

CTSA Clinical & Translational Science Awards Program

CTSA Program Steering Committee Meeting
January 9, 2023; 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm ET
Zoom Conferencing

SC Attendees: Arleen Brown Mike Kurilla Muredach Reilly Lawrence Sinoway Daniel Ford David McPherson Steven Reis Randall Urban Laura James Duane Mitchell Doris Rubio Rosalind Wright Karen Johnston Ruth O'Hara Kathryn Sandberg Ted Wun Martin Zand				
Regrets: Stephan Bour Jessica Kahn Teisha Johnson Don McClain Melissa Haendel				
NCATS attendees: Audie Atienza Jennie Conroy Brittany Gibbons Deborah Philp Jane Atkinson Jamie Doyle Chris Hartshorn Thomas Radman Heather Baker Sarah Dunsmore Greg Jarosik Erica Rosemond Jennifer Beierlein Sanae ElShourbagy Ferreira Rebecca Katz Joni Rutter Penny Burgoon Stephanie Ezequiel Andrew Loudon Clare Schmitt Patrick Brown Stacie Fleisher Carol Merchant Meredith Temple-O'Connor Soju Chang Rashmi Gopal-Srivastava Leonie Misquitta Jessica Walrath				
Session	Summary Discussion			Action Item
Welcome (M. Kurilla, D. Mitchell)	M. Kurilla and D. Mitchell welcomed everyone to the call. M. Kurilla shared the: National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences: (NOT-TR-23-005) Notice of Termination for PAR-22-122: Limited Competition: Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Consortium-Wide Centers: Resources for Rapid Demonstration and Dissemination (U24 Clinical Trials Optional)			
New SC Introductions (New Members)	M. Kurilla invited new incoming SC members to introduce themselves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doris Rubio, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh, KL2 member Steven Reis, MD, University of Pittsburgh, ENACT Representative Arleen Brown, MD, Ph.D., UCLA, UL1 Member Jessica Kahn, MD, MPH, University of Cincinnati, UL1 Member Randall Urban, MD, UTMB Health, UL1 Member Rosalind Wright, MD, MPH, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, UL1 Member Kathryn Sandberg, Ph.D., Georgetown University, TL1 Member Theodore Wun MD, FACP, UC Davis Health, UL1 Member 			
Responsibilities & Pod Feedback Online Process (M. Zand)	M. Zand provided an overview of the CTSA Program Pods (2023), the CTSA Program Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities , and the Pod Responsibilities. He provided an overview of the Pod feedback online process items to note. The updated CTSA Program Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities for 2023 were accepted by the SC.			If you are unable to access the Pod feedback page on the CLIC website contact steering_committee@clic-ctsa.org
CTSA Roundtable Feedback (J. Rutter)	J. Rutter provided a summary and next steps from the November CTSA Roundtables; this information can be found in the slides on the SC January 9, 2023 meeting page . The summary was sent to all contact PIs for all the CTSA's.			

	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about whether the institutional leaders provided any specific feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J. Rutter indicated that the institutional leaders were very engaged and interested in participating in future opportunities for discussion • It was suggested to have the roundtables on a more routine basis to continue to improve the communication process and build on ideas and solutions that have emerged. • It was also recommended that future discussions include slightly smaller groups to maximize the opportunity for contribution. • Another suggestion was to highlight the leadership the CTSA's brought to their institutions during the pandemic to help describe the impact and value of having a CTSA at their institution. • It was noted that there is concern about unfunded N3C activities and a lack of representation in the program processes. Additionally, there as a comment that for some institutions, it is challenging to participate in the program; it is hard to finds resources on access and training as well as information on plans for expansion of N3C and other large informatics programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was indicated that N3C is a great example of a large informatics program critical for national success. Informatics programs across the US are extensive and disparate and the CTSA's are well-suited to bringing these programs together. Some questions posed for consideration included, "Where can we leverage the ideas and questions that CTSA staff have, especially the individuals on the ground working on this?"; "How can we support the work to ensure that it is going to be beneficial to move our understanding of advancing translational science or clinical translational science?"; "Is it going to help clinical decision support?" and "What is the end goal?" ○ It was agreed that if we can understand the high priorities, then we can work backward and make sure that we are developing them in the right way. This is a conversation that we should continue to have. • The opinion was expressed that while there are limitations with informatics in general, the number of policy discussions that happened to enable N3C is not apparent to the community. Furthermore, it was expressed that although informatics is assuming a much greater role in research, it doesn't have a true home or someone in NIH taking ownership of it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was also noted more policy discussions will need to take place before proceeding to move forward with expanding N3C. • There was a question on if, given that some institutes have multiple sites and institutional leaders, the same institutional leaders should be going to these roundtables, or if different institutional leaders should be attending to get a broader perspective? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J. Rutter responded that the goal is not to pick and choose who attends, but to establish a variety of processes, opportunities, and formats that facilitate broad communication with diverse groups and individuals across the entire enterprise. 	
<p>FY23 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 Report Language on the CTSA Program (J. Rutter)</p>	<p>J. Rutter reviewed the NCATS budget updates, Appropriations - FY 2023, and the Explanatory Statement (also known as Report Language) – released 12/20/22. Source: https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/download/division-h-lhhs-statement-fy23-pgs-78-79. SC members were asked to reflect on whether the language represents their interpretation of the CTSA program.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of the SC asked a question about the use of the word 'resources' in the report language and whether it extends to the size of the training programs as they are resized in the new FOA. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was an opinion that part of the issue is that there is not a clear understanding of what a CTSA hub is. • It was noted that some TL1 Directors are predicting a reduction in the number of TL1 trainees given the new FOA guidelines. Additionally, there was a question about if NCATS plans to inform the Committees before any plan changes per the report language. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Rutter explained that NCATS is not seeing a decrease in the training slots at all and NCATS is committed to making sure that the training programs are robust and well-supported. She added that she wants to know if that is not the case. • It was noted that the TL1 Directors did a survey on trainees and will follow up with numbers when the next round is complete. • It was noted that the CTSAs aren't growing as much as the NIH budget and that makes it difficult to maintain continued growth. The discussion continued with possible reasons for this and whether this was something that should be focused on. • An opinion was shared there is a need for close coordination between the different parts of the program and a focus on supporting local needs and priorities while simultaneously working together as a consortium to support NCATS priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was an agreement that this would be something to focus on and work towards. <p>J. Rutter thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.</p>	
Upcoming Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 23, 2023 from 2:30-3:30 pm ET 	