



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

CTSA Steering Committee Webinar Summary April 28, 2025; 2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Attendees:

Michael Kurilla, Co-Chair
Ted Wun, Co-Chair
Arleen Brown
Elmer Bernstam
Steven Bernstein
Andrea Carnegie
Daniel Ford

Michael Holinstat
David Ingbar
Mimi Kim
Julie Lumeng
Grace McComsey
F. Gerald Moeller

Elizabeth Ofili
Reynold Panettieri
Doris Rubio
Eric Vilain
Sarah Wiehe
Rosalind Wright

SC Regrets: Vesna Garovic

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza
Heather Baker
Kris Bough
Patrick Brown
Dale Burwen
Soju Chang
Jennie Conroy
Pablo Cure
Anthony DiBello
Jamie Doyle

Stacia Fleischer
Gallya Gannot
Brittany Gibbons
Chris Hartshorn
Rebecca Katz
Irina Krasnova
Francisco Leyva
Carol Merchant
Joan Nagel
Thomas Radman

Erica Rosemond
Joni Rutter
Meredith Temple-
O'Connor
Yolana Vallejo
Salina Waddy
Robin Wagner
Annica Wayman

Invited Guests: Meredith Zozus, Thomas Champion

CCOS: Lauren Fitzharris, Kerry James, Megan Stewart, Amanda Scott, Cindy Mark

Welcome (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 webinar.

Biostatistics, Biomedical Informatics and Data Science EC Update (Slides 4-29)

Speaker: Thomas Champion

Presentation summary: T. Campion from Weill Cornell Medicine, along with M. Zozus from the University of Texas, San Antonio, provided an update on the evolution of the BIDS Enterprise Committee, which focuses on biostatistics, biomedical informatics, and data science. The BIDS EC (EC) was formerly the Informatics EC. They discussed their goals for the transition, including defining how these disciplines can achieve more together and advancing clinical and translational science. They aim to formalize the new EC in a charter document for review and approval by the Steering Committee, and plan to conduct their next EC election in the fall to ensure a full transition by 2026. A draft copy of the charter was sent to the Steering Committee prior to the 4/28 SC meeting.

T. Campion provided a brief history of the transition, noting that in September 2024, the CTSA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) changed, renaming the Health Informatics module to Data Science and making similar changes throughout the document. These updates included modernizing approaches by incorporating newer methods like generative AI to support clinical and translational science. The Informatics EC noticed these changes and discussed them in a monthly meeting, leading to a deeper exploration of various disciplines through Venn diagrams. This ultimately resulted in the decision to expand the Informatics EC into the BIDS EC, with goals of defining their charge, codifying it in a charter document, and preparing for the next round of elections.

T. Campion discussed the efforts to operationalize the BIDS EC, focusing on expanding membership through informal and formal channels. The team orchestrated changes through virtual meetings and two critical in-person meetings: the BIDS EC Transition meeting in Pittsburgh and the BIDS Meet & Greet in Washington, DC in April. These meetings aimed to transition from the Informatics EC to the Bids EC, emphasizing developing a shared vision and defining the charter.

The BIDS EC has grown to 370 registered members and is finalizing the charter document, preparing for upcoming elections to further operationalize their vision and continue building the community.

Questions and Discussion:

- M. Kim expressed excitement about the new Enterprise Committee and inquired whether data science training opportunities would be a focus, emphasizing the need to increase data science and AI literacy through workshops and seminars across hubs.
 - T. Campion confirmed that data science training fits well within the committee's charge and existing collaborations, highlighting the importance of expanding the skill set among faculty, staff, and students to utilize available resources and data sets.
- D. Ford asked how the success of merging the groups would be measured, suggesting metrics like better membership and more joint projects. Thomas Campion responded that membership figures and the enthusiasm observed at meetings are good indicators, but the true measure will be the quality of collaborations going forward.
 - T. Campion emphasized that the BIDS EC will integrate activities sooner, fostering collaboration rather than sequential efforts, which will benefit investigators and translational science and research. He assured that traditional

biostatistics and bioinformatics projects will still be supported alongside new mixed group projects.

- M. Zozus added that collaborative projects within the EC may have a greater impact than individual efforts, and although evaluating this as an outcome measure is challenging, an increase in the impact of these projects would indicate success.

Polling: Working Group Extension Requests (Slides 30-33)

Speaker: Cindy Mark

Presentation summary:

Two working groups have requested 6-month extension to complete their deliverables:

- TS-CBA – Approved
- Engaging Individuals with Disability in the Research Process – Approved

CCOS will email the working group chair to inform them that their request for an extension was approved by the Steering Committee.

Pod Feedback (Slides 34-41)

Speaker: Christopher Hartshorn; Pod leads

Presentation summary:

- **Julie Lumeng, Michigan- Ann Arbor:**

In the first meeting of her Pod, they decided on meeting frequency and usage of time, and provided updates from the Steering Committee. The group suggested themes for the fall CTSA program meeting, including community engagement, dissemination and implementation, translational science, health disparities and equity, and research ethics. They also recommended more networking opportunities without loud music.

In the April Pod meeting, the group discussed how each hub addresses salary caps and best practices for budgeting over the grant period, sharing individual approaches. They also focused on RPPR submissions and continued discussing current events. David Ingbar suggested that knowing about formal or informal meetings in advance would help hubs decide who to send

- **Mimi Kim, Albert Einstein College of Medicine:**

M. Kim shared that her Pod discussed similar topics to J. Lumeng's Pod, including challenges faced by members and the suggestion to create a forum for gathering impact stories to demonstrate the value of the CTSA's. They also had a presentation by Susie Burtz

from the University of Chicago on their innovative Sociome Data Commons, which allows large-scale analysis of Sociome factors.

In their March 19th meeting, they discussed the impact of new federal priorities and how hubs are supporting investigators by deploying more resources for grant development, facilitating collaborations, and increasing communication frequency. They emphasized the need for joint guidelines on aligning research with federal priorities, advocacy for CTSA work, and diversifying research funding sources. Christina Gurnett from Wash University presented on genetic data and precision health functions, highlighting the importance of returning genomic results to study participants

- **Grace McComsey, Case Western Reserve University:**

G. McComsey discussed ideas for the fall CTSA meetings and the challenge of tracking credit for CTSAs, including how long to follow trainees and scholars and how much of their success to attribute to CTSAs. Different software tools like Flight Tracker and Overton were mentioned for tracking publication ROI.

E. Bernstam raised the issue of tracking metrics for CTSAs and questioned whether the same metrics are still relevant or if new ones are needed. M. Kurilla acknowledged the difficulty of measuring impact and suggested that the approach might evolve with the new NIH director's priorities.

- **Gerry Moeller, Wright Regional Center for Clinical & Translational Science**

During the most recent Pod meeting, the group discussed the new NIH directive (NOT-OD-23-182) and different implementation approaches for international subawards. Participants were encouraged to provide input for the ACTS Spring 2025 program and to monitor updates from NIH regarding the CHIPS and Science Act requirements.

There was a discussion over whether trainees or administrators should present abstracts at the 2024 Fall CTSA Meeting, with some suggesting that administrators might offer a broader perspective. Additionally, concerns were raised about the early abstract deadline for the ACTS Spring 2025 Meeting, which may disadvantage trainees who start later in the year.

The group discussed how CTSA hubs could potentially engage with state governments to promote the value of the CTSA program. The Pod also discussed the effectiveness of K12 vs. K08 or K23 in getting R01s funded, and Dr. Kurilla will look into NIH data on this topic.

There was a discussion on the uncertainty in Washington and the potential freezing of NIH awards if funds are not used by the end of the fiscal year 3. The group emphasized the importance of tracking metrics and discussed the challenges of measuring impact, particularly in the context of the new NIH director's priorities 1.

- **Eric Vilain, University of California - Irvine**

E. Vilain noted that their Pod, like others, discussed current events. The Utah CTSA's funding status was uncertain for a while but was eventually restored. Rachel Hess shared valuable insights on demonstrating the scientific value of their CTSA and navigating funding challenges.

The Pod discussed formulating scientific arguments for the value of CTSA's and the five goals of the new director. E. Vilain emphasized the importance of keeping the three goals in mind when reporting activities. Dr. Kurilla will attend their next pod meeting.

- Reynold Panettieri, Rutgers University

R. Panettieri discussed the March 25th Pod meeting, which involved reevaluating a communications presentation and diving deeper into implementation and challenges. Observations were made about the lack of a consistent brand across hubs, with some called CTSA's and others CTSIs, causing confusion when building a national brand.

The group struggled with defining value metrics and the value proposition, emphasizing the need for consistency and data accumulation to create a powerful impact.

Sharon Moe presented a one-pager designed to uniformly present to hubs for use in state legislation and government bodies.

T. Wun noted that similar efforts were made for UC CTSA's, presented at regents meetings and posted on the UCOP website to communicate the value of hubs to regional stakeholders and legislators.

Brainstorming for the Fall CTSA Meeting (Slides 42-45)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla and Grace McComsey

Presentation Summary: M. Kurilla invited the Steering Committee to raise their hand in Zoom or enter in the chat ideas for topics. A list of submitted ideas from the Steering Committee, Pods, and a few from G McComsey was shared:

Translational Science & Research

- Transformation of Translational Science and Research by Ambient Artificial Intelligence
- Artificial Intelligence and Clinical and Translational Science
- Ensuring that translational science benefits all Americans
- How to address gaps in TS
- Role of CTSA Program in Chronic Disease Research

Collaboration & Communication

- How to create cross-hub collaborations
- Communicating the value of the CTSA to multiple audiences
- How can the CTSA promote the public view of academic research centers as responsible and reliable research partners

Support & Mentoring

- Effective approaches to supporting faculty, trainees and staff

- Strategies to build a resilient hub
- Mentoring of new PIs

The Fall Planning Committee meeting will begin meeting on May 13th and they are still looking for volunteers.

Questions and Discussion:

- One suggestion from the group was to ask the new NIH director to attend and share his vision. This will help CTSAs understand what to do to try to help his vision.

Adjourn (Slides 46-47)

C. Mark reminded Steering Committee members to review the working group proposals.

M. Kurilla adjourned the meeting.

Next Steering Committee Webinar Monday, May 12, 2025, at 2:30-3:30 PM ET