# SUMMARY OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING NHGRI RESEARCH TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WITH MAP GRANTEES SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2006

#### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Prepared for the NHGRI MAP Advisors

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## SUMMARY OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING NHGRI RESEARCH TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WITH MAP GRANTEES 25-26 SEPTEMBER, 2006

#### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Invitees to the meeting included all NHGRI grantees that were required to have a Minority Action Plan (MAP) as part of their research programs (Centers of Excellence in Genomic Sciences, production sequencing laboratories, databases), the program directors of our institutional training grants, and members of the NHGRI Research Training Advisors Committee. The purpose of the meeting was several-fold: (1) to provide information about the programs to Advisors who have a responsibility to advise the NHGRI on its research training activities; (2) to share program development, implementation and evaluation information among grantees; (3) to identify areas of programmatic concern and to discuss possible solutions; and (4) to discuss issues, concerns, and other topics suggested by the participants, the Advisors or the NHGRI staff. The agenda and the list of participants are included in the appendices. The format of the meeting included seven or ten minute presentations followed by three or five minute discussions, respectively.

The Advisors were overall optimistic that the grantees had taken ownership of their training activities based on the progress reports. As the activities are beginning to mature, the need for program evaluations, both of individual activities and the overall MAP program should be made a priority. Several of the individual programs have implemented evaluations and the NHGRI has applied for NIH evaluation funds, but the status of this request is still pending.

The presentation by Dr. Clif Poodry, Director of the Division of Minority Opportunities in Research, NIGMS, engaged participants by the provocative proposition that summer undergraduate research internships as they have been traditionally conducted are not solving the problem of attracting minorities into science careers and described strategies for recruiting students into their programs. This topics engendered a strongly and candidly engaged conversation with PIs that yielded some substantitive messages:

- The need to evaluate programs more quantitatively than just qualitatively and what such an evaluation should focus on, specifically: (1) What are the program's objectives? (2) What are appropriate baseline data from which to determine progress toward achieving the objectives? (3) What can be done to identify initiatives that will best achieve the desired (needed) change? (4) What are the products of the changes needed to achieve the outcome (objective).
- Additional strategies for recruiting under-represented minorities (URMs). A few salient points
  were: (1) the importance of scientists at conferences visiting student posters and engaging
  students about their research projects, rather than waiting for them to come to your booth; (2)the
  need to extend recruitment to include majority institutions that graduate significant numbers of
  underrepresented students, such as the University of California Berkeley, Massachusetts Institute
  of Technology, University of Texas at Austin, UCLA, etc.
- Refine strategies for increasing the number of URM going into science, e.g.: (1) piquing student interest in the relevance and rewards of science careers; (2), providing academic enhancements activities, such as tutoring, additional academic courses, etc; (3) sustaining (ongoing) academic and mentoring support throughout the higher education process; and (4) developing non-academic personal and professional skills.
- The role of mentors covering topics like encouraging students, giving students good advice about how to get into top notch graduate schools, informing students what they need to focus on academically and most importantly, encouraging all faculty to participate in student activities.

A summation of the overall meeting can be captured in the observations and action items listed below (in no particular order).

- Mentoring of Training Coordinators. As new training coordinators are hired, it will be important for them to quickly get up to speed with their MAP program and its requirements and goals. The Advisors reiterated the need to have as training coordinators individuals with doctoral level degrees and experience in setting up and running laboratories and perhaps grant writing. This is especially critical as the MAP program moves toward providing research and education experiences for those at the undergraduate level and above. The Advisors discussed how best to do this and realized that such a training session should also include the principal investigators. Thus, no decision was made about developing a training session for coordinators. However, it was strongly recommended that new training coordinators: (1) familiarize themselves with and adhere to their institution's approved MAP plan; (2) visit programs that have experienced training coordinators and sound evaluation plans; and (3) contact NHGRI staff or individual Advisors for assistance and information about the MAP program and its goals.
- Transitions. Transitions between higher education degree stages and even between experiential programs represent the weakest link in most of the MAP training programs. There are several areas that need attention: (1) PIs should be encouraged assist students in making the transitions to the next step by helping them to find additional training and educational opportunities. (2) PIs should actively ensure that students move to the next phase by contacting potential mentors in other programs and providing assistance with the application process, etc. (3) Students pursuing graduate studies should be encouraged to apply for the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-481.html); or participate in NHGRI-supported institutional training grants. (4) Undergraduate, graduate students and faculty should be encouraged to participate in research through the Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/quide/pa-files/PA-05-015.html). (5) Post doctoral fellows/trainees should be encouraged to apply for the NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award (K99/R00) (http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-133.html)), (6) URM faculty members participating in MAP activities should be encouraged to apply for R01 grants and where appropriate should include on their grant application mentors who may be helpful in getting URM's faculty's research program started.
- Broader Training Mission for Institutional Training Programs. In addition to providing outstanding academic and research experiences for trainees, training grants should integrate into their programs broad professional and survival skills needed for advancement to and success at independent research. Example skills include how to build a community of scholars/collaborators, how to be effective communicators and teachers, how to manage time effectively, how to negotiate, how to mentor, how to deal with and effect change, how to be an innovator, etc. Such programs exist and the PIs and their coordinators should identify these programs, utilize to the greatest extent possible the information before developing their own de novo. Members of the Advisory Committee would be a good source for getting such programs started and developing evaluations for their effectiveness. As an example, Baylor College of Medicine has a series of skills workshops for graduate students. Please visit this website for additional information: http://www.bcm.edu/gradschool/?pmid=3210. Dr. Gayle Slaughter, one of our Advisors, has a PowerPoint presentation that she is willing to provide to interested MAP grantees. Individuals interested in receiving copies of this presentation should be sent to Dr. Slaughter at: gayles@bcm.tmc.edu. Dr. Skip Bollenbacher has developed similar initiatives at UNC Chapel Hill for post-graduate training. Both have developed PowerPoint presentations that they would gladly provide to interested MAP grantees. Individuals interested in receiving copies of this presentation should be sent to Dr. Slaughter at gayles@bcm.tmc.edu or Dr. Bollenbacher at skipbollenbacher@mac.com. In addition, the following Advisors have offered to provide advice based on their experiences: Dr. Bronya Keats (bkeats@lsuhsc.edu); Dr. Kim Nickerson (knickerson@bsos.umd.edu) and Dr. Merna Villarejo (bkeats@lsuhsc.edu).

- Outcomes. This is a key next step for all of the MAP grantees. With the implementation of activities it is time to focus these activities upon achieving the targeted tangible, quantitative outcomes established by the NHGRI. Outcomes assessment will focus on specific student accomplishments inclusive of publications, the quality of the journals publications are appearing in, presentations at conferences, writing and winning of grants, academic performance, time of progression to next academic level, academic positions attained, and research grants awarded. Meaningful outcomes can be determined only by establishing an accurate baseline from which to make comparisons over time and by identifying as meaningfully as possible a "control" population. An outcomes-driven assessment must include formative evaluation as well to provide a complete picture of program design, implementation, and accomplishments. The NHGRI will look into what role it can play in facilitating this more quantitative and efficient approach to assessment because many of the outcomes are the same for MAP programs.
- Develop Collaborations Between and Among MAP Centers: As with the value of research collaborations, collaborations between and amongst MAP programs to achieve the NHGRI's diversity goals are a key next evolutionary step of MAP. In this light, grantees are encouraged to have discussions amongst themselves especially in sharing information about opportunities available through their centers and students they have trained and are ready for a next step toward a career in genomics research. This collaborative network will serve as another way to facilitate the students' transitions. To begin, MAP programs should keep the most current information about their programs updated on the NHGRI MAP Portal (<a href="http://www.genome.gov/14514219">http://www.genome.gov/14514219</a>). Earlier, NHGRI developed a ListServ as a means for MAP grantees to share information. Information about how to subscribe to the ListServ will be sent to all PIs and training coordinators. While these resources can help with achieving meaningful collaborations for student advancement, the NHGRI acknowledges from the meeting that additional activities and strategies can enrich and enhance grantee success. The NHGRI will look into ways it can further enhance collaborations in ways that will directly impact on the quantitative outcomes to be assessed.
- Need to Increase the Number of URM Faculty in Majority Institutions. An issue related to transitions as well as to increasing the number of URM pursuing science is to increase the number of URM faculty members in biomedical departments. Institutions may want to pursue a strategy of hiring former graduate students and postdoctoral fellows after spending several years pursuing research in other academic institutions. Although there are many factors that affect faculty appointments that are beyond the control of this initiative, producing more high quality URM candidates and a better assessment of trainee development for refining and modifying initiatives are critical to achieving this goal.
- Attendance of PIs at the MAP meeting. The Advisors feel strongly that success of the MAP depends upon participation of the PIs or Co-PIs at these meetings. The Advisors expressed concern that in some cases, the PIs had abrogated their responsibilities and left the running of the MAP activities entirely to the training coordinators. The Advisors felt that the PIs/Co-PIs must be actively engaged in these activities if the MAP program is to be successful.
- Format of Future Meetings. The Advisors thought that the MAP activities had progressed to a point where a format change would yield more productive outcomes. Current ideas include: (1) shorten the annual progress report by all Pls, having it focus on specific qualitative and quantitative data that will inform the Advisors and NHGRI of program accomplishments; (2) have half the PI present at the annual meeting every other year, with presentations focusing on innovations, changes, challenges, and what programs will do next; (3) have one or two breakout and discussion sessions on topical issues suggested by PIs will allow participants to share information, problem solve as a group, and increase the amount of time attendees have to interact with each other and the Advisors; (4) have a web-based system to report outcomes that could be used for analyses of MAP activities; and (5) invite, as appropriate, speakers who can bring added value to the issues of interest to the group.

- Literature Citations. During the meeting, Dr. Vanessa Gamble, one of the Advisors, provided the following references as a resource for Pls and training coordinators: (1) Kevin Grumbach, et.al, Strategies for Improving the Diversity of the Health Professions, August 2003 (http://www.calendow.org); (2) Lessons Learned from the Health Profession Partnership Initiative, 1995-2005, Supplement to Academic Medicine, June 2006 which includes several articles analyzing, reviewing, and evaluating K-12 programs to increase diversity in the health professions; and (4) Barlow, A.E. and Villarejo, M., Making a Difference for Minorities: Evaluation of an Educational Enrichment Program. J. Res Sci Teach 41: 861-881, 2004.
- Training Challenge. In recruiting trainees to the program, PIs will have to consider that science requires the highest level of skills so it is important that participants' interests be matched with their capabilities; if there is a gap, the programs must develop strategies to close it, such as tutoring, mentoring, etc.

#### **NHGRI ACTION ITEMS**

- Provide feed-back to all participants
- Have Director, NHGRI send a letter to all grantees commending them on progress, urging PIs to attend meetings, and discussing the need for improved assessments of program activities
- Remind Pls to update MAP Portal
- Reactivate the MAP ListServ
- Develop model evaluation instruments for the various activities
- Explore the design of an outcomes plan that will meet the goals and needs of the MAP program (NHGRI and grantees) that can be used to assess progress and to recommend refinements as needed for success
- Work with the Advisors to streamline the progress review form and a web-site to assess annual outcomes.
- Develop a method to count all URM in training even if not supported by training program. If appropriate, they should be encouraged to take advantage of the academic enhancement activities of the training programs.
- Set up a feed-back meeting between the Advisors and NHGRI Director.

#### MAP GRANTEE ACTION ITEMS

- Update NHGRI MAP Portal (<a href="http://www.genome.gov/14514219">http://www.genome.gov/14514219</a>). Send update information to <a href="mailto:bettie\_graham@nih.gov">bettie\_graham@nih.gov</a> December 1, 2006.
- Network with other MAP grantees to share information about programs and students looking for opportunities.
- Share information about evaluation instruments.



#### **National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)**

National Institutes of Health Department of Health and Human Services

## Fourth Annual NHGRI Research Training Advisory Committee Meeting With the Minority Action Plan (MAP) Grantees

September 25-26, 2006

Los Angeles Athletic Club Los Angeles, California

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#### DRAFT

# FOUTH ANNUAL MEETING NHGRI RESEARCH TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WITH MAP GRANTEES 1:00 PM 25 SEPTEMBER 2006 to 1:00 PM 26 SEPTEMBER 2006 Los Angeles Athletic Club 421 West 7th Street Los Angeles, CA

PURPOSE OF MEETING: (1) to provide information about the programs to Advisors who have a responsibility to advise the NHGRI on its research training activities; (2) to share program development, implementation and evaluation information among grantees; (3) to identify areas of programmatic concern and to discuss possible solutions; and (4) to discuss topics, issues, concerns, etc suggested by the participants, the Advisors or the staff.

#### **AGENDA**

#### 25 September 2006 (Monday)

(Break at 4:00-4:20)

1:00 P.M. Welcome and Introductions

1:30 Session #1: Update of Activities

Institutional Training Grants/SACNAS/ (Recruitment/Retention/Tracking) (Format: 7 minutes presentation; 3 minutes discussion)

- R. Myers at Stanford University
- L. Ungar at University of Pennsylvania
- M. Brent at Washington University
- S. Fields at University of Washington
- M. Boehnke at U. Michigan
- I. Kohane at Harvard University
- D. Rokhsar at University of California, Berkeley
- K. Lange at University of California, Los Angeles
- D. Schwartz at U. Wisconsin
- M. Snyder at Yale
- D. Botstein at Princeton
- M. Linton at SACNAS

#### **Databases**

(Format: 7 minutes presentation; 3 minutes discussion)

- W. Gelbart at Harvard University
- J. Eppig at The Jackson Laboratory

- P. Sternberg at Stanford (see CEGS)
- D. Haussler at UC, Santa Cruz
- P. Sternberg at California Institute of Technology (see CEGS)
- M. Westerfield at University of Oregon

## Centers of Excellence in Genomic Sciences (CEGS) (Format: 10 minutes presentation; 5 minutes discussion)

- D. Meldrum/M. Olson-University of Washington
- M. Waterman at U. Southern California

Presentation: Discovering Genomics: A Career Resource Tool Carla Easter, OD/NHGRI

6:30 p.m. Adjourn

#### 26 September 2006 (Tuesday)

(Break from 10:00-10:20)

- 8:00 Informal Gathering for Coffee and Danish
- 8:30 Session #1: Update of Activities (Participants)--Continued

## Centers of Excellence in Genomic Sciences (CEGS)--Continued (Format: 10 minutes presentation; 5 minutes discussion)

- A. Feinberg at Johns Hopkins
- R. Brent at Molecular Sciences Institute
- J. Ju at Columbia U.
- Synder at Yale
- Talbot at Stanford (+ Cherry DB)
- G. Church at Harvard
- M. Bronner-Fraser at Cal Tech (+Sternberg DB)

#### **Production Sequencing Laboratories**

(Format: 10 minutes presentation; 5 minutes discussion)

- D. Smith at Agencourt
- R. Gibbs at Baylor
- E. Lander at Broad/MIT
- R. Strausberg at The J. Craig Venter Institute
- R. Wilson at Washington University

#### 12:00 **Session #2:**

Strategies for Identifying/Recruiting/Retaining Special Populations in Graduate Programs
Clif Poodry, Director, Division of Minority Opportunities in Research, NIGMS

#### 12:30 Session #3 Open Discussion

Topics to be added by Participants

1:00 Wrap Up and Adjourn