CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Zoom Conference
February 10, 2025; 2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Attendees:

Michael Kurilla, Co-Chair	Vesna Garovic	Reynold Panettieri
Ted Wun, Co-Chair	Mike Holinstat	Steven Reis
Elmer Bernstam	David Ingbar	Doris Rubio
Steven Bernstein	Mimi Kim	Mark Schleiss
Stephan Bour	Julie Lumeng	Eric Vilain
Arleen Brown	Grace McComsey	Sarah Wiehe
Andrea Carnegie	F. Gerald Moeller	Rosalind Wright
Daniel Ford	Ruth O'Hara	

SC Regrets: Elizabeth Ofili

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza	Gallya Gannot	Thomas Radman
Heather Baker	Brittany Gibbons	Anna Ramsey-Ewing
Kris Bough	Rashmi Gopal-	Erica Rosemond
Patrick Brown	Srivastava	Joni Rutter
Penny Burgoon	Chris Hartshorn	Meredith Temple-
Pablo Cure	Rebecca Katz	O'Connor
Anthony DiBello	Irina Krasnova	Yolanda Valejo
Jamie Doyle	Francisco Leyva	Salina Waddy
Stephanie Ezequiel	Carol Merchant	Robin Wagner
Josh Fessel	Joan Nagel	Annica Wayman

Invited Guests: Miriam Bredella, Susan Pusek, Joel Tsevat, Steven Asch, Susanne Schmidt

CCOS: Lauren Fitzharris, Kerry James, Cindy Mark

Welcome and Announcements (Slides 2-3)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla and Ted Wun

M. Kurilla welcomed members of the Steering Committee (SC), briefly reviewed the agenda, and facilitated the call.

Report Out: Integrating CTS into the Virtual CTSA Visiting Scholar Program (Final) (Slides 4-12)

Speaker: Miriam Bredella, Joel Tsevat, Susan Pusek, Steven Asch

Presentation summary:

M. Bredella provided an update on the work of the Integrating Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) into the Virtual Visiting Scholar Working Group (WG). She first provided background information about the program and the WG. She noted the Visiting Scholar program was established in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as a means for providing Scholars the opportunity to serve as a virtual visiting professor at a participating Hub and develop professional contacts and learn from mentors. Lectures by Visiting Scholars are available to the entire CTSA consortium, so Visiting Scholars receive national attention and are able to potentially collaborate across all Hubs. The WG was established in 2022 to promote inclusion of CTS in the program. Scholars were instructed to include discussion of the role of CTS in their work as well as any roadblocks experienced.

She reported that during Cycle One in January 2023 the WG conducted a post-visit survey of 25 Scholars at 17 Hubs who had completed the Visiting Scholar program to assess their input around the issue of integrating CTS into the program. The response rate was high at 92 percent, and results indicated most respondents had found value in formally presenting a talk and networking at their host institution. Many reported they had developed contacts with others whom they likely will contact in the future, and most reported they would recommend the KL2/K12 Visiting Scholar program to others. Six months later a follow-up survey had a response rate of 72 percent, and responses indicated perceived benefits of the program include networking, collaboration, recognition, curriculum vitae (CV) building, and improving presentation skills. Most reported a better understanding of the difference between CTS and clinical translational research (CTR) after joining the program.

During Cycle Two the WG conducted another post-visit survey of 28 Scholars at 19 Hubs to collect similar data. The response rate was 75 percent. All strongly agreed in the value of formally presenting talks and that they would recommend the program to other Scholars. Most strongly agreed they found value in networking at their host institution, and 78 percent agreed they had made valuable professional contacts. Respondents also reported a better understanding of the difference between CTS and CTR after joining the program.

M. Bredella shared several comments received from Scholar respondents, including recommendations for improving the program by providing more structure, increasing attendance at and participation in Grand Rounds meetings, and helping to facilitate introductions with collaborators at the host Hub. She also shared comments received from Hub representatives, some of whom noted improvements could be made by providing better coordination of visits and encouraging Scholars to initiate visit contacts and identify multiple departments from whom they could potentially learn.

She reported both post-visit surveys indicated strong agreement among respondents about the overall value of the Visiting Scholar program (93 and 92 percent, respectively). Respondents found similar value for KL2/K12 Scholars attending presentations (71 and 73 percent,

respectively). Respondents of the Cycle One survey found slightly higher value in meeting with faculty than did respondents of the Cycle Two survey (79 and 70 percent, respectively). Cycle One survey respondents reported a much higher perception of the program's value to their institution than did respondents of the Cycle Two survey (86 and 64 percent, respectively).

She concluded by noting next steps include collecting results from another 6-month folow-up survey, completing a second manuscript, and assessing ways to make inclusion of CTS a permanent part of the KL2/K12 program. She listed members of the WG and invited questions or feedback.

Questions and Discussion:

- S. Reis asked about the logistics of the program. Acknowledging the favorable responses and follow-up survey response rate, he suggested all institutions might find value in the Visiting Scholar program.
  - S. Schmidt, a CTSA evaluator who worked on the project, noted first they invite Hubs to participate and nominate, then invite nominated Scholars to participate, and then they match Scholars to host institutions. Scholars indicate their preferences for Hubs and note preferred potential mentors, and the team does their best to produce a favorable match. CCOS helps by coordinating the contacts and collecting and sharing of information to facilitate matching. The matching process is challenging and time-consuming. All Hubs are contacted, but not all elect to participate.
- M. Kurilla asked how many events are involved annually.
  - S. Asch noted actions vary by institution, but in addition to each national Scholar presentation, individual Scholars often meet with assigned mentors and might have other networking events scheduled at the host institutions.
  - M. Bredella noted at Harvard Scholars presented at monthly or weekly meetings.
  - S. Asch reported at Stanford Scholars presented at Works in Progress meetings and potentially other meetings as well.
  - S. Pusek stated at UNC they placed Scholars within a research institute, which increased their scientific interactions.
  - J. Tsevat shared that at UT Health San Antonio Scholars were required to present both nationally and locally to share their work with all scholars and faculty.
- T. Wun asked whether Scholars participate with the intent of potentially obtaining a faculty position.
  - M. Bredella noted the program primarily serves as a way for Scholars to meet and learn from additional mentors outside of their home institution.
- M. Kurilla asked about the costs associated with the national presentations.
  - M. Bredella noted the host institutions absorb most of the burden of scheduling and setting up the platform used for the presentation (e.g., Zoom).
- R. O'Hara asked if there is any insight into why certain institutions tend to participate while others do not.

- o M. Bredella noted they try to advertise the program in K PI meetings via email, but not everyone attends those meetings or opens every email received. Typically, once a Hub is aware of the program, they tend to have an interest.
  - o S. Pusek stated at UNC they sometimes have not had the capacity or administrative staff available to facilitate participation.
  - o J. Lumeng shared her institution is one that does not participate. They tried in the beginning but found it too challenging, and the resulting experience for the Visiting Scholar was unrewarding.
  - o D. Ingbar noted his institution participated in Cycle Two. He asserted that if the Scholars are engaged and have positive experiences, they can help promote the program.
  - o D. Rubio stated her institution has participated and has instituted similar other programs based on the positive experience with the Visiting Scholar program.
- M. Kurilla asked if the Spring CTSA meeting might provide an opportunity for the team to work on current matching of Visiting Scholars to host institutions.
  - o The team agreed and will plan to try to meet and work on matching at the meeting.

Announcement: SC Meetings will now be webinars (Slide 13)

Speaker: Cindy Mark

Presentation summary:

C. Mark announced all future Steering Committee (SC) meetings will be rescheduled as webinars. The current recurring meetings will be cancelled, and new webinar invitations will be sent soon.

Questions and Discussion:

- T. Wun asked about the webinar format and how it would impact the ability to interact with others on the webinar.
  - o L. Fitzharris noted anyone with a panelist link will be able to unmute and speak.
  - o K. James reported in the Chat each SC member will receive a link to the webinar series that will allow for unmuting to converse. A Question-and-Answer (Q&A) box will be included and viewable to all others on the call.

SC Members Assigned to Each WG (Slides 14-19)

Speaker: Cindy Mark

Presentation summary:

C. Mark described the purpose of WG reports to the SC are to provide brief updates about annual WG goals and deliverables. WG Chairs will provide a 10-minute presentation including such overview information as WG members, goals, deliverables, timelines, and progress. After each presentation, the SC can provide constructive feedback and answer any specific questions

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from the WG during a 10-minute discussion period. The SC meeting coordinator will schedule presentations with WG Chairs two months in advance. WG Chairs should provide draft presentation slides and questions for the SC one month prior to the scheduled presentation.

She announced CCOS will assign up to two SC members as WG liaisons to review WG content and lead discussion after the presentations. She then shared the current SC assignments and WG presentation schedule:

Working Group	SC Assignments	Report-Out Schedule
CTSA Pharmacies and Compounding for TR	Arleen Brown Elizabeth Ofili	January 13, 2025
Integrating CTS into the CTSA Virtual Visiting Scholar Program	Vesna Garovic Steven Reis	February 10, 2025
Learning About the Science of Translation	Grace McComsey Rey Panettiere	February 24, 2025
CTSA Translational Impacts	Andrea Carnegie Steven Bernstein	May 12, 2025
Real World Data Workforce Development Across the Translational Spectrum	Eric Vilain Mimi Kim	May 12, 2025
Translational Science Competency-Based Assessment (TS-CBA)	Doris Rubio Andrea Carnegie	June 9, 2025
TL1 Visiting Scientist	Grace McComsey	July 14, 2025
Engaging Individuals with Disability in the Research Process	Rey Panetierre Mike Holinstat	July 28, 202
Advancing Dissemination and Implementation Sciences	Gerry Moeller Rosalind Wright	September 8, 2025
21 CFR Part 11 Compliance for REDCap	Mimi Kim Julie Lumeng	September 22, 2025
Harnessing CTSA innovation and engagement in the recruitment and retention of diverse populations in clinical and translational research	Dan Ford Andrea Carnegie	October 27, 2025
Catalyzing Impact on Health and Health Care through Effective Partnerships with Learning Health Systems	To be assigned end-of-year (EOY) 2025	Group started in Jan 2025; report out in early 2026
Translational Case Studies in Commercialization	To be assigned EOY 2025	Group started in Jan 2025; report out in early 2026
Overcoming Barriers to Women's Health Research	To be assigned EOY 2025	Group started in Jan 2025; report in early 2026

Survey Results for New WG Topics (Cycle 14) (Slide 20)

Speaker: Cindy Mark

Presentation summary:

C. Mark shared results from a recent survey of SC members to obtain recommendations for WG topics to remain, add, or remove:

Topics to Remain

- National training curricula in CTS
- Artificial Intelligence

Topics to Add

- Career development for clinical and translational research staff (broadly defined)
- Team Science Mentoring Dissemination & Implementation
- Social Determinants of Health

Topics to Remove

- Learning health and research systems
- Best practices for navigating the Science of Translation
- Causes of rising midlife mortality in America
- Enhancing the impact of clinical trials

Spring Meeting Preparations Date and PI Topics (Slides 21-22)

Speaker: Kerry James

Presentation summary:

K. James shared updates related to planning the Spring CTSA meeting to be held parallel to the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting from April 14 to April 17 in Washington, DC. She discussed the tentative agenda and noted the meeting is pending approval from NIH. Registration has not yet opened. She noted a one-hour UL1/UM1 Principal Investigator (PI) meeting is scheduled for April 17 to allow PIs to discuss with NCATS leaders high-level issues and themes related to translational science and consortium challenges and future activitites. CCOS will distribute to PIs a survey for obtaining suggested agenda topics. She announced the meeting's planning committee includes:

- Karen Wilson (U Rochester)
- Barry Coller (Rockefeller)
- Bob Toto (UT Southwestern)
- Rachel Hess (U Utah)

Fall Meeting Logistics and Timeline (Slides 23-26)

Speakers: Kerry James

Presentation Summary:

K. James announced the anticipated dates of the Fall 2025 CTSA Program Meeting are October 22-24, 2025. Day One will include meetings for the Trial Innovation Network (TIN), CTSA Administrators, and the Steering Committee. Days Two and Three will include the full program meeting and the UPI meeting. Milestone include:

- **Late-February – Early March:** Confirm hotel
- **March:** Confirm Fall Planning Committee and send meeting invites for bi-weekly meetings
- **April – October**: Fall Planning Committee meets every other week to plan program

Grace McComsey will lead the planning committee, which will begin meeting in April. At least one K and one T PI are needed to serve on the committee. If interested, please email Michael Kurilla or Grace McComsey to express interest and copy Cindy Mark and Lauren Fitzharris on your message.

She concluded by noting they are inviting Pods to advise on preferred agenda topics. She advised Pod Leads to solicit suggestions from Pod members at the next scheduled Pod meeting so ideas can be shared early with the planning committee.

Questions and Discussion:
- M. Kurilla asked about the number and types of members serving on the planning committee last year.
    - K. James reported there were eight or nine.
    - M. Kurilla shared they usually like to include a K Scholar of a T Trainee to provide perspective. He also noted the planning committee has met every two weeks in the past.
- D. Ford suggested developing agenda topics with the expected audience in mind, noting Ks and Ts do not largely attend.
    - D. Rubio noted in the Chat the ongoing challenge of Ks and Ts attending the meeting due to limitations on the total number of people allowed per Hub.
    - T. Wun noted topics that will affect Ks and Ts could be included.
- M. Kim reported her Pod members provided feedback regarding last year's Fall meeting that indicated more structured time for networking would be preferable.
    - M. Kurilla replied to note the agenda could be adjusted to provide more scheduled networking opportunities in lieu of longer breaks.
    - T. Wun noted some professional meetings have topic tables and invite attendees to self-assign themselves to tables for discussion.
    - D. Ingbar shared there was an informal gathering of K PIs at last year's meeting. There likely are other such groups with similar interests that might warrant thinking strategically about providing structured networking opportunities.
- M. Holinstat volunteered via the Chat to participate on the planning committee.
- T. Wun volunteered to serve on the planning committee.
- E. Bernstam asked via the Chat whether the team wants to recruit standing SC members or representatives of specific Enterprise Committees (ECs) who liaise with the SC.
    - M. Kurilla noted everyone has value to add.

- o E. Bernstam volunteered to serve on the planning committee.

Adjourn

Speakers: Michael Kurilla and Ted Wun

Presentation Summary:

M. Kurilla thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Questions and Discussion:

- Prior to adjournment, G. McComsey asked if there was any procedural guidance that could be shared with CTSA members, noting the many questions members have in the wake of presidential executive orders.
  - o J. Rutter noted NIH leadership is working diligently on discerning next steps and will soon communicate direction. Current recommendations are to be careful about and limit communications until NIH can provide guidance.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2025, at 2:30-3:30 pm ET