CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
July 22, 2024
2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Members:

Michael Kurilla, Co-Chair	Mimi Kim	Kathryn Sandberg
Ruth O'Hara, Co-Chair	Duane Mitchell	Randy Urban
Arleen Brown	Frederick "Gerry" Moeller	Rosalind Wright
Andrea Carnegie	Elizabeth Ofili	Ted Wun
Vesna Garovic	Steven Reis	
Jessica Kahn	Doris Rubio	

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza	Sarah Dunsmore	Joan Nagel
Heather Baker	Stephanie Ezequiel	Thomas Radman
Jennifer Beierlein	Josh Fessel	Anna Ramsey-Ewing
Kris Bough	Stacia Fleisher	Erica Rosemond
Patrick Brown	Gallya Gannot	Meredith Temple-O'Connor
Soju Chang	Ken Gersing	
Jennie Conroy	Rashmi Gopal-Srivastava	Amanda Vogel
Pablo Cure	Chris Hartshorn	Salina Waddy
Anthony DiBello	Greg Jarosik	Robin Wagner
Jamie Doyle	Francisco Leyva	

Regrets: Grace McComsey, Stephan Bour, Daniel Ford, Melissa Haendel, Jennifer Kraschnewski

Guests: Aubri Hoffman, Jeanita Pritchett Clay

CCOS: Lauren Fitzharris, Kerry James, Cindy Mark

Welcome and Announcements (Slide 3)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla and Ruth O'Hara

M. Kurilla welcomed everyone, briefly reviewed the agenda, and facilitated the call.

Presentation: Pathways to Inclusion: Transforming Leadership, Strategy, and Science for Equity (Slides 4-26)

Speaker: Jeanita Pritchett Clay

Presentation Summary:

Dr. Jeanita Pritchett Clay, NIH NCATS Chief Scientific Diversity Officer, presented on NCATS strategic initiatives for cultivating a diverse workforce, fostering inclusive leadership, and developing impactful diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) programs. She explained the NCATS mission of turning research observations into health solutions through translational science, its vision of providing more treatments for all people more quickly, and the core services she supports in her role, including outreach, collaborations, consulting, training, leadership advocacy, and data collection. She explained the role of DEIA in the NCATS organizational structure and highlighted several DEIA initiatives, including:

- the Gaining Research Equity and Advancement in Translational Science (GREATS) paid summer internship program,
- a Demographic Data and Recruitment Toolkit,
- various recruitment and retention funding opportunities for students and academic staff,
- professional development leadership programs,
- DEIA trainings and seminars,
- the IDEA Council employee group,
- the NIH Women Scientists Advisors (WSA) employee group, and
- the Employee Engagement Committee.

She concluded by noting other DEIA programs to promote inclusive practices in the federal government, as well as various toolkits and resources that help promote a community of belonging.

Questions and Discussion:

- R. O'Hara asked for more information about the Demographic Data and Recruitment Toolkit.
    - J. Clay explained pieces of the toolkit have been developed while others are not yet final. A curated standard operating procedures (SOP) document is complete and highlights best practices.
- J. Kahn commended NCATS' DEIA efforts via the Chat.
- T. Wun asked in the Chat about how NCATS plans to measure the impact of its efforts.

Presentation: Developing an NCATS CTSA Real-World Data Training Hub (Slides 27-39)

Speaker: Aubri Hoffman and Ken Gersing

Presentation Summary:

Dr. K. Gersing discussed NCATS' plan to create a training hub to provide guidance, training, tools, and resources related to use of real-world data (RWD) by translational researchers and community partners. He outlined current RWD challenges, including a shortage of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) expertise, limited funding, and the need for scalability to ensure best practices in open science and use of shared data resources. The

vision of the RWD training hub is to address such challenges by collaborating and leveraging experience to provide open access to training resources for all individuals and ensure quality translational science.

Dr. A. Hoffman explained an NCATS instructional design team will partner with subject matter experts (SMEs) to co-design high-quality training materials. In Fall 2024 the National Covid Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Public Health Answers to Speed Tractable Results (PHASTR) program will release a call for proposals (CFP) to invite applications for those interested in developing content for the hub. The CTSA RWD Workforce Development Education Working Group (WG) will launch in July 2024 to help guide and facilitate collaboration and communication.

She shared major timeline milestones beginning in Summer 2024, which include activities related to conducting a learning landscape analysis, curating and adapting existing resources, and creating new resources. The landscape analysis will help identify potential collaborators and define necessary skills and competencies for inclusion in the hub. The other phases of the timeline will focus on analyzing existing RWD training resources and identifying gaps where development of new resources will be needed. She noted currently available resources and impending training courses and resources that will soon be available.

The presenters concluded by asking for recommendations and suggestions for resources needed, partners to include, and the best approach for engaging users of the site.

Questions and Discussion:

- R. O'Hara asked for confirmation that they have been visiting Pods to promote awareness and raise interest.
    - A. Hoffman noted they have visited some Pods and are open to receiving requests to visit additional Pods as they attempt to involve others in this collaborative effort.
    - A couple of attendees noted in the Chat they would extend invitations for the speakers to visit their Pod meetings.
- K. Sandberg suggested via the Chat that they present at a monthly meeting of T Directors, who likely would be very interested.
- K. Gersing emphasized in the Chat their intent is not to duplicate other existing material.
- J. Kahn suggested via the Chat including K and T Scholars and CTSA staff as collaborators on the project.
- E. Ofili noted in the Chat the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Coordinating Center has a strong interest in data science and should be considered as a potential partner.
- K. Gersing shared via the Chat the N3C Education Enclave is functional online and includes synthetic datasets to help teach and learn how to use RWD.

Pod Feedback (Slides 40-45)

Speaker: Chris Hartshorn

4

<u>Presentation Summary:</u>

C. Hartshorn introduced Pod leaders, who summarized updates and feedback from respective Pods.

The University of Texas Medical Branch Institute for Translational Sciences Pod

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Randy Urban
- Update Received: May 16, 2024, and June 20, 2024
- Pod Summary (May 16, 2024, meeting): The Kansas Hub described their combined EAC and Annual Research Symposium meetings, which are highly beneficial but an administrative burden.
- Pod Summary (June 20, 2024, meeting): The UTMB Hub described its work with historically Black colleges and university (HBCU) partner Texas Southern University, noting community engagement is key to improving clinical trial participant diversity.
- Hub Updates:
  - Kansas: (1) Working on renewal plans. (2) Submitted OT2 proposal. (3) Negotiating funds July-August.
  - Arkansas: (1) Awaiting official Notice of Award (NoA) to support work on final report. (2) Submitted O52 proposal. (3) Partnered with Division of Research and Innovation for second annual lifespan meeting in September.
  - Michigan: (1) Interested in potentially developing a WG on extending academic research to community hospitals. (2) Good attendance at recent AI and Health conference. (3) Adapting Clinical Trials Academy for faculty working on behavioral drug and device trials.
  - San Antonio: (1) Held Research Day focusing on Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) grant guidelines. (2) Held successful clinical translational science (CTS) design studio. (3) Selected new pre- and post-doc T32 cohorts.
  - UTMB: (1) Submitted in May applications for UM1, K12, and R25 funding. (2) Currently developing pre-doctoral T32 and Rc2 submissions for September. (3) Held successful summer camp focused on entrepreneurship and innovation.
  - Houston: Awaiting NoAs for 2 (two) projects involving 6 (six) partner institutions.

Conduits: Mount Sinai Health System Translational Science Hub Pod

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Rosalind Wright
- Update Received: March 15, 2024, and May 17, 2024
- Pod Summary (March 15, 2024, meeting): Reviewed slides for upcoming Advancing D&I (Diversity & Inclusion) report. Suggestions include explaining the difference in approach from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) initiative and enhancing implementation by integrating data science and leveraging electronic health records and machine learning algorithms.
- Pod Summary (May 17, 2024, meeting): (1) Discussed concerns over aligning with the Strategic Plan current Requests for Application (RFAs) requirements for inclusion of implementation science in proposals. (2) Suggested exploring ways to foster

collaborations between intramural programs. (3) Need better onboarding procedures for new CTSAs.

- Pod Feedback: (1) Concerned about lack of emphasis on public health and implementation science in Strategic Plan. (2) Need to investigate ways to align T grants with other mechanisms to streamline CTSA application process. (3) Suggest improving awareness and onboarding procedures for new CTSAs. (4) Would appreciate explanation of plans for intramural/extramural integration in CTSA programs.

Mayo Clinic Center for Clinical and Translational Science Pod

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Vesna Garovic
- Update Received: June 27, 2024
- Pod Summary: The Pod discussed (1) potential impact of House Congressional Framework on research, (2) a new one-year Exercise Medicine and Diagnostic Therapeutics post-doctoral fellowship program under development, and (3) updates from the Steering Committee, which include voting on new WGs, a reminder about completing the CTSA Spring meeting feedback survey, and discussions around mentoring training requirements, metrics, and use of MOUs that arose from the Advancing D&I report.

Einstein-Montefiore Clinical and Translational Science Award Hub Pod

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Mimi Kim
- Update Received: June 12, 2024
- Pod Summary: (1) Discussed updates from recent Steering Committee meetings. (2) Discussed translational science (TS) versus translational research (TR) in terms of pilot programs and funding requirements. (3) Concerned about efficacy of TS competency mentoring tool if Hubs are confused about TS versus TR.
- Pod Feedback for the Steering Committee: Suggest future CTSA program meetings include more brainstorming sessions to allow for more discussion.

Discussion / Adjournment (Slide 46)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla and Ruth O'Hara

Presentation Summary:

M. Kurilla reminded everyone there will be no SC meetings in August. R. O'Hara encouraged everyone to provide feedback to Drs. Hoffman and Gersing regarding the training hub. M. Kurilla adjourned the meeting.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, September 9, 2024, 2:30-3:30pm ET