

Cancer Genetics Network

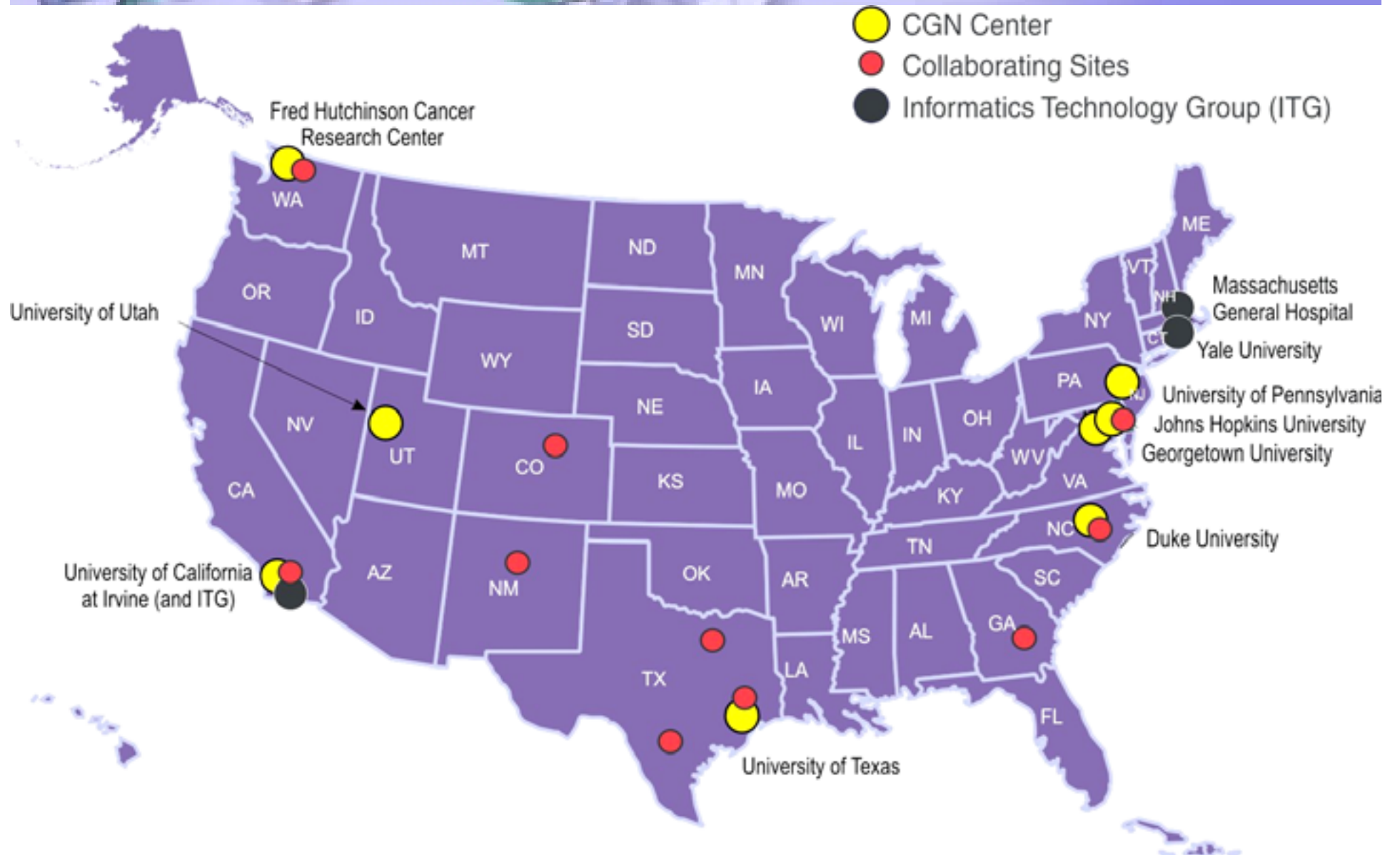
Susan G. Nayfield, M.D., M.Sc.

Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program
Division of Cancer Control and Population
Sciences

National Cancer Institute

The Cancer Genetics Network Is...

... an NCI-sponsored research infrastructure comprising a multi-site registry of persons with cancer or at high risk of cancer and their families for investigations on the genetics of cancer and other related issues





Steering Committee

- PIs of each of the 8 Participating (enrolling) Centers, 3 Informatics Centers, Advocates, NCI Program Director, and Special Experts
- Main governing board; sets CGN scientific directions, and future goals
- Develops and ensures streamlined access to CGN resources for research purposes



Advisory Committee

- Senior scientists with broad expertise in cancer genetics research
- Advisory to the Steering Committee
- Reviews pilot study protocol
- Sets performance guidelines for the Participating Centers and the Information Technology Group



Working Groups

- Thirteen Working Groups composed of experts from among the PIs, Co-PIs, their staff, and NCI staff
- Currently most active are Behavioral Science, Education and Communication, Biospecimens and Laboratory, and Minority Recruitment



Informatics Technology Group

Designs, implements, and maintains the information management systems that support multi-center CGN-wide research:

- Coordinating Center for CGN activities
- Recruitment Pool core data
- Web-accessible clinical data management system software for specific studies



Two-Stage Participation

Entry into the CGN Recruitment Pool

- Identified through population-based cancer registry, clinic, or referred by MD and consent obtained
- Completion of the core questionnaires on cancer history, sociodemographic characteristics, etc.

Participation in Specific CGN Studies

- Eligibility determined from for a specific study from core data
- Invited to participate in the specific study; enrolled if consent



Examples of CGN Pilot Studies

- *Methodologic* - Biostatistical analysis of cancer prediction models to develop a more accurate algorithm for predicting breast cancer risk
- *Gene discovery* – Genetic and environmental modifiers of penetrance of BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations
- *Translational* – Ovarian cancer screening using the Risk of Ovarian Cancer Algorithm



CGN Accomplishments

- 20,202 probands enrolled in the recruitment pool, representing 15,163 families – March, 2003
- 10 pilot studies underway
- Collaboration with other NCI resources (SPORES, EDRN, SPNs, CFRs, SEER), Cooperative Clinical Trials Groups, and intramural /extramural investigators
- 61 articles published or in press directly using CGN resources



Services to Investigators

- Collect 4-generation cancer family history pedigrees from enrollees, their families, and other individuals
- Assemble information for and complete medical extraction forms
- Obtain pathology reports and tumor blocks for molecular testing or to verify diagnosis
- Collect biospecimens with desired medical and demographic information for shipping and storing



Services to Investigators (Cont.)

- Conduct telephone interviews with enrollees
- Recruit patients from high-risk clinics and tumor registries
- Provide genetic counseling
- Contact enrollees' treating physicians prior to enrollment
- Develop software, including computerized follow-up for the study



CGN Summary

- Well-established, cohesive infrastructure
- Large and increasing recruitment pool
- Used as a resource for investigator-initiated RPG Pool studies
- Partnerships with other NCI supported research infrastructures



The CGN and the SPNs

- Shared locations, shared sites
- Commitment to specific needs of culturally diverse groups regarding clinical genetics
- Strong support for minority representation in clinical research
- Expertise in public and patient education, community outreach, recruitment/retention



CGN/SPN Shared Sites

- **Baltimore, MD**
CGN: Johns Hopkins
SPN: U Maryland
- **Atlanta, GA**
CGN: Emory
SPN: Morehouse
- **Irvine, CA**
CGN/SPN: UCI
- **Houston, TX**
CGN/SPN: Baylor
- **Philadelphia, PA**
CGN: U Pennsylvania
SPN: Temple, Thomas Jefferson
- **Washington, DC**
CGN: Georgetown
SPN: Washington Hospital Center
- **Denver, CO**
CGN/SPN: U Colorado



CGN/SPN Collaborations: Redes En Accion

- July 2000: **Discussions on CGN/SPN collaboration initiated at first SPN meeting**
- September 2002: **First Community Consultation on Responsible Collection and Use of Samples for Genetic Research**
- November 2000: **CGN Workshop on Community and International Perspectives on Cancer Genetics Collaborative Research**



CGN/SPN Collaborations: Redes En Accion (Cont.)

- **April 2001: Working Group Conference on the development of a National Hispanic Community Consultation on Genetic Research**
- ***Redes En Accion* chosen to facilitate a National Latino Genetic Community Consultation, with support from NCI, NIGMS, NHGRI**
- **June 2003: Hispanic/Latino Genetics Community Consultation Network summit meeting to identify priority genetic issues**



SUMMARY

- Concerns of diverse populations about the use of genetic information are of major importance in today's science and its applications in health care.
- CGN and SPNs share commitments to recognize and address the concerns of these groups and to support their participation in clinical research.
- CGN/SPN collaborations can be particularly successful in achieving common goals.