



**Satellite Workshop of the
National Network of IDeA-funded
Core Laboratories (NICL)
Feb 7, 2009–Memphis, TN**

ABRF2009

4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

“Turning NICL into Gold, Through Resource Sharing...”

NICL by the numbers: 44 participants

35 NICL members

- 18 INBRE-funded
- 10 COBRE-funded
- 7 RCMI-funded
- 15 states: AR, DE, GA, ID, ME, MS, MT
ND, NH, NM, RI, SC, TN, VT, WV
- 20 different institutions

9 GUESTS from

- NIH/NCRR (DC)
- ABRF 2009 Organizing Comm. (CT)
- ABRF Executive Board (PA)
- ABRF Membership Comm. (CA)
- NIH/NCBI (DC)
- FASEB (NC)
- BioServe (MD)

NICL Session Overview

- *Welcome & introductory remarks...*
Katia Sol-Church
(Center for Pediatric Research, COBRE- DE)
- *NCRR and the stimulus package for cores...*
Gregory Farber
(NIH/NCRR)
- *History of NICL, regional collaboration
and core facility best practices...*
Tim Hunter
(University of VT, INBRE-VT)
- *Let's not forget... We run a business!!*
Steve Bobin
Dartmouth INBRE-NH

NICL Session Overview (Cont'd)

- *National resources ...*

Faye Schilkey
NM INBRE

- *Similar and complementary skills and interests...*

Steve Jennings
AR INBRE

- *NICLweb.org, VGN database...*

Tim Hunter
Site Demo

- *NICLweb.org Web site tools*

Katia Sol-Church
Live Demo, RFI and NAIPI

- *Open Forum and Committees*
Let's build it together...



**NICL Steering Committee's
presentations by Tim Hunter,
Steve Bobin and Faye Schilkey are
available on separate PDFs**

• *Let's Build NICL, Together ...*



Open Forum

Katia Sol-Church
Session Moderator

• *Let's Build NICL, Together ...*
Open Discussion

Common Concerns

- **Some NCRF-funded cores are isolated:**
 - No easy access to medical schools (ID)
 - Sometimes difficult to hire specialized staff
 - Some cores want to do outreach but don't know how
 - Information do not get to them → need a central place
- **NCRF-funded cores would benefit from institutional “buy-in”**
 - No dedicated “core track” in many institutions, making career development for core staff a challenge
 - There are numerous accounts of “cores” that are not providing services (academic Director with poor service track record)
 - Centralization is not always seen as the way to go by institution's PIs

• *Let's Build NICL, Together ...*
Open Discussion

- **At the level of the NCRR activities:**
 - Lack of core representation during COBRE/INBRE/RCMI regional meetings
 - NISBRE conference attended by office staff (admin), but as a rule few core staff are given the opportunity to participate due to lack of funding
 - Information sent to the grant award PIs rarely trickles down to the cores
 - Core representation is important, see impact of the NISBRE 2008 “impromptu” core breakout session organized by Sol-Church and Hunter. This was the catalyst for the building of the new core network

• *Let's Build NICL, Together ...*
Open Discussion

- **Best practices for NCRF-funded cores**
 - What happens after the NCRF funds are gone? Though stimulus package will impact cores positively, sustainability should be a priority and included in core business plan
 - Very few attendees are aware of federal regulations regarding core fees structure – where is the information?
 - No formal standards on how core charge back should be implemented. Need for a workshop on core management?
 - RCMI working group: efforts to develop the same type of interaction between cores. Natural link to the COBRE and INBRE funded cores.

Common Goals

NICL Mission Statement

The mission of the Network of IDeA-funded Core Laboratories (NICL) is to support, encourage, and facilitate resource sharing and collaboration among NCCR-funded cores and shared-resource facilities

NICL Objectives

- To establish a national network of cores that share expertise and provide mutual support to build capacity and deliver quality services to NCRF-funded investigators
- To establish and maintain a web site (NICLweb.org) to support effective communication between the network members and provide a bridge to the National Association of IDeA Principal Investigators
- To promote the development of state-of-the-art research methodologies and the flow of technical expertise within the NCRF-funded programs (COBRE, INBRE, RCMI, CTSA)
- To share knowledge and expertise on long-range planning and core operations and to provide educational and career growth opportunities to its members
- To help forge and develop partnerships between NICL and other regional and national core organizations

• *Let's Build NICL, Together ...*



Common Solutions

- **The cores need a voice: NICL**
 - Presence at regional/national meetings/NIH
 - Ancillary/satellite session (e.g.: [today's session!](#))
 - NICL annual national meeting (representation during NISBRE)
- **Build tools to promote collaboration, education & resource sharing**
 - Establish “Fee Waivers” or “special pricing” to encourage Network interactions
 - lower prices (subsidized). Yet, encourage to keep track of the “real cost” for services provided
 - “In-kind” services between core facilities
 - Road block might be institutional: not set-up for easy sharing (e.g. purchasing dept. have difficulties dealing with PO's for outside customers).
 - Memo of Understanding (MOU): a standard document used for resource sharing by all cores in the NCRR Network

• *Let's Build NICL, Together ...*



Let's get organized!

• **Build tools to promote collaboration, education & resource sharing (Cont'd)**

- Discussed the need for formal NCRR guidelines or preferred MO for resource sharing (same fee structure across the network)
- Greg Farber (NCRR) suggests to include this to the RFI (please go to NICLweb.org and voice your opinion before Feb 20, '09)
- Encourage attendees to register to the NICL web site and use on line form to respond to RFI. Spread the word.
- Sharing resources within the network is great, however face to face communication is preferred. Need to have a web committee that will develop tools on the NICLweb.org site to facilitate collaboration (need volunteers)
- **Call for volunteers: NICL Committees member sign up**

• *Let's Build NICL Together ...*

Mission statement organization..

Strategic Planning Comm: Mission and Vision

- Steve Jennings AR
- Steve Bobin NH
- Faye Schilkey NM
- Bill Roth GA
- **Your name!**



Wanted Committee members!

Representation
Business Educ
Best Practices..

Communication Comm: Provide a voice to NICL

- Helen Benes (AR)
- Kate McInerney (MT)
- Chris Lytle (NH)
- James Foster (ID)
- Tim Hunter (VT)
- **Your name!**

NICL Committees

Explore tools
Populate db
Recruit cores..

NICLweb Comm: Design & Updates

- Raj Murthy (ND)
- Bryan Flemming (VT)
- Katia Sol-Church, (DE)
- **Your name!**

• *Let's Build NICL, Together ...*

Let's get organized!



• **One of this Network's objective is...**

To help forge and develop partnerships between NICL and other regional and national core organizations

• **NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK...**

- Discussion on partnership with the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facility (ABRF.org)
- More leverage for NCCR-funded core under the umbrella of a well established international core association
- Tap into existing research groups, and presence in scientific community (FASEB membership)

Session adjourned (~6:30 pm), discussion continues during the social and on line at <http://www.niclweb.org/>

Please register (free) and add your core to the searchable database so we may find each other!

Thank you to ...

NICL session sponsors



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Our Host



Thank you to all who participated!