CTSA Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Zoom Meeting
December 9, 2024; 2:30-3:30 PM ET

Steering Committee Attendees:

Michael Kurilla, Co-Chair	Jennifer Kraschnewski	Steven Reis
Ruth O'Hara, Co-Chair	Grace McComsey	Kathryn Sandberg
Andrea Carnegie	Jareen Meinzen-Derr	Randy Urban
Daniel Ford	Duane Mitchell	Rosalind Wright
Vesna Garovic	F. Gerald Moeller	Ted Wun
Mimi Kim	Elizabeth Ofili	

SC Regrets: Stephan Bour, Arleen Brown, Melissa Haendel, Doris Rubio,

NCATS Attendees:

Heather Baker	Jamie Doyle	Francisco Leyva
Kris Bough	Stephanie Ezequiel	Joan Nagel
Dale Burwen	Gallya Gannot	Thomas Radman
Soju Chang	Brittany Gibbons	Anna Ramsey-Ewing
Jennie Conroy	Chris Hartshorn	Erica Rosemond
Pablo Cure	Greg Jarosik	Joni Rutter
Anthony DiBello	Rebecca Katz	Steven Seidel

CCOS: Lauren Fitzharris, Kerry James, Cindy Mark

Welcome and Announcements (Slides 3-4)

Speakers: M. Kurilla and Ruth O'Hara

M, Kurilla welcomed the members of the Steering Committee (SC) and facilitated the call with R. O'Hara, who stated this was the last meeting she would help facilitate as Co-Chair. She noted it has been her privilege to serve the SC in this capacity.

Questions and Discussion:

- Multiple SC members thanked R. O'Hara via the Chat for serving as Co-Chair.

BIDS (Slides 5-6)

Speaker: Michael Kurilla

Presentation summary:

M. Kurilla announced the SC unanimously decided at its November 13 meeting to rename the Informatics Enterprise Committee (iEC) to **B**iostatistics, **I**nformatics, and **D**ata **S**cience (BIDS EC) to be more inclusive for biostatistics and data science research. The current EC leadership will modify strategy and communication language to reflect this change going forward. The CTSA will widely disseminate notice of the name change and will invite new members to join the EC to make it more representative of the enhanced focus.

SC EC Liaisons (Slide 5)

Speaker: Michael Kurilla

Presentation summary:

M. Kurilla explained there will be a change to the membership of the SC for 2025. Each EC Lead Team will select a representative from their Lead Team to serve as a voting member of the SC in 2025. This will help ensure a broad range of subject matter experts are included in making decisions about CTSA program activities. Lead Team selections are due December 13. An onboarding meeting will be held in early January.

WG Proposal Topic Survey (Slide 6)

Speaker: Michael Kurilla

Presentation summary:

M. Kurilla noted SC members will receive a survey this week asking for recommended Key Topic Areas of Interest, around which new Working Group (WG) proposals for 2025 will focus. The slides displayed the following current list of suggested topics:

- Learning health and research systems
- Best practices for navigating the Science of Translation
- Causes of rising midlife mortality in America (Case & Deaton, PNAS, 2015)
- Climate change and health
- National training curricula in CTS
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility
- Enhancing the impact of clinical trials
- Artificial Intelligence

WG Proposal Discussion & Voting (Slides 7-48)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla, Ruth O'Hara, and Cindy Mark

Presentation Summary:

C. Mark led the SC in a vote on which of nine WG proposals submitted under Cycle XIII to approve. She shared the current list of WGs and noted two WGs will sunset at the end of 2024, and another five will sunset in June 2025. She explained the voting process, which was conducted via the PollEv.com online polling platform, and directed anyone with a conflict of interest to abstain from voting on a particular proposal. M. Kurilla explained members should consider the merits of each proposal separately and not compare them. If more than three are approved, the SC can prioritize which WGs will begin in January versus later in 2025.

C. Mark began by sharing three slides for each proposal displaying goals and deliverables; visualizations demonstrating recommendations, feedback, and scores provided during the SC's review in October and November; and a summary of positive comments and constructive criticism provided during the review. She then invited discussion before sending out a poll by which members officially voted to select three new WGs to begin operating in January 2025. Summary information about each proposal is below.

Nine proposals were reviewed and voted upon. Three proposals were chosen:

- Catalyzing Impact on Health and Health Care through Effective Partnerships with Learning Health Systems
- Translational Case Studies in Commercialization
- Overcoming Barriers in Women's Health Research

All proposal writers were notified by CCOS on December 16, 2024. Constructive criticism and positive comments were provided, as well as requests to revise and re-submit, if appropriate.

Words of Wisdom from Departing SC Members (Slides 49-53)

Speakers: Departing SC Members

Presentation Summary:

K. Sandberg noted she has been involved with many NIH institutes, and NCATS is her favorite because of its collaborative nature.

J. Meinzen-Derr shared how much she appreciated the open communication and sharing of knowledge among CTSA participants.

J. Kraschnewski challenged members to regularly provide SC updates to Pods to leverage collaboration.

R. Urban seconded the importance of Pod meetings and for SC members to help provide structure for those meetings. He noted Pods work with administrators to solve many problems.

D. Mitchell has appreciated the collegiality of operations in the CTSA program and commended NCATS. He urges SC members to continue being accessible to and communicating with CTSAs to encourage open dialogue and sharing of perspectives.

M. Kurilla and R. O'Hara thanked the departing SC members for their contributions and enthusiasm.

Other SC members expressed their appreciation and well wishes to departing SC members in the Chat and welcomed their words of wisdom.

Adjourn (Slide 54)

Speakers: Michael Kurilla

Presentation Summary:

M. Kurilla reminded everyone Ted Wun will replace Ruth O'Hara as Co-Chair in 2025, and Grace McComsey will be Co-Chair Elect (to serve in 2026). He explained incoming SC members will have an onboarding session in early January before the first SC meeting.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, January 13, 2024, at 2:30-3:30pm ET