CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
February 23, 2026; 2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Attendees:

Mike Kurilla, Co-Chair	Daniel Ford	Joni Rutter
Grace McComsey, Co-Chair	Vesna Garovic	Mark Schleiss
	Mike Holinstat	Marisa Spann
	Mimi Kim	Robert Toto
Elmer Bernstam	Gerry Moeller	Eric Vilain
Steven Bernstein	Elizabeth Ofili	Sarah Wiehe
Andrea Carnegie	Rey Panettieri	
Manisha Desai	Dominic Reeds	

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza	Stacia Fleisher	Joan Nagel
Kristopher Bough	Gallya Gannot	Katherine Patel
Dale Burwen	Brittany Gibbons	Erica Rosemond
Jennie Conroy	Christopher Hartshorn	Yolanda Vallejo
Pablo Cure Ramirez	Irina Krasnova	Annica Wayman
Jamie Doyle	Carol Merchant	Yanji Xu

Guest(s):

Wayne McCormack

CCOS: Stephan Bour, Lauren Fitzharris, Amanda Scott*

* SC Coordinator

Welcome and Announcements (Slides 1-2)

Speakers: Mike Kurilla, Grace McComsey

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from Mike K. and Grace M. Announcements included updates on the approval of surveys and processes to improve meeting efficiency.

Pod Feedback (Slides 3-10)

Speakers: Chris Hartshorn

Presentation Summary:

Pod feedback focused on consolidating previously delayed updates and emphasizing only discussion-worthy items, as routine content had been shared in the slides. Key themes included consortium-wide workforce and operational pressures, research ethics consultation models, ClinicalTrials.gov compliance tracking, and the evolving landscaope of collaboration across hubs.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (Steven B): How are government relations activities being coordinated – centrally or by individual investigators?

> *A (Grace M.):* Government relations efforts are centrally coordinated through institutional leadership, with CTSAs working alongside school-wide and health-system leadership to ensure consistent messaging and broader impact.

Q (Mike K.): Are there common concerns emerging across pods that warrant further Steering Committee attention?

> *A (Chris H.)* Workforce sustainability, funding uncertainty, and the ability to support cross-hub collaboration remain persistent issues that require continued monitoring.

Action Item(s):

Pod lead report outs by the following individuals will be moved to a future meeting: Julie Lumeng (October 2025), Gerry Moeller (November 2025), Vesna Garovic (December 2025)

Pod Spotlight: Georgia Clinical & Translational Science (Slides 11-12)

Speaker: Elizabeth Ofili

Presentation Summary:

Elizabeth Ofili highlighted discussions around cross-hub collaboration, particularly the challenge that collaborating is not currently embedded within CTSA metrics or budgets. The group explored how Element E projects and translational science blocks might serve as a foundation for scalable collaboration and dissemination of best practices across the consortium.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (Grace M.): Should CTSAs allocate a defined portion of their budgets to support collaboration?

> *A (Elizabeth O.):* The pod felt dedicated resources would be necessary to make collaboration sustainable, as meaningful dissemination and scaling require intentional investment.

Q (Dan F.): Should collaboration be organized by geography, hub size, or shared interests?

A (Elizabeth O.): The group leaned toward shared translational science challenges rather than geography, emphasizing common barriers as a more durable basis for collaboration.

Q (Mike K.): Are there any examples of effective dissemination of operational best practices?

A (Dan F.) REDCap was cited as a successful example of large-scale dissemination of an operational platform across institutions.

WG Report Out: Translational Science Competency-Based Assessment (Slides 13-26)

Speakers: Wayne McCormack; SC Liaisons: Andrea Carnegie, Vesna Garovic

Presentation Summary:

The Working Group reported progress on developing, validating, and pilot-testing a competency-based assessment tool designed to support mentoring and professional development across the translational science workforce. Phase 3 real-world pilot testing is ongoing, with mentor participation identified as the primary barrier to completing paired assessments and advancing dissemination.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (Vesna G.): Are working group members themselves contributing mentor-mentee data?

A (Wayne M.): Some are, but many members serve as evaluators or program directors rather than active mentors, limiting their direct participation.

Q (Andrea C.): Are the surveys too long to encourage repeated participation?

A (Wayne M.): Survey length is a concern; future implementation will encourage focusing on subsets of competencies to support ongoing mentoring rather than one-time assessment.

Q (Manisha D.): How broadly can this tool be disseminated beyond NCATS programs?

A (Wayne M.): While initially designed for T and K programs, the tool could be adapted for other training programs, including non-NCATS T32s and discipline-specific training environments.

Adjourn (Slide 27)

The next SC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9.