



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

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**CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary**  
**April 27, 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  
Michael Holinstat  
Fasiha Kanwal

Mimi Kim  
Michael Kurilla  
Julie Lumeng  
Grace McComsey  
Elizabeth Ofili  
Reynold Panettieri  
Dominic Reeds

Joni Rutter  
Mark Schleiss  
Marisa Spann  
Eric Vilain  
Sarah Wiehe  
Ted Wun

**NCATS Attendees:**

Kris Bough  
Patrick Brown  
Stephanie Ezequiel  
Gallya Gannot  
Brittany Gibbons

Chris Hartshorn  
Rebecca Katz  
Francisco Leyva  
Joan Nagel  
Katie Patel

Thomas Radman  
Annica Wayman  
Yanji Xu

**CCOS:** Amanda Scott\*

\* *SC Coordinator*

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**Welcome and Consent Items (Slides 1-3)**

Speakers: Mike Kurilla, Grace McComsey, Amanda Scott

The meeting opened with welcome remarks and the Steering Committee reviewed the ACTS Team Science Professionals Landscape Assessment survey recommendation. With no objections raised, the group agreed to approve the survey for dissemination and move forward as recommended.

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**Pod Feedback (Slides 4-9)**

Speaker: Chris Hartshorn

Presentation Summary:



Chris Hartshorn provided an aggregate pod feedback overview (Jan-Apr) emphasizing rising compliance/pversight pressure, funding uncertainty, and growing need for peer learning and shared practices, with discussion focusing especially on AI governance and cross-hub best practices. SC members discussed practical constraints (local control, data ownership/EHR, privacy) and suggested methods for capturing best practices.

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## **Fall Annual Program Meeting (Slides 10-11)**

Speaker: Amanda Scott

### Presentation Summary:

Amanda Scott shared the planning status for the 2026 Fall Annual Program Meeting: pending NIH approval, targeting Sept 23–25 with a Steering Committee meeting on Sept 22, and a shift to in-person only (no streaming; recordings posted afterward). She solicited topic ideas via a shared form and requested volunteers for the Fall Planning Committee, with a plan to start committee meetings mid-to-late May.

Volunteers:

Mike Holinstat, Rey Panettieri, Elmer Bernstam, Grace McComsey, Andrea Carnegie, Fasiha Kanwal, Dominic Reeds.

### Key Questions & Responses:

Q (*Dominic R.*): Is there a way to ensure enough spots for K-12 PIs, given limited hub slots?

A (*Amanda S.*): The current allocation is ~9 per hub (historically 5 per NOFO plus ~1 per EC) constrained by venue capacity. The Fall Planning Committee can discuss target audiences and adjust within capacity to ensure representation.

Q (*Andrea C.*) How “set” are the September 22-25 dates given the proximity of the meeting to the September UM1 deadline.

A (*Amanda S.*): The dates are tied to availability at our preferred location and won’t be finalized until the meeting is approved by NCATS and the location is secured.

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## **Pod Spotlight: NJ Alliance for Clinical Translational Science (Slides 12-19)**

Speaker: Rey Panettieri

### Presentation Summary:

Rey Panettieri presented “Pod Lights” focused on Element E as an inward-facing mechanism and argued for better pathways to make successful projects scalable and outward-facing, using examples from Minnesota (linked multi-domain datasets/portal) and Rutgers (genetics access model improving wait times and throughput). Discussion explored practical implementation factors—health-system engagement, economics, reimbursement variability across states—and

suggested next steps such as developing and sharing white papers/best practices and considering a broader look at Element E outcomes across hubs.

Key Questions & Responses:

Q (*Mike K.*): What ongoing throughput/target capacity do you want to handle.

A (*Rey P.*): The more meaningful target is time-to consult, aiming for 2-4 weeks.

Q (*Mike K.*): What data would convince insurers about value/ROI and whether economic/QoL/outcome follow-up is planned.

A (*Rey P.*): The team brought in health economics expertise and emphasized stakeholder's cost lens; earlier diagnosis and prevention could drive value propositions for payers and systems.

Q (*Mike K.*): Would dissemination nationwide run into differing state laws complicating implementation?

A (*Rey P.*): Reimbursement for genetic counselors is a key barrier and is state-driven.

Q (*Grace M.*): Has NCATS reviewed the first wave of Element E and are there disseminable "success stories," suggesting that would help hubs decide what to fund?

A (*Mike K.*) NCATS hasn't taken a comprehensive look recently due to operational workload but welcomed suggestions and agreed it would be valuable to examine outcomes and improve the mechanism.

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**Adjourn (Slide 20)**

The next SC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11.