CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Zoom Conference
January 8, 2024
2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Members:

Michael Kurilla, Co-Chair	Melissa Haendel	Steven Reis
Ruth O'Hara, Co-Chair	Tesheia Johnson	Doris Rubio
Duane Mitchell, Past Co-Chair	Jessica Kahn	Kathryn Sandberg
Arleen Brown	Mimi Kim	Randy Urban
Stephanie Ezequiel	Grace McComsey	Rosalind Wright
Daniel Ford	Gerry Moeller	Ted Wun
	Elizabeth Ofili	

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza	Sarah Dunsmore	Carol Merchant
Jane Atkinson	Josh Fessel	Thomas Radman
Heather Baker	Stacia Fleisher	Anna Ramsey-Ewing
Kristopher Bough	Gallya Gannot	Erica Rosemond
Patrick Brown	Ken Gersing	Joni Rutter
Penny Burgoon	Rashmi Gopal	Clare Schmitt
Soju Chang	Chris Hartshorn	Meredith Temple-O'Connor
Jennie Conroy	Greg Jarosik	
Pablo Cure	Francisco Leyva	
Jamie Doyle	Andrew Louden	

Support Center:

CCOS: Cindy Mark, Kerry James

Welcome and Announcement of Co-Chair Designate (Slides 2-3)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla and Ruth O'Hara

M. Kurilla welcomed the members of the Steering Committee (SC) and facilitated the call.

He announced Ruth O'Hara as a new Co-Chair for 2024-2025 to replace Duane Mitchell, who will serve as Past Co-Chair for 2024.

Introduction of New Steering Committee Members (Slides 4-9)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla and Ruth O'Hara

M. Kurilla provided the following membership updates:

- **Continuing SC Members**: Doris Rubio, Kathryn Sandberg, Randall Urban, Rosalind Wright, Theodore Wun, Stephan Bour, Arleen Brown, Stephanie Ezequiel, Daniel Ford, Melissa Haendel, Tesheia Johnson, Jessica Kahn, Duane Mitchell, and Steven Reis
- **New SC Members**: Grace McComsey, Elizabeth Ofili, Frederick Moeller, Mimi Kim, Vesna Garovic, Jennifer Kraschnewski
- **Designated Co-Chairs for 2025-2026**: Theodore Wun & Michael Kurilla

New members were invited to introduce themselves after the ENACT presentation.

ENACT: An Investigator-Centered Desktop Tool for Nationwide EHR Research (Slides 10-35)

Speakers: Steven Reis

Presentation Summary:

S. Reis presented about ENACT (Epidemiology, New observations, Any disease, Clinical decisions, Test hypotheses), an investigator-centered federated system linking electronic health records (EHRs) across the United States built for CTSA Hub investigators that enables research and grant applications, visualizes data quality and completeness, and informs development of informatics tools via desktop access. More than 50 CTSAs participate, enabling access to real-world data for over one million patients, which helps inform clinical decision making. The platform includes research data (e.g., patient counts and analytics) and resources for educating KL2, TL1, and other Trainees. He provided several use cases to demonstrate its utility and described its innovative data quality, interoperability, analytics, and natural language processing (NLP) and artificial intelligence (AI) features. He noted ENACT does not require Hubs to transfer entire EHRs to a third party and does not require users to write code. He emphasized the platform was designed by investigators for investigators, allows for self-service complex desktop EHR research, provides data quality programs for local and national use, and enables support for clinical decision making. Deidentified aggregated data is currently available, interoperability features are in release now, and enclaves containing limited datasets are presently undergoing use case testing. Features for clinical decision support and configuration of enclaves containing protected health information (PHI) are in the planning stage. He concluded by showing a table comparing ENACT's features to those other EHR research platforms at CTSA Hubs.

Questions and Discussion:

- E. Ofili congratulated the ENACT team on their impressive work via the Chat.
- R. O'Hara asked whether ENACT included specific training for junior investigators. S. Reis noted there are tutorials for using the system, but nothing specifically directed at junior investigators. He will share the feedback with the team as a suggestion for future features. D. Rubio suggested the ENACT team speak at a quarterly national case seminar series and offered to help arrange a talk.
- G. Moeller noted his institution participates in the network and used to have funding to support the previous Act network, but it has disappeared. He asked about future funding

opportunities. S. Reis replied, stating there is less funding available for ENACT but hopes that may change in the future.

- K. Sandberg suggested providing a "fireside" or "poolside" chat for an upcoming T Director meeting that would highlight one of the participating Ts. K. Gersing agreed that would be an effective way to disseminate information. S. Reis agreed, offering to provide a live demo of the platform. K. Sandberg offered to coordinate with S. Reis to schedule a demo.
- G. McComsey asked when her institution could sign up to participate and asked via the Chat about the expected timeline for rolling out new features. S. Reis replied, stating institutions can sign up now.
- D. Ford asked how the team is assessing investigators' use of the system, determining whether they are making the correct queries and arriving at accurate clinical conclusions. S. Reis replied to say collaboration with others via team science will help validate use and results.
- T. Wun noted he asked for help to analyze detailed data using the system and asked if there were guidance for researchers with less experience with data. S. Reis admitted for the use cases he shared in his presentation he relied on informatics experts to assist. He will investigate the methodology to see if it can be shared as guidance.
- M. Kurilla asked which software package ENACT uses for analyzing synthetic data. S. Reis noted they worked with Meta to develop a new plug-in since they were not happy with existing software options. He suggested convening a consensus conference to review validation of software platforms for analyzing synthetic data. M. Haendel approved of that idea, noting the importance of having a diversity of synthetic data sources for evaluating real-world data.

Pod Feedback Demonstration (Slides 36-47)

Speakers: Kerry James

Presentation Summary:

K. James provided an overview of CTSA Pods, which currently include 11 groupings of 5-6 CTSA Hubs convened with the goal of facilitating communication between NCATS, the SC, and Hubs. A SC member serves as Pod Lead, facilitates Pod meetings where members discuss CTSA program issues, questions, and concerns, and communicates Pod feedback to the SC and NCATS. Pod members are comprised of CTSA program UL1/UM1 principal investigators (PIs) from Hubs. K. James provided information about current assignments for the 11 Pods, including Pod host institutions, SC Pod Leads, and participating institutions within each Pod. She described Pod submission requirements, which include meeting summary reports and feedback for the SC that Pod Leads submit through the CCOS website. She provided instructions for how to access and complete the online report form and view archived Pod submissions. She asked Pod Leads to provide CCOS with names and emails of designees to submit reports on their behalf within the system. She concluded by providing Pod submission links and contacts:

- Pod Overview page: https://ccos-cc.ctsa.io/groups/steering-committee/pod-overview

- Pod Submission page: https://ccos-cc.ctsa.io/groups/steering-committee/pod-submission
- CCOS Pod Contact: Lauren.fitzharris@icf.com and steeringcmte@ccos.ctsa.io
- Issues or errors with the Pod submission form: support@ccos.ctsa.io

Questions and Discussion:

- E. Ofili asked if there are opportunities to share best practices across Pods. M. Kurilla explained members often present at meetings of other Pods to share information and also share reports with the SC. T. Wun commented he uses his Pod to convene small groups as needed to consult on topics and appreciates the Pod mechanism for bi-directional communication.
- R. O'Hara asked where to access the slides shared today. K. James responded, stating the slides will be housed on the CCOS website on the SC page. C. Mark commented that she shares slides and meeting summaries with SC members separately as well. All slides can be shared with Pod members.
- A. Brown asked via the Chat whether Pod Lead and Administrator contact information for new Pod configurations will be shared. K. James confirmed CCOS will distribute the information to Pod Leads via email. She noted the user directory is not yet functional on the CCOS website.

Request for Volunteers (Slide 48)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla

Presentation Summary:

M. Kurilla announced Ted Wun is leading the planning committee for the 2024 in-person Fall CTSA Meeting and is seeking volunteers to assist. Contact M. Kurilla or T. Wun to express interest.

Questions and Discussion:

- D. Rubio volunteered to serve via the Chat.
- K. Sandberg volunteered via the Chat to serve as a TL1 Director representative.
- C. Mark shared T. Wun's contact information via the Chat.

Adjournment (Slide 49)

Speakers: Cindy Mark & Michael Kurilla

Presentation Summary:

M. Kurilla shared the date of the next SC meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Next Steering CommitteMeeting: Monday, January 22, 2024, at 2:30-3:30 PM ET