



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

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## CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary Zoom Conference September 23, 2024; 2:30-3:30 PM ET

### Steering Committee Attendees:

Erica Rosemond, Co-Chair  
(filling in for Michael  
Kurilla)  
Ruth O'Hara, Co-Chair  
Arleen Brown  
Andrea Carnegie

Daniel Ford  
Vesna Garovic  
Mimi Kim  
Jen Kraschnewski  
F. Gerald Moeller  
Elizabeth Ofili

Kathryn Sandberg  
Randy Urban  
Rosalind Wright  
Ted Wun

**SC Regrets:** Stephan Bour, Michael Kurilla, Duane Mitchell, Melissa Haendel, Jareeen Meinzen-Derr, Grace McComsey, Doris Rubio, Steven Reis

### NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza  
Kris Bough  
Jennie Conroy  
Pablo Cure  
Anthony DiBello  
Jamie Doyle  
Stephanie Ezequiel  
Stacia Fleisher

Gallya Gannot  
Brittany Gibbons  
Rashmi Gopal-Srivastava  
Chris Hartshorn  
Greg Jarosik  
Francisco Leyva  
Joan Nagel  
Thomas Radman

Anna Ramsey-Ewing  
Meredith Temple-  
O'Connor  
Yolanda Valejo  
Amanda Vogel  
Robin Wagner  
Annica Wayman  
Ken Wiley

**Invited Guests:** Lori Carter-Edwards, Tung Nguyen, Doriane Miller

**Support Center: CCOS:** Lauren Fitzharris, Kerry James, Cindy Mark

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### Welcome and Announcements (Slides 3-4)

Speakers: Erica Rosemond and Ruth O'Hara

E. Rosemond (filling in for Michael Kurilla) welcomed the members of the Steering Committee (SC) and facilitated the Steering Committee call.

She shared a call for new members to serve on the SC for a period of 2-3 years from 2025-2028. Please submit nominations using this form: [NCATS is seeking nominations for New CTSA Program Steering Committee \(SC\) members! \(office.com\)](#). Eligibility criteria include:

- A Principal Investigator (PI) must be officially named on an active grant currently awarded to a CTSA Hub, and the award must have 3 years remaining.
- A PI must not have served on the SC since December 2018

### **Survey Request from *Catalyzing CTSA Hubs as Partners in LHS* (an “informal” Working Group) (Slides 5-6)**

Speaker: Kerry James

#### Presentation summary:

K. James shared details about a proposed survey to collect information about whether and how CTSA hubs are participating in and/or supporting learning health system (LHS) activities of a health system or healthcare organization. The purpose is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of whether, and how, the CTSA Consortium is using its unique expertise to directly support improvements in clinical care and healthcare provider organizations. The survey developers would like to disseminate the survey in early 2025 and are requesting SC approval.

#### Questions and Discussion:

- D. Ford noted the Hub point of contact (POC) responsible for completing the survey should be the Principal Investigator (PI), who will be best positioned to answer questions appropriately.
  - K. James agreed, stating the Hub Administrator likely would be the one to receive it, and that person could help identify the best person to complete the survey.
  - A. Carnegie asked if the survey would include definitions to help a Hub Administrator distribute the questionnaire appropriately.
    - K. James thanked A. Carnegie for this suggestion and will pass it along so the team can develop a preamble.
    - R. O'Hara suggested a more complete definition than that from the National Academy of Medicine Leadership Consortium would be helpful.
- V. Garovic asked about the format of the questionnaire.
  - K. James replied, stating it would be a REDCap questionnaire with closed response options rather than open-ended text response options.
- R. O'Hara suggested the team revise the questions, which seem to lack detail.
- R. O'Hara asked SC members to review the questionnaire, which C. Mark previously distributed, and provide suggested feedback.

### **WG Proposal Review / Voting Process (Slides 7-25)**

Speakers: Cindy Mark

#### Presentation Summary:

C. Mark provided details needed by SC members so they can review Working Group (WG) proposals for Cycle XIII from October 7 to November 11. Feedback gathered during the review will inform discussions leading up to the official vote on December 9 to select 3 new WGs to begin operating in January 2025.

She shared a reminder about all current WGs, including the 2 scheduled to sunset at the end of this year, before explaining how to log in to the [CCOS website](#), access the [Steering Committee Landing Page](#), complete a Conflict of Interest (COI) check, and evaluate and rate the proposals according to a 1-5 point scale.

She encouraged all SC members to review the proposals and directed SC members to contact the [CCOS Support Team](#) with any questions.

#### Questions and Discussion:

- V. Garovic asked for confirmation that a SC member's involvement with one of the proposed WGs is a COI.
  - C. Mark confirmed and suggested the SC member skip that proposal and review others.

### **DEIA Update, followed by Discussion (Slides 26-34)**

Speakers: [Lori Carter-Edwards](#), [Tung Nguyen](#), Doriane Miller

#### Presentation Summary:

L. Carter-Edwards and T. Nguyen shared statistics about the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Enterprise Committee (EC), including objectives, Hub membership, meeting attendance, accomplishments, and goals. They then asked the SC for feedback and guidance in supporting DEIA in translational research in the current political climate.

- **Accomplishments, Goals, and Priorities:**
  - Presentations at EC meetings on DEIA alignment and possible name change to "Inclusive Excellence"
  - Surveys to gauge climate, concerns, and needs at Hubs.
  - Cross-Hub sharing of DEIA practices and challenges by increasing understanding of the Learning System Accountability Framework
  - Equity, inclusion, and accessibility assessment plan
  - Catalog of CTSA DEIA best practices
- **Questions for the SC:**
  - Advice for next steps around supporting DEIA in the CTSA?
  - How best can Hubs conduct DEIA translational science in political climate?

#### Questions and Discussion:

- R. O'Hara commented her Hub in California has focused on inclusivity in the context of more treatments for more people, noting its importance regardless of nomenclature.

- The speakers thanked her for sharing this approach. T. Wun noted using such language should assist with complying with any local law suits pushing back against the idea of DEIA.
- R. Urban noted Texas has a state law prohibiting DEIA initiatives at public universities and it has been challenging thinking through ways to implement federally funded DEIA-based awards. Lawyers have suggested removing specific DEIA terminology from websites.
- The presenters noted the EC considered changing their name to removed DEIA wording but decided against the idea. However, the EC welcomes feedback from the SC. Regardless of the nomenclature and local political climates, EC has continued. L. Carter-Edwards suggested the SC provide an official endorsement statement, which could be shared locally by those concerned about push-back at their institutions.
  - T. Wun urged caution with rebranding.
  - R. O'Hara cautioned against taking a firm stance against potential renaming, noting the work would remain the same regardless of whether nomenclature is politically correct.

## Pod Feedback (Slides 35-41)

Speakers: Chris Hartshorn

### Presentation Summary:

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

#### **Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute Pod**

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Jennifer Kraschnewski
- Update Received: July 1, 2024, and August 5, 2024
- Pod Summary (July 1, 2024, meeting): SC report out; discussions on Fall Meeting and the Trial Information Network (TIN) Training Academy and multi-site clinical trials.
- Pod Summary (August 5, 2024, meeting): SC report out; discussions on Real-World Data Training Hub, funding opportunities/challenges, collaborative OHRP Forum (September 9-10), and REDCap CON (September 8-11)

#### **University of Texas Medical Branch Institute for Translational Sciences Pod**

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Randy Urban
- Update Received: July 18, 2024, and August 15, 2024
- Pod Summary (July 18, 2024, meeting): SC report out; Hub updates; Translational Science in Training Programs
- Pod Summary (August 15, 2024, meeting): SC report out; discussions on Fall Meeting, TL1 award challenges, discussion with Dr. Kurilla regarding problems with delayed payments of awards that have burdened graduate students dependent on the funding. He noted the issue was an NIH problem, not an NCATS issue. They also discussed with Dr. Kurilla how the CTSA funding mechanism disincentivizes partnering with minority

institutions, who often lack NIH funding. He hopes Dr. Kurilla will share this with NIH leadership.

### **Mayo Clinic Center for Clinical and Translational Science Pod**

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Vesna Garovic
- Update Received: July 25, 2024, and August 22, 2024
- Pod Summary (July 25, 2024, meeting): SC report out; discussions on the need for more breakout sessions at the Fall meeting and a proposed mentoring survey
- Pod Summary (August 22, 2024, meeting): SC report out; discussions on Fall meeting, Translational Science Pilots and the difference between clinical translational science and clinical translational research

### **Einstein-Montefiore Clinical and Translational Science Award Hub Pod**

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Mimi Kim
- Update Received: July 11, 2024
- Pod Summary: SC report out; discussion of Fall meeting.
- Pod Feedback for the Steering Committee: Suggest (1) improved communication about WGs to PIs, and (2) PI meeting address a couple of main themes of primary interest

### **UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center Pod**

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Ted Wun
- Update Received: June 4, 2024, and July 2, 2024
- Pod Summary (June 4, 2024, meeting): Discussions on Fall meeting; presentations on National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C)
- Pod Summary (July 2, 2024, meeting): Discussions on participation in N3C and ENACT; SC report out; Fall meeting

### **Wright Regional Center for Clinical and Translational Science Pod**

- Steering Committee Pod Leader: Gerry Moeller
- Update Received: May 28, 2024, July 23, 2024, and August 27, 2024
- Pod Summary (May 28, 2024, meeting): Q&A with Dr. Kurilla regarding NCATS funding and WG membership procedures
- Pod Summary (July 23, 2024, meeting): Discussions on Hub use of internal advisory boards.
- Pod Summary (August 27, 2024, meeting): Discussions on NIH funding and Fall meeting

### Questions and Discussion:

- In response to the May Clinic Pod suggestion about including more breakout sessions at the Fall meeting, T. Wun noted the agenda has been modified to allow for more discussion time.

## Fall Meeting Logistics Update (Slides 42-45)

Speakers: Kerry James

### Presentation Summary:

K. James shared updates regarding the theme, agenda, poster logistics, and other information for the upcoming 2024 Fall Program Meeting:

- November 13-15, 2024, at Bethesda North Marriott
- Theme: Building CTSA Program Impact through Innovation, Collaboration and Equity
- [Agenda](#) is available on [CCOS website](#)
- [Registration](#) is open through November 1, 2024. As of September 18, there are 267 registrants (232 in-person and 35 virtual).
- [Poster Submission Portal](#) is open through October 25, 2024.
  - One poster allowed per Hub, to be selected by the Hub Administrator and Hub PIs and submitted by the Hub Administrator.
  - Poster presentations will be randomized, with half presented in the morning and half in the evening.
  - A jury of 26 will score posters according to scales related to overall quality and impact. Eight posters will receive awards.
- A dedicated [conference website](#) and mobile Cvent application (app) for viewing it will be available soon.
- There will be opportunities for networking via tabletop discussions during sessions, discussion groups in the mobile app, and interactive graphic recording.
- Send questions to [FallMtg@ccos.ctsa.io](mailto:FallMtg@ccos.ctsa.io)

### Questions and Discussion:

- A. Brown requested clarification about the total number of posters allowed per Hub.
  - K. James confirmed one poster is allowed per Hub, regardless of whether it is a Trainee poster or a Scholar poster. The Hub Administrators must curate and approve the selected poster.

## Adjourn

Speakers: Erica Rosemond and Ruth O'Hara

### Presentation Summary:

E. Rosemond reminded everyone the October 14 meeting is cancelled due to the Columbus Day holiday before adjourning the meeting.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, October 28, 2024, at 2:30-3:30pm ET**