



Clinical and Translational Science Awards Program

## Coordination, Communication, & Operations Support

---

### CTSA Steering Committee Webinar Summary July 14, 2025; 2:30-3:30 PM ET

#### Steering Committee Attendees:

Michael Kurilla, Co-Chair  
Ted Wun, Co-Chair

Elmer Bernstam  
Steven Bernstein  
Arleen Brown  
Andrea Carnegie

Vesna Garovic  
Mike Holinstat  
David Ingbar  
Mimi Kim  
Julie Lumeng  
Grace McComsey  
Gerry Moeller

Elizabeth Ofili  
Ruth O'Hara  
Reynold Panettieri  
Doris Rubio  
Mark Schleiss  
Eric Vilain  
Rosalind Wright

#### Not In Attendance:

Stephan Bour  
Daniel Ford  
Steve Reis

David Ingbar  
Sarah Wiehe

#### NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza  
Heather Baker  
Kris Bough  
Patrick Brown  
Dale Burwen  
Jennie Conroy  
Pablo Cure

Anthony DiBello  
Jamie Doyle  
Stephanie Ezequiel  
Gallya Gannot  
Chris Hartshorn  
Irina Krasnova  
Francisco Leyva

Katie Patel  
Thomas Radman  
Erica Rosemond  
Joni Rutter  
Amanda Vogel  
Salina Waddy  
Annica Wayman

#### Invited Guests:

Dexter Lee

**CCOS:** Lauren Fitzharris, Amanda Scott

---

#### Welcome (Slides 1-2)

Speakers: Mike Kurilla, Ted Wun

M. Kurilla and T. Wun welcomed members of the Steering Committee (SC).

---

## Fall Planning Logistics Update (Slides 3-5)

Speaker: Amanda Scott

Presentation Summary: A. Scott provided updates on the tentative venue and budget approval process for the fall meeting. She explained that attendance is limited to five representatives per hub and one per EC, for a total of 9 per hub. She also went over the proposed schedule for the event before responding to the following questions:

### Key Questions and Responses:

Doris R.: Can we revisit the 5-representative limit per hub, and allow larger delegations to use the slots left by smaller hubs not using their full allotment?

*A. Scott: Yes, we will revisit that once the venue and registration are finalized.*

David I.: Will there be a K and T PI meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> day.

*A. Scott: The planning committee are discussing adding a networking opportunity during the lunch hour on Day 2, but nothing has been finalized yet.*

## TL1 Visiting Scientist Working Group Report Out (Slides 6-12)

Speaker: Dexter Lee

### Presentation Summary:

Dexter Lee presented updates on the TL1 Visiting Scientists Working Group. He highlighted three main activities: the Debate Forum, Mini Symposium, and Grand Rounds. Each initiative involved national collaboration, trainee leadership, and manuscript development. The group is also addressing trainee concerns and considering programming to support career uncertainty.

### Key Questions & Responses:

Mike K.: What's the mood among TL1 and T32 trainees?

*Dexter L.: Mixed. Some are considering careers outside the U.S. due to uncertainty.*

Ted W.: Can the forum be used to discuss these concerns?

*Dexter L.: Yes, we're considering using the Debate Forum or Mini Symposium for that.*

Ruth O.: Can we provide more structured feedback and awareness of opportunities?

*Dexter L.: "Excellent suggestion. It would be well received."*

## Annual K Report Out (Slides 13-19)

Speaker: Doris Rubio

Presentation Summary: Doris Rubio shared updates on the KL2/K12 programs. She emphasized the high competitiveness of applications and the growing concern among scholars about funding delays, salary caps, and career uncertainty. The group has created national career development seminars and speed mentoring events to support scholars. However, many are opting out of research careers due to systemic challenges.

### Key Questions & Responses:

Mike K: How's the mood among K scholars?

*Doris R:* Not good. Many are considering leaving research

Mike K: Are there concerns about Medicaid reductions affecting workforce?

*Doris R:* Yes, it's grim. Cuts are impacting clinical dollars and institutional budgets.

Grace M: Is there a way to connect K scholars to academic jobs?

*Doris R:* They already have faculty positions but are choosing to leave research.

## **Institutional Feedback: Training and Approach**

Speaker: Mike Kurilla

Presentation Summary: Mike Kurilla initiated a discussion on how institutions are handling succession planning for CTSA (Clinical and Translational Science Awards) leadership roles. He noted a high turnover in leadership and emphasized the importance of proactive planning to ensure program sustainability. The conversation revealed a range of strategies, challenges, and recommendations from various institutions.

### Key Themes and Strategies:

#### 1. Integration with Institutional Leadership

- Ruth O. emphasized that CTSA programs must be visibly integrated into broader institutional leadership. This visibility helps secure support and ensures CTSA leaders are seen as institutional assets.
- Her team is regularly involved in town halls, mentorship groups, and strategic planning.

#### 2. Structured Succession Pipelines

- Ted W. described a formalized approach with annual succession planning discussions.
- Their model includes pairing senior and junior faculty as co-leads, promoting from within, and encouraging junior faculty to step into leadership roles.

#### 3. Leadership Development Through Participation

- Rey P. noted they identify mid-level faculty passionate about CTSA work and mentor them into leadership roles.

#### 4. Open Calls and Transparent Selection

- Rosalind W. shared that they sometimes use open calls for leadership roles, allowing interested faculty to apply and present their vision.

#### 5. Early Administrative Training

- Ruth O. and Mike K. discussed the lack of early-career training for administrative roles.
- Ruth suggested integrating administrative skill-building into early faculty development.

- Mike noted that NIH often assumes research excellence translates to administrative competence, which is not always the case.

#### 6. Budget Constraints and Junior Faculty

- Andrea C. highlighted the challenge of maintaining junior-senior leadership pairs due to budget limitations.
- Junior faculty are often the first to be cut when budgets tighten.

#### 7. Term Limits and Institutional Culture

- Ted W. advocated for term limits in leadership roles to encourage turnover and fresh perspectives.

#### 8. Harmonization and Documentation

- Vesna G. suggested more structured and harmonized succession planning across institutions.
- She recommended documenting qualifications and potential successors in grant applications.

### **Adjourn (Slide 21)**

M. Kurilla adjourned the meeting.

**Next Steering Committee Webinar Monday, July 28, 2025, at 2:30-3:30 PM ET**