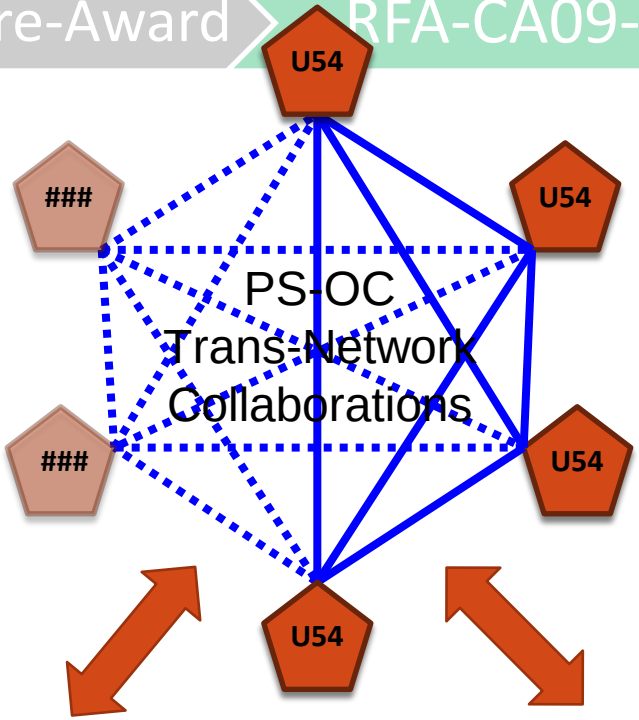
FY09 ★**FY14** **FY16**

Pre-Award | RFA-CA09-009 | **PS-OC Network PAR** | Future



NCI Staff

CCT CRCHD DCB

DCCPS DCP DCTD

OPSO … (project scientists)

Scientific Focus Group

Outstanding (physician)scientists to help advise/guide the program.

Issuances of PS-OC Program (PAR)

- 2 Themes (suggested):
  - The Physical Dynamics of Cancer
  - Spatial Organization and Cancer
- Competition under Type 1
- U54 mechanism up to $1.5M (DC)/year – center (5 years max.)
  - 2-3 Projects/Center
  - Education/Training Unit
  - Pilot/Trans-Network Projects
- Two receipt dates per year for 3 years, except FY'14 having only one receipt date

"Bring the physics, not just the physicist, to biology"…oncology

A Piece of the Puzzle…

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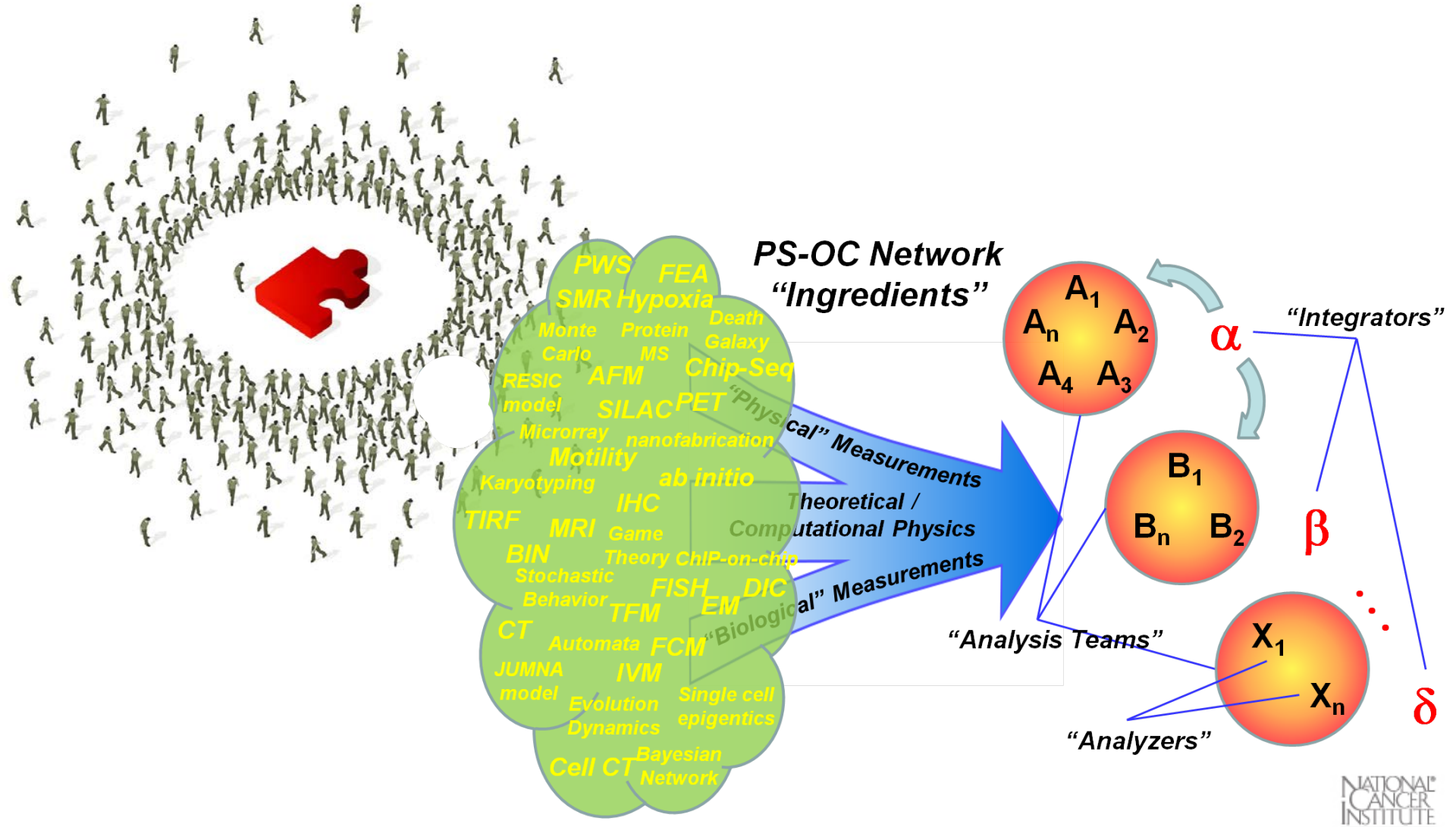

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OPSO Team

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Mariam Eljanne, PhD
Project Manager

Michael G. Espey, PhD
Project Manager

Jonathan Franca-Koh, PhD
Project Manager

Sean E. Hanlon, PhD
Project Manager

Nastaran Z. Kuhn, PhD
Project Manager

Nicole M. Moore, ScD
Project Manager

Teresa K. Schuessler, MS
Health Communications Fellow

Katrina I. Theisz, MS
Operations Coordinator

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Thanks!
Questions?

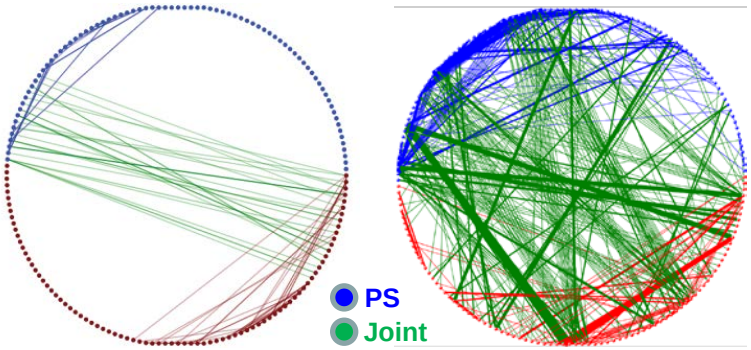
Backup Slides

Collaborative and Scientific Output

PS-OC Program FY'09 – present:

PHYSICAL SCIENCES in ONCOLOGY

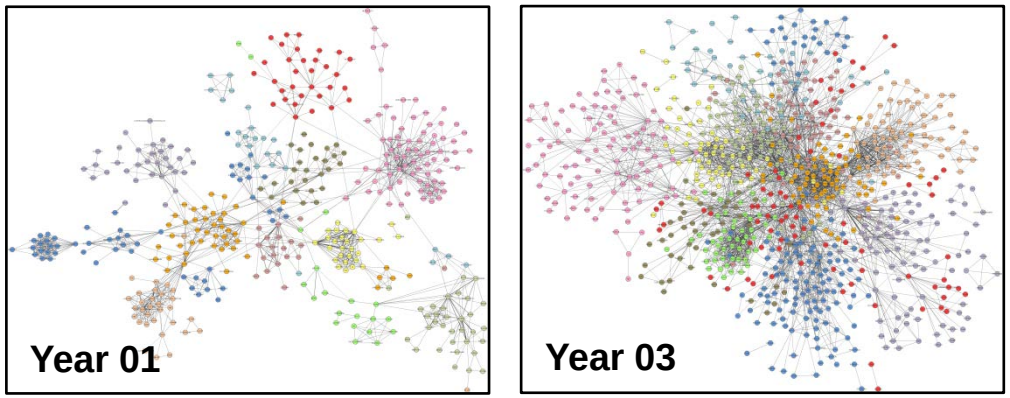
Increase in Transdisciplinary Authorship Compared to Pre-Award Years



Pre-Award
2006-2008

PS-OC Years
2010-2012

More Than 2-Fold Increase in Interactions* Resulting in a Further Integrated Network



*** Interactions (reported by investigators in progress report): joint publication, on-going collaboration (exchange material, students, etc.)**

- ***Advanced Tools:** Xiaolin Nan & Frank McCormick (UCB PS-OC): Super resolution imaging reveals dimerization-dependent Ras/Raf signaling – PNAS (2013) (doi:10.1073/pnas.1318188110)*
- ***Concepts:** Alexander van Oudenaarden, Hans Clevers, & Tyler Jacks (MIT PS-OC): Apply the concept of control theory and statistical physics to predict optimality in intestinal crypt development – Cell 148, 608 (2012)*

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