

DRAFT Charge
Board of Scientific Counselors
Computational Toxicology Subcommittee

Background

The National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT) became operational on February 20, 2005, and is currently engaged in internal and external discussions to define areas of emphasis within its mission statement on which the Center will focus its attention over the next several years. The Center would like to involve the BOSC at this time to help shape those directions so that chances for success and impact are maximized. The following questions are intended to help guide discussions during the initial consultation process.

Charge

For the Center as whole:

- Success of the NCCT will depend upon establishing effective collaborations with the other ORD Laboratories and Centers. What advice can you provide to ensure that operations remain integrated with the other labs and centers within ORD?
- In terms of anticipated staffing, are there particular areas that should receive greater or lesser attention?
- As we find ourselves in the post-genome era, science is progressing at a rapid pace. This makes it difficult to stay abreast with the current state of the science. Clearly, being cognizant of and understanding the technologies and advanced methods in the areas of the omics, modeling, and statistics is a considerable vested interest to the NCCT for several reasons, such as being able to make decisions about which technologies are best for the Center to pursue and most beneficial to the Agency. Can the BOSC provide any suggestions on how best to keep pace with new technologies and methodologies?

For the areas of emphasis, or “Concept Topics”:

- Has the Center articulated a clear rationale for each topic area, and has it provided evidence that the contemplated approaches will be able to address the major goals stated in A Framework for a Computational Toxicology Research Program
- To be successful in addressing the Concept Topics, can you help identify potentially fruitful partnerships with others outside the Agency?
- Given the mission, staffing, and resources of the Center, what is your view of the depth and breadth of the areas currently selected for emphasis? Are there additional areas that should be considered?