



CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
July 13, 2026 | 2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Attendees:

Michael Kurilla, **Co-Chair**
Grace McComsey, **Co-Chair**

Steven Bernstein
Andrea Carnegie
Manisha Desai

Vesna Garovic
Michael Holinstat
Fasiha Kanwal
Mimi Kim
Julie Lumeng
Gerry Moeller
Elizabeth Ofili

Rey Panettieri
Dominic Reeds
Marisa Spann
Sarah Wiehe
Karen Wilson
Ted Wun

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza
Heather Baker
Patrick Brown
Soju Chang
Jennie Conroy
Pablo Cure
Anthony Dibello

Jamie Doyle
Stephanie Ezequiel
Gallya Gannot
Cynthia Gonzalez
Chris Hartshorn
Rebecca Katz
Irina Krasnova

Francisco Leyva
Katie Patel
Thomas Radman
Erica Rosemond
Joy Vallejo
Annica Wayman
Yanji Xu

CCOS: Kerry James, Amanda Scott*

* *SC Coordinator*

Welcome (Slides 1-3)

Speakers: Mike Kurilla, Grace McComsey, Amanda Scott

The committee opened with updates from Michael Kurilla and Grace McComsey, including a reminder that the September Steering Committee meeting will be held from 1:00–5:00 PM during the Fall Program Meeting. Michael Kurilla also highlighted growing collaboration opportunities related to Operation Trial Blazer and announced that FDA leadership would participate in upcoming Fall Meeting activities.

A major operational change was announced regarding pod feedback. Steering Committee members will continue submitting monthly pod feedback forms, but recurring agenda time to review feedback on Steering Committee calls will be eliminated. Instead, meetings will

emphasize pod spotlights, while NCATS will review submissions and provide direct, timely follow-up on issues raised. Committee leadership emphasized that pod feedback remains important and encouraged members to continue submitting concerns and questions through the established process.

Steering Committee Vote: Pediatric Clinical Trials: Resources, Barriers, and Opportunities Across CTSA Hubs (Slide 4)

Speakers: Amanda Scott, Fasiha Kanwal

Presentation Summary:

The committee reviewed the proposed **Pediatric Clinical Trials: Resources, Barriers, and Opportunities Across CTSA Hubs Survey**, intended for one response per hub administrator and scheduled to launch July 21 and close August 4. Fasiha Kanwal, serving as Steering Committee liaison, reported that revisions had already been made to address earlier concerns and that the survey could provide valuable information about pediatric trial infrastructure, barriers, and support needs across hubs.

The discussion focused extensively on implementation concerns. Members questioned whether hub administrators would realistically have access to detailed funding and barrier information, how they would gather and synthesize responses across multiple pediatric departments and investigators, and whether the proposed two-week completion window was sufficient. Several members suggested the workload could be substantial, and raised concerns that collecting one consolidated response per hub might oversimplify diverse stakeholder perspectives.

Following discussion, committee leaders concluded that additional clarification and revisions were needed before approval. The recommendation was to formally send the survey back to the working group with Steering Committee feedback for further refinement.



Fall Annual Program Meeting Updates (Slide 5)

Speaker: Amanda Scott, Mike Kurilla

Presentation Summary:

Due to extended discussion on the pediatric survey, the planned Fall Program Meeting update was deferred to the next Steering Committee meeting. However, the committee confirmed that the meeting contract had been finalized, dates were now firm, hotel reservations were open, and meeting registration and poster submissions were expected to launch imminently.

Pod Spotlight: VCU Wright Center for Clinical & Translational Research (Slides 6-7)

Speaker: Amanda Scott, Mike Kurilla

Presentation Summary:

Presented by Gerry Moeller, the VCU pod spotlight summarized major topics discussed across participating hubs. Issues included funding delays and NOGA processing backlogs, which created operational and staffing challenges, particularly for smaller hubs. Pod members also discussed evolving resource requirements for informatics initiatives, sustainability concerns for programs such as N3C, and uncertainty around future governance responsibilities.

Pod Spotlight: Einstein-Montefiore Clinical & Translational Science Award Hub (Slides 8-11)

Mimi Kim presented results of a six-site pod survey examining AI use across CTSA activities. Findings showed that most hubs are engaged in AI governance, training, support services, and operational use cases, though the maturity of implementation varies considerably. Common applications included meeting support, communications, grants administration, reporting, AI consultation services, and AI-related workforce development.

Discussion broadened into governance, education, clinical applications, and institutional adoption strategies. Members described AI training programs, AI summits, new AI-focused funding initiatives, clinical note summarization tools, responsible AI governance efforts, and the challenge of balancing enthusiasm among junior investigators with skepticism among senior faculty. Participants repeatedly stressed the need for AI literacy, human oversight, responsible implementation, and cross-institutional sharing of training resources. The group also discussed future applications for research, recruitment, mentorship, communications, and translational science challenges.

Adjourn (Slide 12)

The next SC meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 27.