

## IIGB FACULTY FORUM

### Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2016

*Present:*

Borkovich, Kathy; Carter, David; Chen, Meng; Chen, Xuemei; Dahanukar, Anupama; **Dehesh, Katie (Forum Chair)**; Dillman, Alder; Giraldo, Juan Pablo; Girke, Thomas; Hicks, Glenn; Jia, Zhenyu (Arthur); Jin, Hailing; Kaloshian, Isgouhi; Karginov, Fedor (Ted); Koenig, Daniel; LeRoch, Karine; Li, Bail-lian; Litt, Amy; Ma, Wenxiu; Maduro, Morris; Nagel, Dawn; Pan, Songqin; Ray, Anandasankar (Anand); Sladek, Frances; Springer, Patricia; Van Norman, Jaimie; Walling, Linda; Weger, John; Wessler, Susan; Yamanaka, Naoki

*Next meeting:*

TBD: Spring 2017

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### Announcements

- Previous IIGB Director Natasha Raikhel retired June 29, 2016
- Dr. Katayoon (Katie) Dehesh Hired as new IIGB Director July 1, 2016
- Jocelyn Brimo (Operations Manager) retired June 29, 2016
- Aurelia Espinoza (Managing Director) hired September 19, 2016
- Dr. Julia Bailey-Serres (CEPCEB Director) on Sabbatical Fall Quarter 2016
- Save the Dates:
  - a. Upcoming IIGB Forums this academic year: Spring Forum date will be emailed soon; and Summer Forum TBA
  - b. Upcoming IIGB Events
    - i. Career Day (12/02/2016) – Thomas Girke, Coordinator
    - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> Metabolomics Seminar (12/07/2016, 9AM-12PM) – Katie Dehesh, Coordinator
    - iii. CEPCEB Symposium (12/16/2016) – Xuemei Chen, Coordinator
      - 1. Nominations of Undergrads, Grad Students, and Post Docs will be requested of you soon!
    - iv. Post Doc Symposium (6/16/2017) – Coordinator Pending
      - 1. Let Julia know if you have a Post Doc who may be interested in helping develop the Symposium

### State of the Institute

- I. Membership
  - a. 108 Faculty from 16 Academic Departments
  - b. 4 Academic Coordinators
- II. Seminar Coordinators FY 2016-2017
  - a. IIGB: Omar Akbari & Dan Koenig
  - b. CEPCEB: Meng Chen & Wenbo Ma
  - c. CDVR: Karine LeRoch
- III. IIGB Membership Expectations
  - a. Members have to commit time to IIGB or will be asked to leave
    - i. Examples of commitment: Attending forums, keeping faculty website profiles up to date, organize/help with conferences or seminars, responding to IIGB inquiries and requests for information
- IV. New IIGB Federal Grants Funding Since November 2015 Forum
  - a. Federal Grants totaling \$15,978,349
  - b. Private/Foundation Totaling \$2,125,699

- V. Website changes
  - a. We are aware the IIGB/CEPCEB/CIDVR websites are not updated and lacking cohesion.
    - i. In the near future, we will be updating faculty information because it can be done by the current staff.
    - ii. Larger scale changes and layouts will take more time because the University is switching to a whole new platform, which is currently in demo mode only at Bourns.

## Discussion

### I. State of Facilities and Construction

Faculty expressed their frustration with the slow – or nonexistent – pace of promised construction or repairs. Specifically, construction on the new Metabolomics facility promised to Dr. Dehesh (with a completion date of June 2016) has not even commenced, and the price tag has increased – twice – to an amount representing 125% of the original estimate. The renovation of promised lab space for new faculty is significantly delayed and is also accompanied by outrageous price tags. The existing infrastructure in the Genomics Building is crumbling, with elevators not working, electricity outages, and many other reported issues. The administration has been made aware of the issues for years, and yet nothing has been done.

*Response from VC Coley's representatives, Susan Marshburn (Executive Director of Facilities Services) and George MacMullin (Director of Project Management/Architect):*

Susan stated that Physical Plant lost 70 people with the budget cuts who still haven't been replaced. She is actively trying to better the system.

George started this position 2 years ago, and currently has 5 project managers with 283 projects. He is currently hiring for more, but that takes time. In addition, a new intake system to better manage projects had to be created since the historical way of handling them was inefficient. George also stated he is trying to work on a method for faculty hire letters to be sent to the architects so that architects could provide input on the feasibility and timeline of some of the details.

*Counter-response from faculty:*

Several faculty noted that they'd been here for years and have worked with George in the past, and this current breakdown in the system is not the historical norm. Things worked significantly more efficiently up until the past two years.

Faculty also expressed concerns about lack of transparency at all levels such as a new "prioritization" process that exists where the Dean's office will make the determination of which projects need to be completed first, and thus projects associated with the loudest advocate will only be fixed!!

In addition, regardless of new building codes, etc., the rampant and exorbitant cost and estimate increases are so extreme that there is concern about the bidding process and potential graft. Faculty should be included in the bidding process since they're the ones with knowledge about what facilities and amenities are actually necessary for their laboratory spaces.

Finally, these facilities issues are significantly damaging the faculty's relationship with the administration and causing an extreme dissatisfaction – enough to cause faculty to seek other places of employment. It was noted that students come here to the UCR because they're lured by particular faculty. If faculty are pushed out by the neglect in this broken system, the university will suffer.

Resolved: IIGB will draft a letter to Chancellor Wilcox laying out their concerns.

## II. Core Facilities

### a. *New Core Facilities email*

A new core facility email has been created ( [IIGBCores@ucr.edu](mailto:IIGBCores@ucr.edu) ) that only goes to Dr. Dehesh and Aurelia. This email should be utilized for concerns, suggestions, and comments so that the IIGB Core Services remain accountable to its users.

### b. *General Core updates*

Need PI's help with getting new instruments since each core only receives \$5k annual budget for equipment. It would be helpful for PIs to buy the instruments for the core and not their lab, so others can use them. Additionally, a suggestion was floated that if new hires put up a certain amount of money for new equipment in the cores, they could get free use of the cores for 1-2 years. Dr. Girke suggested that clusters of PIs be formed to submit 3-4 Grants/year for equipment for the cores utilizing direct input from the core managers.

Most of the Cores will be lowering their rates this year. In addition, a scientific review of all cores will be conducted.

### c. *Microscopy Core*

Instruments are outdated. The SP2 is broken and will be traded in for a Leica SP8X with STED. The Zeiss 880 was purchased thanks to Meng Chen, Xuemei Chen & Zhenbiao Yang

### d. *Genomics Core*

A new PacBio RSII is coming: the Dean's office is buying the equipment for a PI, but it will be placed in the Core for all to use. In regard to why such an old piece of equipment is being purchased, it is due to the equipment being critical to the PI's research, but it has the ability to be upgraded.

Illumina wait time remains high due to flow cells taking time to create. More staff is being trained on the Illumina equipment. The Illumina worksheet has been updated with project dates, and now John Weger is sending out a weekly spreadsheet that shows project process.

The Neoprep is not working correctly, the equipment has several recalls on it. Glenn has been working with Illumina to get it fixed.

## III. Forum Wrap-Up

- a. Critical issues for UCR success going forward: functional infrastructure, establishment of trust, fulfilling promises to young and newly hired faculty
- b. 5 Year Plan: Established metabolomics center, together with the critical mass of newly hired and existing faculty will position us to obtain and drive a successful NIH center on UCR campus.
- c. Plan of Action: Renovation of 2215, 2215A, 2205, 2207, and 2209 must be finalized by Nov. 2016; establish the metabolomics core by Spring 2017; Faculty hires starting date of Jan 2018 or later; Establishment of an external advisory/ review committee for the core facility, Spring 2017.
- d. Our success in any endeavor requires active faculty input: through raising their concerns and rejection of the status quo.