Advancing Convergence and Innovation in Cancer Research: National Cancer Institute Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives (CSSI)

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives (CSSI) is a component of the NCI’s Office of the Director focused on emerging advanced technologies that have the potential of uniquely impacting the full spectrum of cancer basic and clinical research. The Center is tasked with planning, developing, executing, and implementing rapid strategic scientific and technology initiatives that keep the Institute ahead of the scientific curve with respect to potential new exciting areas and discoveries. This may involve direct development and application of advanced technologies, synergy of large scale and individual initiated research, and/or using available federal mechanisms to forge novel partnerships that emphasize innovation, trans-disciplinary teams and convergence of scientific disciplines. With an emphasis on complementing the scientific efforts of other NCI divisions, CSSI’s efforts seek to enable the translation of discoveries into new interventions, both domestically and in the international arena, to detect, prevent and treat cancer more effectively. This presentation will highlight various programs and their associated accomplishments within CSSI’s broad scientific portfolio of programs (Clinical Proteomic Tumor Analysis Consortium, Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer, Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers, Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies, and Provocative Questions) and describe future directions and opportunities.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Jerry Lee serves as the Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives (CSSI) within the NCI Office of the Director. In this role, he provides leadership and input in planning, developing, and implementing rapid strategic scientific and technology initiatives that keep the Institute ahead of the scientific curve with respect to potential new exciting areas and discoveries. This may involve direct development and application of advanced technologies, creation of new trans-disciplinary teams, and/or use of available federal mechanisms to forge novel partnerships that emphasize innovation and convergence of scientific disciplines.

Specifically, Dr. Lee is responsible for scientific, programmatic, and operational oversight of CSSI’s broad scientific portfolio (~$190.2 million in FY12) carried out by more than 40 staff members within offices that include the Office of Cancer Nanotechnology Research (OCNR), Office of Cancer Clinical Proteomics Research (OCCPR), and the Office of Physical Sciences-Oncology (OPSO). Programs developed and launched to date by Center staff includes the Innovation Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT), the NCI Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer, The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), Clinical Proteomic Tumor Analysis Consortium (CPTAC), Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OC), Provocative Questions (PQ), and Cancer Target Discovery and Development (CTD2) network. These exploratory initiatives focus on the integration of advanced technologies, trans-disciplinary approaches, infrastructures, and standards, to accelerate the creation of publicly available, broadly accessible, multi-dimensional data, knowledge, and tools to empower the entire cancer research continuum for patient benefit.

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