



Clinical and Translational Science Awards Program
**Coordination, Communication, &
Operations Support**

**CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
January 26, 2026; 2:30-3:30 PM ET**

Steering Committee Attendees:

Mike Kurilla, Co-Chair
Grace McComsey, Co-Chair

Elmer Bernstam
Steven Bernstein
Andrea Carnegie
Manisha Desai

Daniel Ford
Mike Holinstat
Fasiha Kanwal
Mimi Kim
Gerry Moeller
Elizabeth Ofili
Reynold Panettieri
Dominic Reeds

Mark Schleiss
Marisa Spann
Eric Vilain
Sarah Wiehe
Karen Wilson
Theodore Wun

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza
Kristopher Bough
Dale Burwen
Jennie Conroy
Pablo Cure Ramirez
Stacia Fleisher

Gallya Gannot
Christopher Hartshorn
Rebecca Katz
Irina Krasnova
Francisco Leyva
Joan Nagel

Katherine Patel
Thomas Radman
Erica Rosemond
Annica Wayman
Yanju Xu

Guest(s):

Elisabet Borsheim, Shawn O'Neil, Anita Walden

CCOS: Melissa Brady, Kerry James, Lenore Roca, Amanda Scott*

* SC Coordinator

Welcome and Introductions (Slides 2-3)

Speakers: Mike Kurilla, Grace McComsey

The meeting opened with a welcome from Michael Kurilla and Grace McComsey, noting that NIH operations had resumed following a brief shutdown and that current congressional activity would not affect NIH funding for the remainder of the fiscal year. It was explained that several agenda items, particularly Pod Feedback, were older than usual due to postponements during the shutdown period. The Steering Committee was informed that backlog items were intentionally prioritized to clear delayed reports.

Pod Feedback (Slides 3-4)

Speakers: Chris Hartshorn, Steven Bernstein, Elizabeth Ofili

Presentation Summary:

Pod Feedback focused on delayed reports from August–October 2025, with acknowledgment that some issues had evolved since initial discussion. Key topics included the impact of the Continuing Resolution on planning, noncompeting renewal timing, Joint Associations Group (JAG) cost-accounting proposals, and compliance concerns related to ClinicalTrials.gov and institutional finance capacity.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (Chris H): What were the compliance concerns related to ongoing cost-accounting requirements?

A (Steven B): Steven B explained that smaller institutions, such as his own, faced challenges in sustaining the financial expertise needed for ongoing JAG-style cost modeling, noting that transition to such models would not be simple or immediate.

Q (Grace M): What did “posting announcements for non-NIH supported lectures” refer to?

A (Steven B): This referred to promoting non-CTSA funded activities using VTSA platforms (e.g., social media), which in some cases created the appearance of NIH endorsement and raised concerns about alignment with administration priorities.

(Mike K): described prior instances where CTSA branding led to scrutiny from HHS despite no actual CTSA support, reinforcing the need for careful distinction between CTSA-funded and institution-only activities.

Working Group Report Out: RWD-WFD Across the Translational Spectrum (Slides 5-16)

Speakers: Leads: Anita Walden, Shawn O’Neil; SC Liaisons: Eric Vilain, Mimi Kim

Presentation Summary:

The Working Group reported progress across three major deliverables: a training needs assessment, an inventory of existing Real-World Data (RWD) educational resources, and a workforce development maturity model. They requested Steering Committee input on what final outputs would be most useful and how to help the CTSA community adapt to rapid changes in data and analytic environments.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (Eric V.): Which maturity model dimensions do institutions struggle with most, and are transitions between levels linear?

A (Anita W.): Anita Walden explained that the model has not yet been deployed widely, so comparative weaknesses are not known; institutions are expected to vary by dimension, and progression is intentionally non-linear.

Q (Karen W.): Can inventory resources be mapped to maturity model levels and trainee roles?

A (Shawn O.): Stronger alignment between the inventory, needs assessment, and maturity model is under consideration.

Q (Manisha D.): Is there an opportunity to share or leverage training resources across CTSA's rather than recreating them locally?

A (Shawn O.): While the WG is not resourced to create shared training, educators are generally open to sharing materials, and the inventory is intended to facilitate visibility and connections across institutions.

Q (Elmer B.): How is artificial intelligence being addressed within the WG's work?

A (Shawn O., Anita W.): AI and machine learning are included in the needs assessment but were not scoped carefully to avoid overlapping with other AI-focused efforts; feedback will be brought back to the maturity model subgroup.

EC Update: Integration Across the Lifespan (Slides 17-34)

Speakers: Elizabet Borsheim, Mark Schleiss

Presentation Summary:

The EC reported a year of high activity, with 12 full membership meetings, two working groups, and a successful in-person meeting featuring interactive breakout sessions applying the 5Ts framework across life stages. The committee is exploring publication opportunities, including manuscripts and potential special issues, and plans to broaden leadership focus across the full life course in the coming year.

Adjourn (Slide 35)

The next SC meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23.