CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
March 9, 2026; 2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Attendees:

Mike Kurilla, Co-Chair	Mike Holinstat	Marisa Spann
Grace McComsey, Co-Chair	Fasiha Kanwal	Eric Vilain
	Gerry Moeller	Sarah Wiehe
	Elizabeth Ofili	Karen Wilson
Elmer Bernstam	Reynold Panettieri	Theodore Wun
Steven Bernstein	Joni Rutter	
Vesna Garovic	Mark Schleiss	

NCATS Attendees:

Stephanie Ezequiel	Erica Rosemond	Annica Wayman
Kristopher Bough	Soju Chang	Anthony Dibello
Rebecca Katz	Christopher Hartshorn	Patrick Brown
Jennie Conroy	Jamie Doyle	Anna Ramsey Ewing
Audie Atienza	Yanji Xu	Francisco Leyva
Stacia Fleisher	Heather Baker	
Pablo Cure Ramirez	Joan Nagel	

Guest(s): Dexter Lee, Kathleen Stevens, Jonathan Tobin, Reza Yousefi-Nooraie

CCOS: Stephan Bour, Lauren Fitzharris, Kerry James, Amanda Scott*

_ SC Coordinator_

Welcome and Announcements (Slides 1-2)

Speakers: Mike Kurilla, Grace McComsey

The meeting opened with brief welcome remarks from Mike K. and Grace M., who noted the full agenda. No formal announcements were made.

Working Group Proposal Review Process (Slides 3-19)

Speakers: Lauren Fitzharris

Presentation Summary:

Lauren F. provided an overview and live demonstration of the Steering Committee review process for Cycle 16 Working Group proposals. She outlined key dates, including the proposal submission deadline (March 31), the Steering Committee review window (April 10–May 11), and the June 22 discussion and voting meeting, noting that five new working groups are anticipated to launch in July 2026.

<u>Key Questions & Responses:</u>

Q (Mike K.): Will proposals submitted before March 31 appear immediately for Steering Committee Review?

> *A (Lauren F..):* CCOS can view submissions as they arrive, but proposals will not be visible to the Steering Committee until the review period opens on April 10 to allow for quality control.

WG Report Out: TL1 Visiting Scientists (Slides 20-37)

<u>Speaker:</u> Dexter Lee; Liaison: Mike Holinstat

<u>Presentation Summary:</u>

The TL1 Visiting Scientists Working Group reported on its continued efforts to support trainee development through the William Schnaper Visiting Scientist Program, including Grand Rounds, Debate Forums, and Mini-Symposia. The presenter highlighted strong participation across hubs, positive trainee feedback, and demonstrated educational impact, while emphasizing the program's role in fostering cross-CTSA collaboration. Several manuscripts are in press or in development documenting program outcomes and methodology.

<u>Key Questions & Responses:</u>

Q (Grace M.): Are all CTSAs invited to participate, and how are hubs selected?

> *A (Dexter L.):* All CTSAs are Invited; participation grows organically as trainees and hubs become engaged, though targeted outreach to non-participating hubs as needed.

Q (Grace M.): How are invitations distributed, and can UM1 PIs be copied?

> *A (Dexter L.):* Invitations are sent primarily to TL1 Directors; copying UM1 PIs could help broaden engagement.

Q (Mike K.): How are debate topics selected, and are sessions recorded?

> *A (Dexter L.)* Topics are trainee-driven and debates are recorded, though they are not currently housed on a public platform such as YouTube.

Q (Reynold P.): What is the long-term sustainability plan for the program?

> *A (Dexter L.)* There's no plan in place to archive the debates, mini symposia or enable hubs and the consortium to continue to interact without the necessity of a formal working group.

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A (Kerry J.) NCATS has encouraged integration of T and K programs into a combined consortium group, with a draft charter anticipated for Steering Committee review in April. Additional T representatives are encouraged to reach out to Lauren F. if they are interested in participating.

WG Report Out: Advancing Dissemination and Implementation Science Working Group (Slides 38-59)

Speakers: Kathleen Stevens, Reza Yousefi-Nooraie, Jonathan Tobin; SC Liaisons: Gerry Moeller, Karen Wilson

Presentation Summary:

The Advancing Dissemination and Implementation Science Working Group delivered its final report, summarizing accomplishments from 2023–2025 across two major goals: strengthening CTSA–Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) partnerships and building dissemination and implementation (D&I) workforce capacity. Key outputs included national case studies, a CTSA–PBRN survey, qualitative analyses identifying enabling conditions and sustainability factors, a Delphi consensus on essential D&I competencies, and publication of a D&I training compendium.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (Elizabeth O.): Is there a need for a toolkit to help CTSAs implement this work locally?

> *A (Kathleen S.):* The published compendium functions as a toolkit and can guide hubs in adopting D&1 competencies and practices.

Q (Gerry M.): How much overlap exists between PBRN and CTSA leadership?

> *A (Jonathan T.):* De-duplication of survey data is ongoing; overlap exists but precise figures will be reported in future publications.

Q (Mike K.): What proportion of US PBRNs are affiliated with CTSAs?

> *A (Jonathan T.):* This analysis is underway using AHRQ registry data, though institutional privacy considerations add complexity.

Q (Karen W.): How does this work build on prior Learning Health Systems and related efforts?

> *A (Kathleen T., Jonathan T.):* The group has coordinated with related communities to ensure bidirectional learning and alignment across initiatives.

Adjourn

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