

# **CHALLENGES FOR A NEW CONSORTIUM**

## **E2C2**

### **EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ENDOMETRIAL CANCER CONSORTIUM**

**Bethesda MD**

**May 10, 2007**



# TIME LINE



# AIM OF E2C2

- To address questions of endometrial cancer etiology
- To promote collaboration among investigators
- To share data collected in individual case-control and cohort studies

# AIM OF E2C2

- **GOAL: to be as inclusive as possible**
  - **Case-control and cohort studies**
  - **Studies with and without DNA specimens**
  - **Worldwide**
  - **Junior and senior investigators**
  - **Meetings open to all**

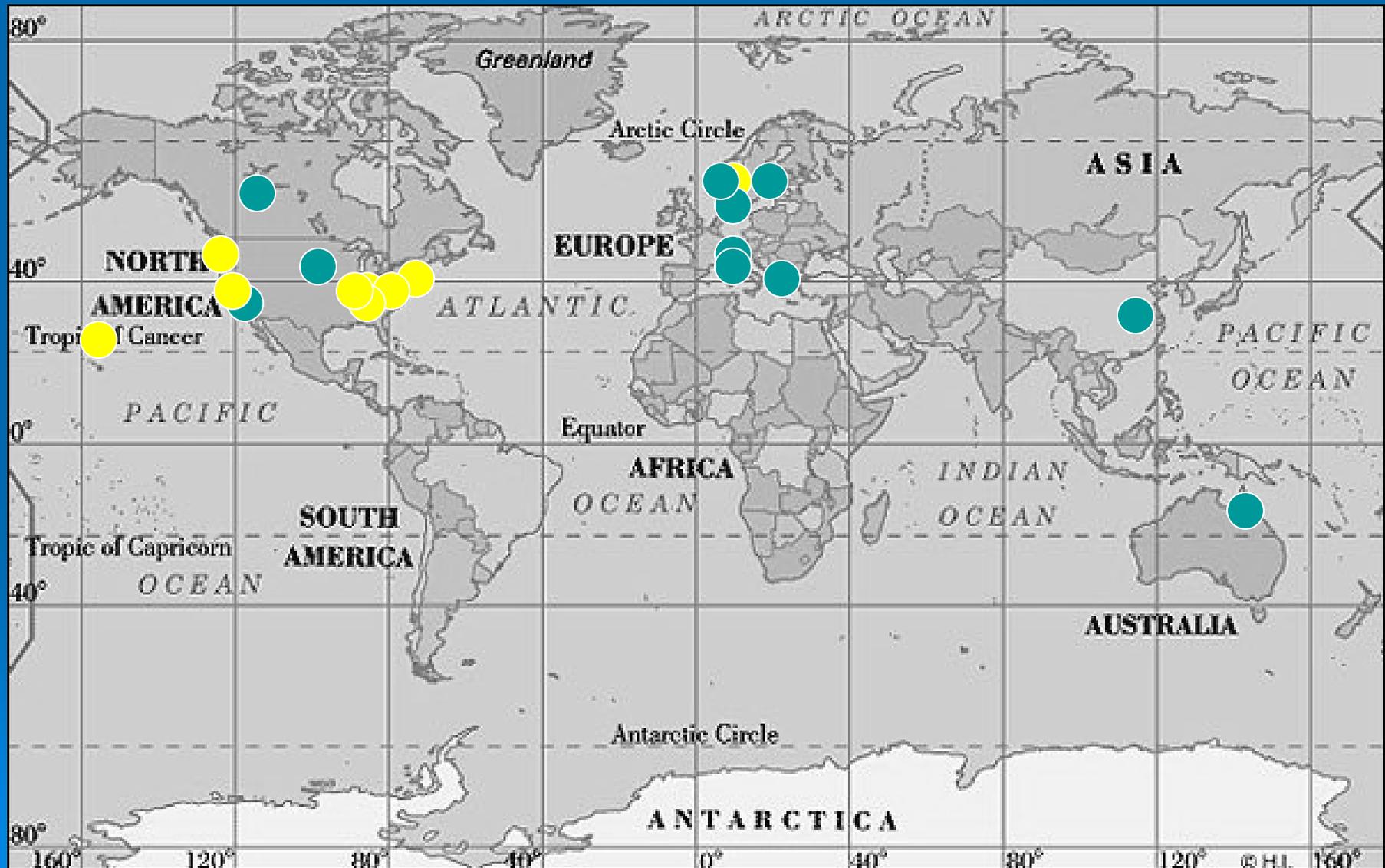
# STUDIES IDENTIFIED

		CASES	CONTROLS
19 studies with DNA	Case-control studies	4500	5000
	Cohort studies	2200	
11 studies without DNA	Case-control studies	3500	8300
	Cohort studies	2400	

## Nearly all studies collected data on:

- BMI
- Weight change
- Menopausal status
- Age at menopause
- HRT use:
  - Duration
  - Recency
  - Subtypes
- OC use:
  - Duration
  - Recency
  - Subtypes
- Age at menarche
- Parity
- Age at first birth
- Age at last birth
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Diet
- Physical activity
- Smoking
- Education
- Race/ Ethnicity

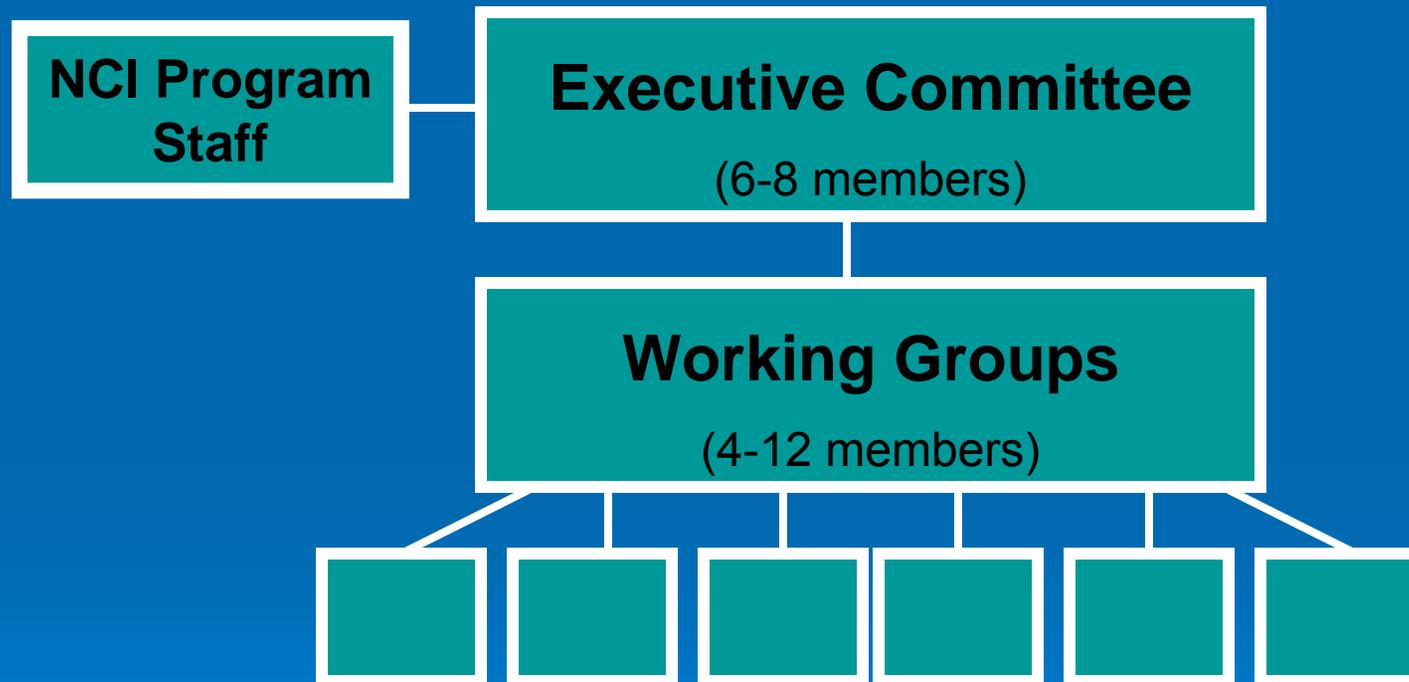
# STUDIES IDENTIFIED



# CHALLENGES

- ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE
  - COMMUNICATIONS
  - STUDY QUESTIONS / HYPOTHESES
  - WORKING WITH OTHER GROUPS
  - RESOURCES
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# APPROACH TO ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE



# APPROACH TO ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

## ➤ Policies developed:

- Data Sharing Agreement
- Authorship Policy
- Executive Committee Membership and Responsibilities

## ➤ CHALLENGES

- Finalizing Executive Committee
- Putting policies into practice

# APPROACH TO COMMUNICATIONS

- Web Portal sponsored by NCI
- Conference calls
  - Planning Committee – every 2-3 weeks
  - Working Groups -- 1-3 calls
- Meetings – 3 to date
- **CHALLENGES**
  - Familiarity with Web Portal
  - Geography

# APPROACH TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS / HYPOTHESES

## ➤ Initial Working Groups

- Gene-gene and gene-environment studies
- Genome wide association study
- Rare histologic types
- Joint effects of obesity, fat distribution, and hormones
- Energy balance
- Plant foods and other specific aspects of diet

# APPROACH TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS / HYPOTHESES

## ➤ Current focus

- Genetic and gene-environment studies
  - Diet / genotype interaction proposed based on preliminary data
  - Genotyping specific SNPs related to estrogen levels
- Genome wide association study
- Risk factors for rare, lethal tumor types

# APPROACH TO RESEARCH QUESTIONS / HYPOTHESES

- **Developing common database**
  - Identify core and desired variables
  - Establish structure to receive data

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS / HYPOTHESES

## ➤ CHALLENGES

- Finalize data elements
- Continued development of initial research questions
- Joint paper to demonstrate strength of the consortium and ability to work together

# APPROACH TO WORKING WITH OTHER GROUPS

## ➤ Oxford Group

- Focused on hormonal and reproductive factors
- Infrastructure from earlier studies
- Some E2C2 studies participating

## ➤ Cohort consortium (BPC3)

- Focused on genes involved in hormone pathways
- Plan for genome wide association study

## ➤ CHALLENGES

- Identify ways of communicating/cooperating
- Effort to keep data elements the same

# APPROACH TO FINDING RESOURCES

➤ NCI support for meetings, Web Portal

➤ **CHALLENGES**

- Conference calls supported by centers
- Startup infrastructure for data base
- Lack of a philanthropic source of funding

# SUMMARY

- **Combined studies are a major resource for advancing understanding of endometrial cancer**
- **Enthusiastic group of investigators**
- **Progress to date in important areas**
- **Meeting challenges in coming year will be critical to our success**