

Ponce Health Sciences University- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center U54

PACHE Program: Perspectives from the PSC Chair

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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
School of Medicine

PACHE Program Meeting
September 20-21, 2021

Many Strengths.
One Mission.

PHSU-MCC PSC Composition and Expertise

- **Carlos A. Casiano, PhD, Chair (Loma Linda University, CA)**
- expertise in prostate cancer chemoresistance; cancer health disparities; biomedical training and mentoring; program administration (2009-present)
- **Carlos Isales, MD, previous Chair (Augusta University, GA)**
- expertise in stem cells and aging; metabolism; molecular endocrinology; program administration (2006-present)
- **Maria Elena Martinez, PhD (UC San Diego Cancer Center, CA)**
- expertise in cancer molecular epidemiology; health disparities; community outreach; program administration (2017-present)



PHSU-MCC PSC Composition and Expertise

- **Danny Welch, PhD (University of Kansas, KS)**
- expertise in cancer biology; biomedical training programs; mentoring; academic administration (2018-present)
- **Philip Howe, PhD (Medical University of South Carolina, SC)**
- expertise in cancer stem cells; cancer signaling; academic administration (2019-present)
- **Elad Ziv, MD (UC San Francisco, CA)**
- expertise in cancer genetic; genomics; molecular aspects of cancer health disparities; clinical oncology (2019-present)



Considerations in Building a Strong PSC

- **Stability and continuity**
- **Diversity (ethnic and institutional)**
- **Strong combined expertise in basic, translational, and community research, including cancer health disparities research**
- **Experience in NIH-funded program/grant administration**

Considerations in Building a Strong PSC

- **Expertise in areas related to the individual cores and shared resources**
- **Strong commitment to the partnership**
- **Willingness to put the effort in a timely manner**
- **Ability to communicate effectively and with candor, frankness, objectiveness, and autonomy, while keeping the best interest of the partnership at heart**

Role of PSC in External Activities of the Partnership

- Works with partnership leadership and NCI program representatives in the design of the Agenda for the annual PSC meeting
- Meets quarterly with partnership leadership and NCI program representatives to discuss partnership activities and progress and provide feedback
- PSC Chair meets with partnership leadership in closed session as needed to discuss highly sensitive issues

Role of PSC in External Activities of the Partnership

- **Evaluates thoroughly all partnership activities prior to and during the PSC meeting and quarterly meetings.**
- **Each PSC member is assigned to evaluate at least 2 different cores/projects in preparation for annual PSC meeting and report.**
- **During preparation of competitive renewal application the PSC serves as a mini-study section that evaluates the proposed cores and projects using NCI criteria**

Role of PSC in External Activities of the Partnership

Assignments for Annual PSC Meeting

Administrative Core (page 70)- Carlos Isales, Carlos Casiano

Planning and Evaluation Core (page 97)- Carlos Isales, Elena Martinez

Outreach Core (page 111)- Elena Martinez, Danny Welch

Research and Education Core (page 121)- Carlos Isales, Carlos Casiano

Puerto Rico Biobank (page 139)- Danny Welch, Carlos Casiano

Quantitative Sciences Core (page 152)- Elad Ziv

Pilot Research Project 1 (page 163) (Diaz Osterman/Yamoah)- Carlos Isales, Elav Ziv

Pilot Research Project 2 (page 166) (Christy/Marzan-Rodriguez)- Elena Martinez, Danny Welch

Pilot Research Project 3 (page 169) (Armaiz-Pena/Monteiro)- Carlos Isales, Phillip Howe

Pilot Research Project 4 (page 173) (Park/Ruiz Deya)- Carlos Casiano, Phillip Howe

FRP1 (page 180) (Kanetsky/Soto)- Elena Martinez, Elad Ziv

FRP2 (page 187) (Chellappan/ Saavedra) – Phillip Howe, Carlos Casiano

PRP1 (page 197) (Armaiz-Pena/Monteiro)- Danny Welch, Carlos Isales

Assignments for Competitive Renewal

1. Administrative Core (AC) – (Casiano, Isales)
2. Planning and Evaluation Core (PEC) (Isales, Martinez)
3. Outreach Core (OC) (Martinez, Welch)
4. Research Education Core (REC) (Welch, Casiano)
5. Research Projects
 - a. Pilot Project: (Martinez, Welch)
 - b. Full Project: (Casiano, Howe)
 - c. Full Project: (Isales, Casiano)
 - d. Full Project: (Howe, Ziv)
6. Shared Resource Cores
 - a. Puerto Rico Biobank (PRBB) – (Welch, Casiano)
 - b. Quantitative Sciences Core (QSC) (Ziv)

Role of the PSC in Monitoring/Assessing the Research Projects

- **Monitors thoroughly all projects, assessing progress in the following areas:**
 - **Specific Aims (modifications and changes)**
 - **Results (discussion of data)**
 - **Publications (relevance to project objectives, cancer health disparities; journal impact)**
 - **Grant applications**
 - **Interaction with other cores and utilization of shared resources**
 - **Involvement of students and ESIs (outcomes, interactions with REC)**
 - **Completion timeline**
 - **Plans to convert project into extramural grant application**

Challenges of the PSC in Monitoring/Assessing the Research Projects

- Limited expertise within the PSC in project area of research
- Lack of productivity by PIs
- Delayed timeline for completion of aims/subaims
- Sub-optimal integration with the cores (e.g. REC, OC, AC)
- Limited utilization of U54 shared resources (e.g. bioinformatics, pathology)
- Health disparities focus at Cancer Center not well defined
- Lost opportunities for student training and ESI development
- Unclear project future

Other Challenges Faced by the PSC

- **Maintaining PSC continuity and history**
- **PSC members lacking sufficient commitment to evaluate partnership activities and provide timely reports**
- **Partnership PI turnover**
- **Major institutional leadership changes**
- **Partnership impacted by devastating natural disasters (e.g. hurricanes, earthquakes, COVID-19)**
- **PSC guiding partnership towards competitive renewal and long-term sustainability**
- **PSC becoming too intrusive/controlling or too disconnected/irrelevant**

Lessons Learned

- **PSC composition is critical for the success of the partnership**
- **PSC must be completely engaged in monitoring partnership progress in achieving objectives**
- **PSC needs to strike a balance between being too intrusive and too oblivious**
- **PSC needs to maintain regular communication with partnership leadership**
- **PSC must be committed, keeping the best interest of the partnership at heart**
- **PSC chair must dedicate effort and be very organized**

Thank you!

Any questions!