CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
October 26, 2026 | 2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Attendees:

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

Elmer Bernstam
Steven Bernstein
Manisha Desai
Dan Ford
Vesna Garovic
Fasiha Kanwal
Mimi Kim
Julie Lumeng
F. Gerard Moeller
Elizabeth Ofili
Rey Panettieri
Dominic Reeds
Mark Schleiss
Marisa Spann
Eric Vilain
Sarah Wiehe
Karen Wilson
Ted Wun

NCATS Attendees:

Audie Atienza
Dale Burwen
Jennie Conroy
Pablo Cure
Anthony DiBello
NIH-iPhone-HXW6L46DJ6
Stephanie Ezequiel
Stacia Fleisher
Brittany Gibbons
Christopher Hartshorn
Rebecca Katz
Irina Krasnova
Francisco Leyva
Joan Nagel
Katie Patel
Scott Steele
Annica Wayman

Guests: Andrew Kant, Erin Carey

CCOS: Kerry James, Alex Paquet, Amanda Scott*

** SC Coordinator*

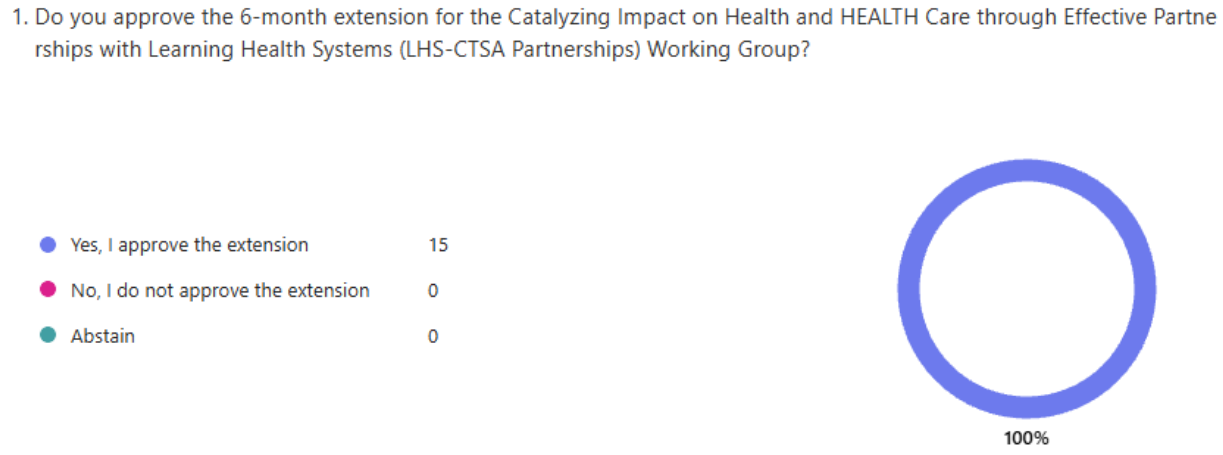
Welcome, Announcement and Vote on Pediatric Clinical Trials Survey (Slides 1-3)

Speakers: Mike Kurilla, Grace McComsey, Amanda Scott

Presentation Summary:

Michael Kurilla welcomed members to the first Steering Committee meeting of FY27 and noted that NIH and the federal government were operating under a continuing resolution through December 11. Amanda Scott then conducted the vote on the LHS-CTSA Partnerships Working Group extension; with 17 Steering Committee members on

the call and 14 votes received during the initial voting period, she reported that the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of approving the extension.



Annual K Report Out (Slides 4-10)

Speaker(s): Dominic Reeds

Presentation Summary:

Dominic Reeds described the national KL2/K12 PI community and its work to strengthen K Scholar training, mentoring, networking, recruitment, and national exposure through initiatives such as INSPIRE and the K and T Visiting Scientists Consortium. He also highlighted ongoing concerns around K funding delays, stagnant research budgets, administrative burden, salary caps, loss of researchers to clinical medicine, and changes affecting clinical/feasibility trials; the discussion focused particularly on financial pressures that make it increasingly difficult to retain clinician-scientists in research careers.

The discussion broadened beyond scholars, with Grace McComsey, Steven Bernstein, and Karen Wilson describing widening financial incentives for clinical work, the growing gap between specialty compensation and the NIH salary cap, and the difficulty early-career faculty face maintaining a heavily research-funded career.

WG Report Out: Translational Case Studies in Commercialization (Slides 11-23)

Speakers: Andrew Kant, Erin Carey, and Shawn Gomez with Dominic Reeds, Manisha Desai

Presentation Summary:

Andrew Kant reported on the 27-member, 16-institution working group's effort to understand why academic discoveries advance or stall by comparing successful and challenged commercialization cases from participating hubs. Emerging findings indicate that institutional processes can both enable and impede commercialization; people, time, credibility, and funding continuity are major determinants of progress; and multiple stakeholder perspectives are needed to reconstruct the translational journey.

The Working Group has completed its case-study framework, interviews, pilot coding, and an AI-assisted qualitative coding workflow; human validation and full-case coding remain underway, followed by comparative analysis and a JCTS manuscript. The discussion explored how the findings could result in practical resources for hubs, including commercialization toolkits, faculty education, better progress measures, systems-level analyses, and approaches addressing newer industry and AI partnerships.

Pod Spotlight: Stanford Center for Clinical & Translational Education and Research (Spectrum)

Speaker(s): Manisha Desai

Presentation Summary:

Manisha Desai presented the pod's examination of rigor and reproducibility practices across OHSU, UCLA, UCSD, Scripps, and Stanford. Approaches included embedding biostatistics/informatics throughout the research lifecycle, providing researcher education, employing tools such as Proofig AI and StatCheck, strengthening data-management practices, and incentivizing reproducible practices through certificates, badges, or recognition in CVs and promotion processes.

At Stanford, the SPOR program combines education, consultation, monitoring, data-management practices, and laboratory champions to support a broader cultural shift toward rigor and reproducibility. The group discussed whether effective tools and practices could be bundled into a shared CTSA resource, while recognizing that adoption needs to avoid creating another compliance burden for faculty.

Adjourn (Slide 25)

The next SC meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9.