

# CRN Connection

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## **News from NCI: 2004 Plan and Budget Proposal**

The NCI Plan and Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2004 has been published. It is available on the internet at: <http://plan.cancer.gov/> This document reflects NCI strategic planning and every individual in the cancer research community should find it to be a valuable resource.

While the entire report should be of interest, CRN participants may find the sections on cancer communications, quality of cancer care, and reducing cancer-related health disparities of particular interest. The CRN is specifically mentioned on pages 79 and 80 of the report.

Also of note, Bob Croyle has been named the interim director of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, which is the CRN's programmatic home at NCI.

*Martin Brown, NCI*

## **Ed's Corner of the World**

*News from the CRN PI*

The first cycle of the CRN is coming to a close, and "CRN II" will begin on March 1. Papers are starting to come out from current work, and exciting new projects are gearing up. NCI clearly values us and more and more, our colleagues there are turning to the CRN to address important cancer policy questions.

We have come a long way and learned a lot about cancer care, each other, and what it takes to be a real collaboration and not a loose collection of self-interested centers. Collaboration is not easy; it needs extra effort, and a willingness to communicate, compromise and share not required by the typical research project.

You have done what it takes to make this collaboration work, and I hope you all — research assistants, programmers, medical record abstractors, interviewers, coordinators, investigators, administrators, clinicians — take pride in our accomplishments to date.

Have a happy and safe holiday.



*The Cancer Research Network (CRN) is a collaboration of 10 non-profit HMOs committed to the conduct of high-quality, public domain research in cancer control. The CRN is a project of the National Cancer Institute (NCI).*

# CRN News and Notes

On November 21, the CRN submitted its "Best and Final Offer" in response to recommendations made by NCI and the reviewers. Thanks to all 11 sites for their work to complete this final step in the renewal process!

**CRN II to start March 1.** Due to federal budgetary constraints, NCI will award the new CRN grant on March 1, 2003. The CRN will continue to operate via a no-cost extension in January and February of 2003.

**Hold the date!** The 2003 HMO Research Network Conference will be held in Denver on April 1-2. CRN meetings will be scheduled around these dates. If your team would like to arrange a time to meet, please contact Robin Altaras at [altaras.r@ghc.org](mailto:altaras.r@ghc.org).

**Going Public...** Contact Martin Brown if you're interested in presenting at an upcoming NCI Seminar. (NCI will pay your travel!)

The CRN is working with colleagues at NCI to develop a **public web site**. It's hoped the site will go live in late spring 2003. Stay tuned for more details.

# CRN Productivity

The CRN has racked up some impressive numbers in its first four years. Unabashedly, we decided to tally some of our milestones...

80 collaborating investigators

23 new babies

21 submitted new proposals

16

10 weddings

9 papers under review

8 promotions

6 publications



and (with apologies to the composer of 'The 12 Days of Christmas'

**a 708 page renewal proposal!**



The Steering and Academic Liaison Committees met in early October at the NCI. The meeting featured great presentations from Lisa Herrinton, Ann Geiger, Suzanne Fletcher, Judy Mouchawar, Carol Somkin and Laurie Habel. Visit the CRN web site for a summary of the proceedings.

**Pictured:** (Back, l-r) Vic Stevens, Tom Vogt, Mark Hornbrook, Martin Brown, Dennis Tolsma, Ed Wagner, Bill Barlow, Gene Hart, Robin Altaras, Virginia Quinn. (Front, l-r) Sarah Greene, Ann Geiger, Rachel Ballard-Barbash, Joyce Gilbert, Lisa Herrinton, Chris Johson, Cheri Rolnick, Suzanne Fletcher, Terry Field, and Joan Holup.

## It's Not Too Late!

Please return  
your 2002  
CRN Participant  
Survey!

## CRN Connection

The *CRN Connection* is a regular publication of the Cancer Research Network developed to inform and occasionally entertain CRN collaborators. It is produced with oversight from the CRN Communications Committee.

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