



THE CMBB QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

<http://minorityopportunities.nci.nih.gov>

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We hope you are all enjoying your summer, and hopefully have had a chance to vacation and regroup for the fall and winter.

The CMBB expresses their sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Philip Browning upon notice of his passing. Dr. Browning, an internationally known physician-scientist and a member of the Vanderbilt School of Medicine faculty, died on June 23, 2004 after a long bout with colon cancer. Dr. Browning was one of the first African-American principal investigators to apply for and receive a minority supplement for one of his students from this office. He will be remembered for his contributions to the Vanderbilt Cancer Center's success from his days as one of its first faculty recruits to his most recent role as associate director for Diversity and Minority Clinical Affairs.

ABOUT THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP

As many of you know, on May 3-4, 2004, our Annual Professional Development and Peer Review Workshop was held in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Approximately 90 people attended the workshop. They were supplement recipients (graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty), F31 (predoctoral fellowship) recipients and K (career development) grantees.

The workshop objectives this year were:

U to assist our trainees with their plans for career development

U to inform the trainees about the funding path to independence

U to grasp the concepts of receipt, referral, and review of both grants and supplements, and how they differ

U to gain knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of Grants Management Specialists, Program Directors, and Scientific Review Administrators

U to become informed about the goals of the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Branch and its staff

Other important objectives of the workshop are for the Career Development Grantees to have the opportunity to learn more about:

U reviewing R01 grants

U what it's like to be a reviewer

Also in attendance were representatives from the different NCI divisions, Dr. May Wong, Division of Cancer Biology; Dr. Diana Jeffery, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences; Dr. Wortia McCaskill, Division of Cancer Prevention; Dr. Roy Wu, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis; and Dr. David Longfellow, Division of Cancer Biology to talk about the roles and responsibilities of Program Directors.

Dr. Robert Bird, Scientific Review Administrator, Resources and Training Review Branch, represented the Review aspect, and Dr. Kirt Vener, Chief, Special Review and Logistics Branch, spoke about the receipt and referral.

Mr. Steve Hazen, Chief, Extramural Financial Data Branch, NCI, explained how the budget process works, from the time Congress appropriates our budget until it filters down to the CMBB level. Ms. Barbara Fisher, Grants Management Specialist, Grants Administration Branch, NCI Office of Management, talked about the actual funding of grants and supplements.

Also on the agenda were representatives of the Office of Centers, Training and Resources, of which CMBB is a part. Dr. Linda Weiss, Chief of the Cancer Centers Branch, Dr. Jorge Gomez, Chief of the Organ Systems Branch, and Dr. David Eckstein, Program Director, Cancer Training Branch, each spoke about their Branches and how those Branches fit into the program of the CMBB.

Dr. Springfield explained that the goal of the CMBB is to “significantly increase the number of underrepresented minorities participating as competitive NCI/NIH funded cancer researchers.” The three main strategies being employed in order to make this happen are:

Broaden the participation of underrepresented minority individuals in cancer-related research and training activities while encouraging independence and a competitive spirit;

Raise the competitive research capacity of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs);

Become a national resource and raise the level of effectiveness of other programs and organizations that are genuinely interested in increased participation of underrepresented minority individuals and organizations in their cancer research enterprises.

Keynote addresses were given by Drs. Andrew von Eschenbach, Director of NCI, and Karen Antman, Deputy Director of Translational and Clinical Sciences, NCI. Both talks were quite inspiring and emphasized NCI’s commitment to nurturing the careers of underrepresented minorities in cancer research.

The afternoon’s breakout sessions were grouped by level of experience, and provided the attendees with the opportunity to interact and question some of the key grants administrators of the NCI. Additionally, the breakout session enhanced networking among the attendees.

The evening’s poster session and reception was also well attended, with lots of new friends and potential collaborators being made.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the career development grantees who participated in the Mock Study Session. As in a regular study section review, they were sent R01 grants in advance of the

meeting, had to critique them, and discuss the reviews. They did an excellent job, and there is no doubt that they are ready to review for any chartered or ad hoc NIH study section. An added benefit was that the participants who stayed to observe the review learned a great deal about how a study section is managed and a review is done.

From all indications, the workshop was successful in meeting its objectives. Here’s what some of the participants had to say:

Dr. Kouacou Konan, *Stanford University, a K grantee*, wrote *“I would like to thank and congratulate you for the great CMBB Professional Career Development Workshop held at the Gaithersburg Marriott last week. I did enjoy the fact that the workshop gave us the opportunity to meet with our peers and network. If it is possible, I would love to see this concept extended to the newsletters that you send us. I do not know how practical it would be but I was wondering if once or twice a year (in summer or early winter) the newsletter could print the names of its fellows based on whether they are professors, postdocs, graduate students, and so on. I think that this information could be helpful for not only networking but also for recruiting potential students, postdocs, etc., in the future. I hope that this is a useful suggestion.*

Thank you again for all of the opportunity that you are giving us to succeed in our scientific career.”

Dr. Babatunde Oyajobi, *University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, a current supplement recipient*, wrote: *“This is to say a big thank you to everyone at CMBB, and to both of you (Belinda and Bobby) and Dr. Springfield especially, for all you efforts in organizing such a great workshop and mock review session. I really enjoyed participating in this workshop and learnt a lot, more so than my first one. The opportunity to meet and interact with so many other minority researchers doing well at their various institutions is invaluable as a motivating factor.*

It is definitely a great testament to the hard work of everyone at CMBB that the various CURE programs are so successful as evidenced by the attendance. Once again, thanks.”

Dr. Thomas Berton, *M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, another supplement recipient* wrote: *“I had a great time at the CMBB workshop. I think it was very beneficial. It was also good to talk to all those involved at CMBB. Everyone was so helpful and provided invaluable information.”*

Dr. June McKoy, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, says "I was pleased to be a part of the recently convened CMBB workshop in Maryland. Not only was I able to network with my fellow participants and learn about the breadth of cancer research in which they are engaged, but I gained invaluable knowledge about grantsmanship from you, the other speakers and participants.

I look forward with much anticipation to next year's workshop and hope to continue to work with you."

Dr. Victoria Ramsauer, University of Miami School of Medicine, states "I just finished reviewing ALL the info I received at the workshop, and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to learn about the grant review process at the NCI and the NIH. I returned to Miami with a great deal of information on the subject and greatly motivated to continue with my work."

Dr. Elva Arredondo, San Diego State University, writes "I wanted to thank you for inviting me to the CMBB workshop. I found it very inspiring and informative; most of all it proved me with more direction. The workshop also fostered opportunities to establish new professional connections, which will lead to future collaborations."

Dr. Toya Russell, University of Alabama, Birmingham, write, "I really enjoyed meeting you at the workshop. I haven't stopped talking about it to my colleagues because it was by far the BEST workshop that I've attended. I learned so much in the brief time that we met. You all did an excellent job of organizing and I am so grateful. Thank you!"

And from **Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach**, Director of the National Cancer Institute.

"I had the privilege of speaking at the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Branch's (CMBB) Professional Development and Peer Review Workshop on Monday. This annual workshop provides an opportunity for CURE (Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences for underrepresented minorities) grantees to network and learn about the process of applying for research funding, the role of various NCI staff in this process and the funding opportunities offered by the divisions within NCI.

The enthusiasm and dedication of the attendees was inspiring. This group of talented, impressive young investigators with their exceptional abilities and ambition will be important to changing the burden of cancer. This workshop is one component of a larger program and profound commitment by NCI to produce a cadre of culturally sensitive, well-trained and competitive minority researchers who will be integral to the critical mass of tomorrow's cancer research community.

Congratulations to Dr. Sanya Springfield, chief CMBB and the co-chairs, Ms. Belinda Locke and Ms. Bobby Rosenfeld and other members of CMBB staff, Ms. LaShell Gaskins, Dr. H. Nelson Aguila and Dr. Peter Ogunbiyi for their continuing efforts on behalf of minority training and on a successful event."

We will soon begin planning for next year, so all of you graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty who will still be on minority supplements next year; you predoctoral fellows on F31 grants; and of course, all of our K grantees, tentatively mark your calendars for the first couple of days in May 2005. We hope to see all of you there.

We at CMBB are delighted that so many of you were able to attend and learn and network with your fellow researchers. We hope to see you again next year!

Here are some pictures of the workshop in action.



Dr. Springfield, Chief, CMBB, Bobby Rosenfeld, Co-Chair & Sen. Prog. Analyst, and Belinda Locke, Co-Chair & Program Director.



Professional Development Workshop attendees during welcoming address.



Attendees interacting during the workshop.



Dr. Springfield addressing the workshop participants.



Left to Right) Workshop Panel – Dr. Karen Antman, Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, Dr. Sanya Springfield, and Ms. Bobby Rosenfeld.



Dr. Antman speaking with one of the workshop participants.



Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, Director, NCI, addressing the workshop attendees.



Minority Supplement recipients interacting.



Dr. Steve Hazen giving a presentation on **“Show Me The Money”**.

BREAKOUT SESSION:



Group Leader Dr. Peter Ogunbiyi along with panelist Ms. Belinda Locke, Ms. Barbara Fisher, Dr. May Wong, and Dr. Robert Bird speaking to post-doctoral students.



Group Leader Dr. Nelson Aguila and Ms. Bobby Rosenfeld speaking to graduate students.



Group Leader Dr. Sanya Springfield along with the panelist Dr. Roy Wu, Dr. Wortia McCaskill-Stevens, Dr. Diana Jeffery, and Dr. David Longfellow speaking to Career-Development awardees and junior faculty.

**CMBB Professional Development
Mock Review Session:**



Dr. John Ojeifo, Chair of Mock Review Session speaking with Ms. Belinda Locke



Mock Reviewers (from left to right) Dr. Annette Rodriguez Khaled, Dr. Carlos Moreno, Dr. Gregory Carey, and Dr. Carlton Cooper



Ms. Belinda Locke giving the reviewers instructions



Mock Reviewers (from left to right) Dr. Marcos Paiva, Dr. Michele Shipp, Dr. Miguel Berrios, and Dr. Aymee Perez



Ms. Belinda Locke addressing the observers of the Mock Review Session

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Another big event that took place in May was Dr. Sanya Springfield's birthday. This year we surprised her with a party and invited all of staff of the Office of Centers, Training and Resources (of which CMBB is a part) to attend. As you can see, a good time was had by all.



CONGRATULATIONS

Our best wishes go to **Dr. Carlton Cooper**, a K22 grantee, on the birth of his first child, Jarrett Joseph Graves Cooper.



Rhonda Moore, one of our past supplement recipients, on the publication of at least 5 new articles in addition to a couple of submissions that were completed while she was still one of our trainees.

Jasmine Turner, a senior at School Without Walls in Washington, DC took first place in the city-wide science fair with her **CURE** project. And **Kendra McDow**, a senior at Banneker High School, submitted the paper she wrote to the Greater Washington Area Junior Science and Humanities Symposium and was selected through a juried process to present her work at the regional symposium and to represent the region at the National Symposium. Both of these students were on the P30 CURE Supplement to the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University.

NCI CANCER PREVENTION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Of interest to postdoctoral fellows wanting a refresher in a variety of topics in cancer prevention and predoctoral fellows who will be finishing their graduate training next year. The Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention is accepting applications until Wednesday, September 1, 2004. Check out their website:

<http://www3.cancer.gov/prevention/pob>.

Also available is their "Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention Control", a four week course on the "Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention" and a one week "Molecular Prevention" course. Registration is required due to space limitations. There is no cost to register or participate in either course; however, room, board, and transportation expenses (including parking) are the responsibility of the participant. For more information, go to

<http://www3.cancer.gov/prevention/pob/courses/index.html>.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Graduate School of Public Health at SDSU and the San Diego State University Foundation currently have a full time Research Faculty position (Assistant/Associate Professor equivalent) with the Center for Behavioral and Community Health (BACH).

BACH is one of the nation's leading centers for research into health promotion and chronic disease prevention in the Latino community and is the lead partner in a just-awarded CDC Prevention Research Center for "Physical Activity in the Latino Community".

Other current BACH research includes NIH studies on the promotion of physical activity in adolescent girls, and obesity prevention in Mexican American children.

This will be a 2-3 year renewable contract.

Requirements are a doctoral degree with specialization in behavioral sciences or public health and experience in grantsmanship and publishing in peer-reviewed journals. Ideal candidates will be bilingual (English/Spanish) with a strong understanding of Mexican and Mexican-American cultures. To apply call 619-594-5703 or fax C.V. to 619-594-3763 or visit the website at www.foundation.sdsu.edu. Reference job F04-125. Position open until filled.

Dr. Antonio Catanzarro in Internal Medicine Infectious Disease, UCSD School of Medicine, is looking for a postdoctoral fellow who is interested in developing an intervention for tuberculosis. This is an opportunity to add new faculty, as when they complete their postdoc they may be ready for a K award, and then an R01 - if mentored correctly. Contact Sandra P. Daley, M.D., Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Assistant Dean of Diversity and Community Partnerships, UCSD School of Medicine, Office of Admissions - 0621, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0621, Phone: 858-534-0764, Fax: 858-534-1513.

