

A Case Study in International Funding Collaborations

Nancy J. Koch (CIRM)

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IASCR Approach to Collaboration

- Mission:
 - “Mission...to advance stem cell research by fostering effective collaboration...”
- Emerging Topics Include:
 - “Mechanisms for sponsoring interstate and international research collaborations”

The Case For Collaboration (1)

- Worldwide goal to advance the science
- Scientific advances do not observe geographical limits
- Scientists commonly work in collaborative efforts using multiple funding sources
- Can mitigate limitations of any given funding agency or jurisdiction
 - Statutory limits
 - Resource (\$; equipment; knowledge) limits

The Case For Collaboration (2)

- Avoid re-inventing the Wheel
- Potential to move the science forward faster
- CIRM Commercial Community Meetings
 - Very supportive of our International Collaborations
 - Big desire to work with U.S. scientists as well
 - Identified risk if funders are not coordinated/harmonized among themselves

Overall Prevalence of Collaborative Funding

- Increasingly the norm in EU
- CIRM has received numerous requests from EU and Asia
- Government funders seem available right now
 - Foundation sponsors are interested but challenged by current economic environment
- Some evidence of collaborative funding involving commercial entities
 - GSK \$25M deal with Harvard supporting SC Research

CIRM's Experience To Date

- Actual RFA co-funding
 - Spain
 - U.K.
 - Canada
 - Victoria, Australia
- MOU's
 - Japan
 - JDRF
- Ongoing Negotiations: China, Israel, Netherlands
- Total Funding Commitments (\$60 million)

CIRM Process (1)

- Establish Internal Criteria for Suitable Partners by Science
 - Need to advance Mission
 - Get agreement internally on criteria (avoid wasting time and resources)
 - Consider what CIRM can get and what CIRM can give
- Get Scientists to Identify/Verify Interest
 - Pre-existing relationships?
 - Project alignment/synergies

CIRM Process: 2

- Be Clear with Prospective Partners from outset
 - What are your objectives/research focus?
 - What do you want to create (funding? Scientific exchange? Joint workshops?)
 - What are your limits? What are theirs?
- Get Partners to be clear with you
 - Understand their goals and limitations
 - Compare to yours

CIRM Process (3)

- Determine Funding Source and communication pathway within Partner Jurisdiction
 - Where is the financial authority?
 - Who are ultimate decision makers?
 - Be wary of internal politics
 - Role of the intermediary is two edged

CIRM Process (4)

- Assign Point Persons for Communication
- Convene a workshop of relevant scientists
 - One or two day exchange among experts
 - Is there enough potential to justify the relationship?
- Memoranda of Understanding
 - Top level statement of principles (no \$)
 - Opportunity to flesh out opportunities, challenges, get buy in at necessary levels

CIRM Process (5)

- Identify specific RFA's for Joint Participation
 - Requires a binding agreement since funding will be interdependent
 - Need to mesh process of both organizations
 - Be mindful of external communications by each
 - Time lines are challenging: different budget cycles
 - COI issues become more complicated

Challenging Aspects of Collaboration (1)

- Scientific Evaluation
 - how to do it efficiently
 - Increased Conflict of Interest issues
 - Are collaborative projects prioritized?
- Intellectual Property Issues
 - Ownership
 - Return to funders
 - Agreements among scientists
- Reporting/Monitoring Progress
 - Do not create undue burden on scientists

Challenging Aspects of Collaboration (2)

- Reporting/Monitoring Progress
 - Do not create undue burden on scientists
 - Need for funders to Exchange Data
- Ability to Terminate Funding in multi-year projects
 - What is the standard?
 - How to mitigate injury to funding partner?
- Certainty of Fund Availability
- Funding Commercial Entities

Challenging Aspects of Collaboration

(3)

- Certainty of Fund Availability
 - Multi-year projects versus year to year funding appropriation
- Ethics
 - Challenge: different laws in different jurisdictions
 - “end run” allowed?
 - Ensure compliance with laws of another jurisdiction?