Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
2:30pm – 2:35pm	Welcome & Announcements	Michael Kurilla, Ted Wun
2:35pm – 2:55pm	Pod Feedback	Chris Hartshorn
2:55 – 3:05pm	Impact Measures Usage Hub Leadership Poll	Cathleen Kane
3:05pm – 3:30pm	Cross-hub Communication with the SC Regarding Attributes to our CTSIs	Jareen Meinzen-Derr
3:30pm	Adjourn	Michael Kurilla, Ted Wun

POD Feedback

Presented By: Chris Hartshorn

Pod Meeting Summary: April – June 2025

Date Received: April 7, 2025; May 5, 2025; June 2, 2025
Pod Lead: Steven Bernstein, Dartmouth College
Pod Membership: Weill Cornell Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pittsburgh, University at Buffalo, University of Pennsylvania

April 7, 2025

- Mike Kurilla attended pod meeting and reviewed current landscape at NCATS, NIH
  - Jan. 2025 Council meeting was rescheduled for April 17
  - Unclear when NIH staff will be able to travel again.
  - NIH contracts to be reviewed (but strong interest in maintaining N3C)
  - Relatively modest decrease in NCATS staff due to RIF, retirement, probationary status
- Dr. Kurilla suggested following RPPR instructions closely
- Congress retains strong interest in AI: N3C, CTSA program fit well in this domain

May 5, 2025

- Dr. Bernstein provided updates from the April 28th SC meeting
- RPPR Process Discussion
  - Submissions: Penn (Jan), Dartmouth (late Apr), Buffalo (due Nov)
  - Reviewed instruction changes and emphasized on aligning with federal priorities
- Notices of Award issued for new NOFOs and renewals
  - Concerns: timing, funds to be drawn down before NGA
- ACTS Meeting + UPI Forum
- Dartmouth SYNERGY Symposium (June 4the) attendees: J. Rutter, M. Kurilla, J. Doyle

June 2, 2025

- Dr. Bernstein provided updates from the May 12th SC meeting
- Reviewed CTSA grant process & SEP transition to CSR, RPPR preparation, & Noncompeting review process
- NIH Director's new research priorities
- Plan to include foreign institutions in NIH grants
- New directions for N3C
- Fall CTSA meeting: reproducibility suggested as topic
- Dartmouth SYNERGY symposium (June 4): NCATS leadership to attend

Pod Meeting Summary: April – May 2025

Date Received: April 21, 2025; May 19, 2025
Pod Lead: Vesna Garovic, Mayo Clinic
Pod Membership: University of Southern California, The Ohio State University, Medical College of Wisconsin, Tufts University, University of California - Davis

April 21, 2025

- Alignment with NIH priorities was discussed.

- Discussion on changes recently made to the CTSA funding opportunity announcements and whether additional revisions would be expected.

- Dr. Kurilla addressed the backlog of approvals and notices of award at NCATS.

May 19, 2025

- RPPR Discussion

  - Some POD members reported significant funding cuts

  - Importance of precise language noted

  - Terminated supplements discussed

- Steering Committee Update

  - Discussion about the working groups

- 2025 CTSA Fall Meeting

  - Suggested topics include supporting early career individuals and alternative funding beyond CTSA awards

Pod Meeting Summary: April – June 2025

Date Received: April 29, 2025; May 27, 2025; June 24, 2025
Pod Lead: Reynold Panettieri, Rutgers University
Pod Membership: Indiana University, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, University of Florida, University of Iowa

April 29, 2025

- NCATS Priorities & Questions to share with Dr. Kurilla in May
  - Focus: chronic/rare diseases, reproducibility, innovation
  - Topics: data science cooperatives, RC2 outcomes, NIH alignment (e.g., dissent, gain-of-function regulation)
- RPPR & NOA Status
  - Discussed delays in NOAs across institutions and the impact to pilot projects and funding timelines
- BIDS EC Formation & Charter
- NIH Director's Five Goals: Chronic disease, reliability, dissent, innovation, gain-of-function regulation
  - Concerns about CTSA alignment with dissent/regulation goals
- Discussed Fall Meeting Topics

May 27, 2025

- NCATS Priorities/Reorganization
  - Focus: CTSA funding stability amid budget uncertainty; Themes: chronic/rare diseases, reproducibility, innovation
  - NCATS remains under NIH; restructuring depends on Congress
- State Engagement
  - Discussed emphasis on partnerships with state/public health entities and proposed a CTSA case study/tool repository. Indiana shared a successful one-pager example
  - Continue collecting input on CTSA–state collaboration and innovation
- Additional Topics Discussed: RC2s support site-level innovation, data science, academic culture, & action items

June 24, 2025

- RPPR & NOA Status
  - Delays in NOAs reported across institutions
  - Impacting pilot timelines, Element E, and funding access
- BIDS EC Charter - Approved
- Fall Meeting
  - Tentatively planned for late October
  - Details forthcoming

Pod Meeting Summary: June 5, 2025

Date Received: June 5, 2025
Pod Lead: Julie Lumeng, University of Michigan
Pod Membership: University of Texas Medical Branch, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, University of Texas Health San Antonio, University of Kansas, University of Arkansas for Medical Services, Baylor College of Medicine – University of Houston

June 5, 2025

- Dr. Lumeng reported out to the Pod group on the 4/28 and 5/12 meetings.

- Discussed Questions & Discussion Topics for Mike Kurilla on August 21.

    - Proposed topics include:

        - Updates on current events,

        - Impact of new policies on CTSA grants.

        - Approaches to RPPRs and budgeting.

- Each hub shared updates on their current initiatives and events.

    - Several hubs have recently submitted or are working on RPPRs.

    - Many are reviewing and updating their pilot processes.

    - UKMC is preparing its UM1 application.

    - UT Health Science San Antonio is gearing up for the Texas Regional CTSA Consortium meeting next week.

- Suggested topics for upcoming Pod meetings include: 1) Showcasing programs and initiatives from different hubs and 2) Cross-site comparisons in areas like community engagement, informatics, and Element E.

Pod Meeting Summary: May 9, 2025

Date Received: May 9, 2025 and June 17, 2025
Pod Lead: Mimi Kim, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Pod Membership: Harvard University, Columbia University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Rochester, University of Chicago – Rush University

May 9, 2025

- The Pod discussion focused on the status of CTSA grants at each hub.

- Several sites are experiencing delays in receiving NOAs due to language, scope of activities in RPPR not aligned with federal priorities. Experiences and advice for others on how to address these issues were shared.

- Hub leaders who have submitted new UM1 grants expressed concerns about potential budget cuts following alignment review.

- Personnel reductions are already occurring at some sites.

- Rey Panettieri's SC presentation on CTSAs engaging with state and local governments was also discussed. The one-page CTSA impact statement that he created was shared with the Pod.

June 17, 2025

- CTSA Impact: The Pod discussed different approaches hubs are taking to assess the impact of their CTSAs, specifically how to measure impact on health outcomes in communities.

    - TSMB approach- but requires qualitative and quantitative analysis

    - It may take years to see the impact of hub efforts but there are ways to capture progress.

- Financial Support of CTR Infrastructure: Pod discussed models by Dan Ford to create CTR infrastructure.

    - Block grants tend to be underfunded or inefficient

    - At best, a hybrid model where the fixed costs of establishing a facility are subsidized.

- Hub membership models: Are hubs using membership models for their CTSAs?

    - Allows access to all CTSA resources and ability to monitor resource utilization (e.g., services, web traffic)

Pod Meeting Summary: May – June

Date Received: May 1, 2025; June 5, 2025
Pod Lead: Elizabeth Ofili, Morehouse School of Medicine
Pod Membership: University of Miami, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Duke University, Medical University of South Carolina, Wake Forest University School of Medicine

May 1, 2025

- A collaborative initiatives presentation outlined initiatives to strengthen collaborations, including a longstanding partnership focused on workforce development, interprofessional education, community engagement, and pilot research

- The Pod discussed a newly established office aimed at enhancing faculty and student collaboration.

- Discussed leveraging philanthropic support, business partnerships, and industry engagement to sustain and expand key initiatives.

- Explored strategies for maintaining bidirectional faculty engagement.

- Reviewed updates to the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) process.

- Discussed adjusting project language to better align with new administrative priorities.

June 5, 2025

- Royce Sampson presented MUSC's efforts to expand clinical research in rural and underserved regions of South Carolina.

- The Pod discussed challenges in conducting feasibility assessments across rural sites.

  - Limitations in EHR integration (e.g., lack of Epic access) hinder early use of tools like TriNetX.

- Duke and MUSC highlighted the difficulty of balancing clinician research involvement with patient care, especially for non-faculty providers.

- MUSC launched a pilot program with South Carolina State University and local technical schools to introduce clinical research careers to students in rural areas.

- Dr. Ofili provided an update from the CTSA Steering Committee meeting.

Practical Applications of CTSA Concept Mapping
2025 Impact Measures Usage
Hub Leadership Poll

Draft Presented for Review by the CTSA Steering Committee
July 28, 2025

Presented by
Cath Kane
Director of Evaluation
NYU Langone Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI)

Gerry Stacy
Administrative Director
The Institute for Translational Medicine (ITM)

PROPOSED TIMELINE

DATES	MILESTONES
March	Paper published on Concept Mapping (CM) findings
April	ACTS Conference: genesis of idea to use CM findings in a poll
May	Kurilla PPT re CM at Steering Committee (SC) meeting
June	Status update for SC (Cath & Gerry)
June-July	Poll finalized, reviewed by Admin and Eval chairs, sent to SC for approval
September	Poll distributed widely, responses supported by Admin and Eval
Early October	Poll closed, analysis begins, preliminary results shared w/Admin and Eval
Late October	Fall Conference "Stretch Goal", share with impact workgroups and OPEAR

PARTNERS

- ✓ **Project Co-Leads**
  - *Cath Kane* (Emeritus Eval Chair)
  - *Gerry Stacy* (Emeritus Admin Chair)

- ✓ **Project Support and Interpretation**
  ### National Eval Co-Chairs
  - *Joe Hunt (Indiana University)*
  - *Maryam Gholami (UCSD)*
  - *Allyson Eggleston (Penn)*

  ### National Admin Co-Chairs
  - *Casandra Burrows (Rutgers)*
  - *Andrea Carnegie (UNC)*
  - *Jennifer Cieslak (Univ. Minnesota)*

- ✓ **Analysis Support**
  ### OPEAR
  - *Katie Patel*

IMPACT POLL OVERVIEW

I. SURVEY INTRODUCTION
- **Objectives**
- **Instructions**

II. DEMOGRAPHICS
- **Q1:** Hub
- **Q2:** Respondents: *PI, Admin, Evaluator*

III. SURVEY QUESTION SETS
- **Q3**: Matrix 1: Concept Mapping Cluster (Existing Measures Part 1)
- **Q4:** Matrix 2: TSBM From Cluster (Existing Measures Part 2)
- **Q5:** Short Open Text (re Gaps)

SO WHAT? WHY NOW?

Consortium-Level Value

- Aggregated PI survey data at the consortium level could provide information on use patterns, emerging interests, and unmet needs to guide impact workgroups and OPEAR

Hub-Level Value

- Given limited time and resources, hubs may be able to use survey data to support strategic decisions on their impact measurement efforts

Strategic Timing

- Rising pressure on CTSA hubs to demonstrate impact
- Significant changes in agency priorities at the federal level

Bottom-Up Approach

- Founded in existing data collected from the majority of hubs
- **Driven, designed and interpreted by Evaluators and Administrators**

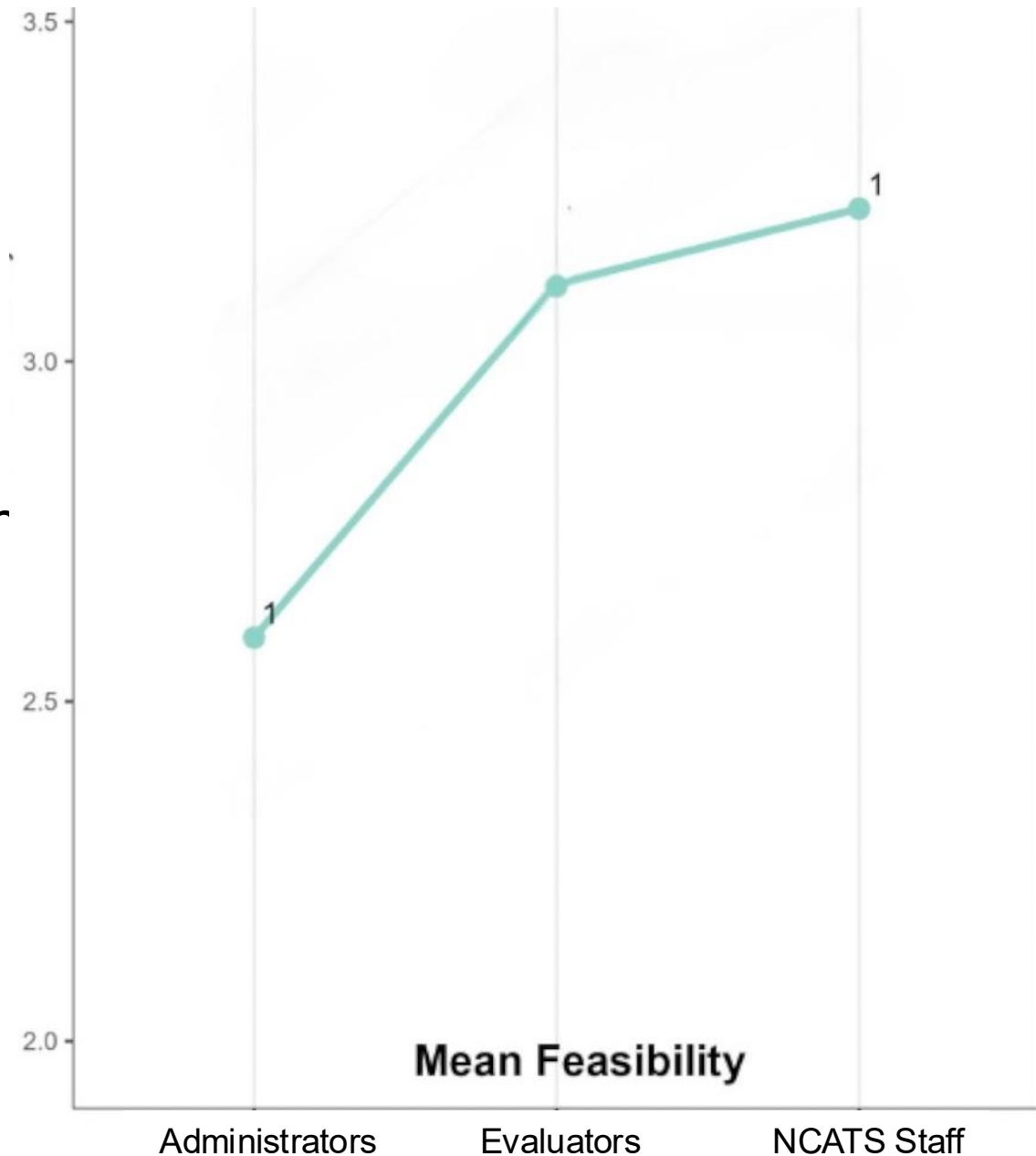# CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES on FEASIBILITY

Evaluators Feedback

- Feasibility of the flexible structure?

Administrators Feedback

- Feasibility of potential implementation

A Unique Survey

- Driven, designed and interpreted by Evaluators and Administrators
- **Our differing perspectives are an asset not a liability**

Mean Feasibility

SURVEY COLLECTION SUPPORT IDEAS (optional)

- **Create an FAQ** email to share with PIs via PODs
  (Further clarifying some of the options listed in the Instructions)

- **Record a short video** e.g. Cath and her Admin and PI could record filling out a few sample questions on the survey to embed in the invitation email and/or survey instructions

- **Embed a link to the Concept Mapping manuscript** in the survey overview

- **Add a "Trust but Verify" REDCap feedback loop** whereby a copy of the final survey submission will be emailed to the hub for archival confirmation

Discussion

Cathleen.Kane@nyulangone.org

Gerald.Stacy@uchicagomedicine.org

Setting the stage

- September 2024 – POD discussion involved CTSI presentation

- Part of the presentation included description of some innovations that were separate from the CTSI in the moment, but perhaps originally developed with early CTSI support

- It was not clear when to stop counting as a CTSI attribution?

Our own experience (Nov 2024)

- CCTST supports wide cadre of work, including efforts focused on healthcare access in our community and population health
  - Support for data and analytics, situational awareness, learning networks, community engagement, bench-to-bedside-to-neighborhood science
  - Applied methodologies that have been developed under/by the CCTST during COVID-19 work (data sharing, rapid coordination & collaboration, analytics, and situational awareness) to other complex challenges (asthma, mental health)
- Translation to the community – "system-ness" work
  - Working with our Metro to include an additional bus route so our patients can better access care
- Development of a Clinical-Community Learning System
  - Maternal-infant health – Every baby born in Hamilton County lives to see their 1st birthday!
  - Co-creating health and social care models

We were asked…

- *Can you actually count everything as a CCTST-attribution? Should you?*

- The CCTST supported the people doing the work
- The CCTST supported/developed many of the methods and techniques that enabled the work
- Our speakers said that they always "wear their CCTST hat." They do not remove it from project to project. – Makes it difficult to know what is "officially" CCTST.

Counting the Beans

What should we count?

- Directly funded outputs (e.g., pilot grants, K12 scholars)
- Indirectly supported work (e.g., CTSI-supported cores, consultations)
- Strategic partnerships or downstream innovations?
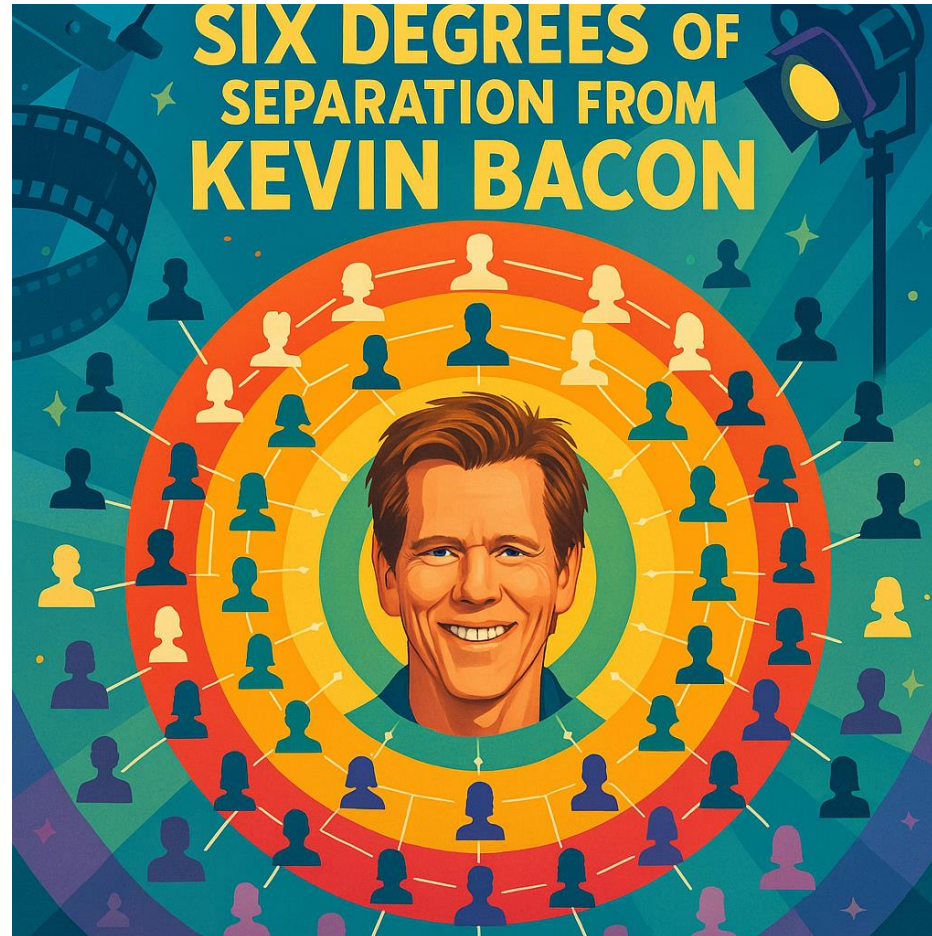
What should we not count?

- Work with no identifiable CTSA input?
- Outputs from affiliated investigators without CTSI engagement?

When do we stop counting?

- After a certain time post-funding?
- After a project transitions to independent funding?
- When attribution becomes diluted or speculative?

National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

Does a "6 degrees of separation" exist for the CTSA?

AI generated

Discussion Questions

- Should we develop a tiered attribution model (e.g., direct, indirect, affiliated)?

- How do we balance *accountability*
  - *We need to show that CTSA resources are producing measurable outcomes*
  - Track and report outputs (e.g., publications, innovations, workforce development)
  - Encourages broad attribution to show return on investment

- with *realistic influence*?
  - *Actual, meaningful contribution that a program has on an outcome*
  - Not every success by a CTSA-affiliated investigator is a CTSA success
  - "**Did the CTSA actually help make this happen**"
  - Over-attribution can undermine credibility

- What principles should guide our attribution decisions?
  - Should have a transparent, principled attribution framework that reflects contributions we want to capture

Adjourn

Next Meeting: September 8

August calls have been cancelled