



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

**CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
March 23, 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
Vesna Garovic

Mike Holinstat
Fasiha Kanwal
Mimi Kim
Gerry Moeller
Elizabeth Ofili
Dominic Reeds

Joni Rutter
Mark Schleiss
Sarah Wiehe
Karen Wilson
Theodore Wun

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza
Heather Baker
Kristopher Bough
Patrick Brown
Dale Burwen
Soju Chang
Jennie Conroy
Anthony Dibello

Jamie Doyle
Stephanie Ezequiel
Stacia Fleisher
Gallya Gannot
Christopher Hartshorn
Rebecca Katz
Irina Krasnova
Francisco Leyva

Carol Merchant
Katherine Patel
Thomas Radman
Pablo Cure Ramirez
Erica Rosemond
Yolanda Vallejo
Annica Wayman
Yanji Xu

Guest(s): Cheryl Gatto, Lisa Welch

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

* *SC Coordinator*

Welcome and Consent Items (Slides 1-4)

Speakers: Mike Kurilla, Grace McComsey

The meeting opened with welcome remarks and confirmation of quorum. Two surveys were reviewed under the Steering Committee's consent agenda process:

- Real-World Data Workforce Development Across the Translational Spectrum Survey
 - **Recommendation:** Revise and resubmit due to concerns regarding inconsistent terminology, unclear structure, undefined acronyms and design issues that could compromise data quality.
- Overcoming Barriers to Women's Health Research Survey (Phases 1&2)



- **Recommendation:** Approved with edits, including alignment with the NIH definition of Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) and ensuring respondents may submit surveys even if unable to complete all fields.

No objections were raised and the Steering Committee approved proceeding in accordance with the liaisons' recommendations.

Pod Feedback (Slides 5-9)

Speakers: Chris Hartshorn

Presentation Summary:

Steering Committee members were presented with an overview of eight pod summaries from January-February 2020, identifying cross-cutting operational and strategic challenges facing hubs. During the discussion, Pod Leads identified additional items that could lead to future discussions, including publication compliance and open access across the CTSA and NIH.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (*Ted W.*): What is the responsibility of the CTSA for clinical trial reporting; what kind of assistance is available?

A (*Erica R., Stacia F.*) The responsibility is on the institution as the grant recipient. The assumption by NIH is that the assurances and compliance requirements are met via the institutional resource that may be covered under the indirect rates.

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_4/4.1.3_clinical_trials_registration_and_reporting_in_clinicaltrials.gov_requirement.htm

Q (*Manisha D.*): I see that Epic Cosmos and the issues with data platforms was not something that folks had raised. Has this come up in any discussions?

A (*Chris H.*) The BIDS EC had a discussion with Mike in particular about N3C and some of the questions around governance concerns were raised. We're working on our end to help as well.

WG Report Out: Catalyzing Impact on Health and Health Care through Effective Partnerships with Learning Health Systems (Slides 10-16)

Speakers: Cheryl Gatto, Lisa Welch; Liaisons: Elmer Bernstam, Dan Ford

Presentation Summary:

The co-leads presented progress on the LHS-CTSA Partnerships Working Group. Their report highlighted growing engagement across the consortium, alignment around the National Academy of Medicine Learning Health System framework, and development of practical resources to support sustainable CTSA-health system partnerships.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (*Steven B.*): How might the working group coordinate with existing embedded Learning Health System scientist programs (e.g. E-STAR and P30 mechanisms)?

A (*Lisa W.*): That's actually a great idea to collaborate and partner more deeply. We've had some representatives come and talk about funding models, but I hadn't really thought about working with those groups to continue the learning past the working group.

Q (*Dan F.*): You mentioned that at the end, you're going to have a platform. What do you mean by platform?

A (*Lisa W.*): Really all we mean is some kind of dissemination mechanism or online resource.

A (*Kerry J.*): We can talk more about your requirements for this because the WG artifacts could fit on the CCOS website under Resources.

Q (*Grace M.*): Who responded to the landscape survey, and how do differing definitions of "learning health system" influence interpretation of the findings?

A (*Cheryl G.*) The survey went out to the CTSA administrators, so it was absolutely answered from the CTSA perspective. But I think when we are doing our follow-up interviews with them to dig in a bit more, I think we'll start to get a better feel.

Q (*Mike K.*): How do you navigate the balance between health care systems that are interested in mainly reducing costs or increasing reimbursements versus health care providers that may be more interested in clinical outcomes?

A (*Lisa W.*) This is a real key difficulty in these partnerships. This is an element that needs to be worked on early on and is difficult. This may be an area that the CTSA's are well positioned to help think through.

Pod Spotlight: Dartmouth Clinical and Translational Science Institute (Slide 17)

Speaker: Steven Bernstein

Presentation Summary:

Steven B. provided an overview of the Rural Health Transformation Initiative; a multi-year CMS-led effort focused on improving rural health and healthcare delivery.

Adjourn (Slide 18)

The next SC meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13 on Zoom. New meeting invitations are forthcoming.