Biostatistics, Biomedical Informatics, and Data Science (BIDS) EC Charter

1. Introduction

The purpose of Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Enterprise Committees (ECs) is to "advance CTSA Program objectives in high priority areas in clinical and translational science".[1] ECs accomplish CTSA Program objectives such as overcoming barriers in Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) and expediting improvement in human health through EC activities (Box). Many examples of CTS challenges addressed by disciplines in the data sciences are articulated in the CTSA Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and in the seminal paper, *Opportunities and challenges in translational science*.[2]

As such, the Biostatistics, Biomedical Informatics[3], and Data Science (BIDS) EC is a transdisciplinary group charged with advancing Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) and CTS through data, information, and computational methods.[4]

> **Enterprise Committees (EC) activities[1]:**
> • Promote collaboration and innovation across key areas
> • Provide an open forum for broad, domain-focused discussions
> • Disseminate tools, methods and best practices
> • May develop plans for projects that fill identified gaps and/or further the program objectives through a working group proposal

Biostatistics, biomedical informatics, epidemiology, data science and related fields are highly complementary. When partnered effectively, they can synergistically enhance research, healthcare, and decision-making. Collaboration between these disciplines sparks innovation by advancing, combining, and applying rigorous design and methods and cutting-edge data technologies. Through collaboration, each field amplifies its impact, driving more accurate insights, streamlined workflows, and transformative discoveries. This partnership accelerates research, reduces errors, and transforms raw data into actionable knowledge ultimately advancing promising discoveries toward improved health outcomes. Overall, the BIDS EC has the potential to transform CTR by advancing tools, methods and best practices, an essential contribution to CTS.

2. Mission

The Biostatistics, Biomedical Informatics, and Data Science (BIDS) Enterprise Committee (EC) nurtures a broad community of scientists across the NCATS CTSA Program. Our mission is to foster collaboration and share best practices and innovative methods in BIDS to advance human and population health. We do this by providing an open forum for cross-disciplinary collaboration, promoting integration across CTR and CTS, and leveraging

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[1] Guidance for CTSA Program Groups V6.0 – March 19, 2025. Available from CCOS at https://uploads.ccos-cc.ctsa.io/CCOS_Guidance_for_CTSA_Program_Groups_v6_2025_Mar19_4e087456a5.pdf Accessed April 12, 2025.
[2] Austin CP, Opportunities and challenges in translational science. Clin Transl Sci 2021 Vol. 14 Issue 5 Pages 1629-1647. PMCID: PMC8504824 DOI: 10.1111/cts.13055
[3] By Biomedical Informatics, we mean the collection of all health-related informatics sub-domains including areas such as health informatics, bioinformatics, imaging informatics, nursing informatics, public health informatics, and others.
[4] Ackoff RL 1989. From data to wisdom. Journal of applied systems analysis 16, 3-9.

expertise across BIDS disciplines. In doing so, we will draw on the activities and strengths of our hubs as exemplars to guide other sites in developing seamless interdisciplinary collaboration to advance CTR and CTS.

3. Vision

To be a national catalyst for excellence and rigor in BIDS disciplines to enable and transform clinical and translational research, bring learning health systems to fruition, improve public and population health, and ultimately drive a future where data-powered discoveries benefit all communities.

4. Goals and Priorities

Leveraging the science of BIDS disciplines to advance the CTSA program is the central BIDS goal. BIDS serves as a forum for multi-directional communication with scientists in the CTSA community, NCATS program staff and leadership, and the CTSA Program Steering and Enterprise Committees.

With membership input, BIDS leadership will establish and evaluate priorities, goals, and metrics of success on an annual basis. These will focus on CTR challenges requiring inter- and intra- CTSA, EC, and scientific discipline collaboration to impact across the CTSA program.

Activities may include serving as a platform to co-develop, scale, and disseminate tools, methods, and best practices. BIDS will remain nimble to adapt to the changing scientific climate and needs of the CTSA program. Working groups may be created to pursue short-term, goal-specific, CTSA Program and BIDS EC projects.

BIDS EC Leadership will plan annual reviews of the charter to ensure that the charter is working for the group and CTSA program.

5. Decisions or Work and Remit of the EC

The BIDS EC functions under the direction of the CTSA Steering Committee and in coordination with other ECs—including, as of April 2025, Collaboration & Engagement, Integration Across the Lifespan, and Workforce Development[1]—to advance CTR and CTS throughout the CTSA consortium and across biomedicine. As described elsewhere in this document, the BIDS EC provides a forum for discussion and planning among transdisciplinary BIDS stakeholders to advance data-driven CTR and CTS.

The BIDS EC shall seek opportunities to provide input into relevant developing CTSA policy or strategy and make recommendations to the CTSA Steering Committee regarding overall scientific strategy.

The BIDS voting membership elects BIDS EC leadership.

The BIDS Leadership responsibilities include the following, as outlined in the [Guidance for CTSA Program Groups](#).

- Electing Chairpersons to lead the EC
- Electing a CTSA Steering Committee member to represent the EC
- Planning and presiding over EC meetings
- Approving workgroup proposals for consideration by the CTSA Steering Committee
- Reporting to the CTSA Steering Committee and other ECs

6. EC Membership

BIDS members share a focus on developments in translational science at their hubs and in the CTSA program as a whole. CTSA hubs are required to represent membership on at least one EC, though membership specifically in the BIDS EC is not required.[1]

6.1 EC Non-voting Members

In accordance with the Guidance for CTSA Program Groups, EC membership (non-voting) and meeting attendance are open to any personnel of CTSA program hubs.

Participation in the BIDS EC is strongly encouraged among those in BIDS disciplines with institutional leadership roles. Balance is also encouraged between professionals, administrators, and across levels of BIDS faculty and trainees.

6.2 EC Voting Members

Each CTSA Program hub is allowed to have two voting members on the BIDS EC.[5] These members are appointed by the hub PI and are the primary point of contact for their hub for all matters relating to their specific discipline.

Voting members from different disciplines at each CTSA hub are highly encouraged (e.g., one voting member from Informatics and the other from Biostatistics, or one voting member from Epidemiology and the other from Data Science) in any combination. Hub voting members should reflect institutional authority in a BIDS related discipline. However, this will not be tracked or enforced.

7. Governance (Lead Team and Elections, Voting):

The Enterprise Committee is managed by a Leadership Team.[1] The current model has 7 at large members.

- These EC leaders are elected at large; they represent the entire EC, serve the broader interests of all BIDS disciplines, and are not tied to a particular area or subset.
- EC Leadership voting members serve as described in the [Guidance for CTSA Program Groups](#).

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[5] Per the Guidance for CTSA Program Groups, each hub is allowed one voting member per EC. Due to the transition from Informatics to BIDS and the resulting expansion in size and scope of the BIDS EC, a request to increase the number of voting members to two per hub is pending approval by SC; voting to take place on 6/9/2025.

- BIDS leadership should reflect leadership authority at an individual's institution and CTSA hub.
- A quorum of two-thirds of EC leadership voting members is required to conduct the business of the EC leadership.

8. Meetings

8.1 Full EC Meetings (virtual platform)
The EC Chair/s convene the full EC monthly virtual meetings to conduct business that advances CTSA Program objectives in high priority areas in clinical and translational science.
- Full EC meetings are open to EC members, recorded and available from the [BIDS EC webpage](#) provided by the CTSA Program.
- The full EC meeting may focus on topics of common interest, or topics arising from a specific discipline. The overarching goal of either shall be how the disciplines together can best advance CTSA Program objectives.

8.2 Leadership Team Meetings (virtual platform)
The leadership team meets monthly to determine annual BIDS EC goals, set priorities, address current topics of interest, identify opportunities for collaboration across the CTSA program, and plan the full EC meeting.

8.3 Ad Hoc Meetings (virtual platform)
Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the EC leadership; however, there is no current provision of support for these calls.[1] Thus, additional calls will rely on self-organization and self-support.

8.4 In-person Meetings
One in-person annual meeting of the full BIDS EC will be supported by the CTSA Program. This annual BIDS EC meeting will be held during the CTSA Program Meeting to align with and highlight key developments in translational science across the CTSA network. EC Leadership will facilitate space and opportunity for informal networking where possible.