

News from the CTSA Steering Committee

We had a successful meeting of the CTSA Steering Committee on October 6th and 7th. Several key decisions were made that you will hear more about as the operational plans are developed over the next several months. The meeting included over 120 CTSA PI's, Committee Chairs, administrators, NIH representatives and NCCR participants. Agreement was reached on a streamlined and consolidated list of priorities and on structural improvements to align the organization with these priorities

As you know, in a previous series of meetings the group had created an interim list (<https://www.ctsawiki.org/wiki/x/TQAK>) of 9 priorities that were addressed at the Operations Group meeting in Pittsburgh. A revised list, shown below, was the starting point for our discussions:

1. CQI Clinical Research Management System
2. Federated Career Support
3. National Resource Inventory
4. Clinical Trial "Network of Networks"
5. Data Sharing Network
6. National Phenotyping System
7. National Model for Community Engagement
8. Social Networking Initiative
9. Catalyze Improved Health Through Research

We participated in an intense exercise on October 6th in which implementation plans were developed for each of these priorities. After completing the draft implementation plan, it became clear that all 9 priorities could not be approached in parallel. Accordingly, a "reprioritization exercise" was conducted, enabling us to consolidate all 9 priorities into 4 themes as listed below:

- Enhancing national clinical and translational research capability
 - clinical research management
 - research infrastructure
 - phenotyping - human and preclinical models
- Enhancing the training and career development of clinical and translational scientists

- Enhancing consortium-wide collaborations
 - social networking
 - inventory of resources
 - data sharing

- Enhancing the health of our communities and the nation
 - community engagement
 - public health policy

In order to support the successful accomplishment of goals within these priorities we also agreed to significant changes within the CTSA organizational structure:

- The CTSA Consortium Oversight Committee (CCOC) is now renamed the CTSA Consortium Steering Committee (CCSC) to indicate its key role in Steering the consortium and setting priorities.
- The Operations Committee is renamed the CTSA Consortium Executive Committee (CCEC), as a subcommittee of the Steering Committee, to indicate its critical role in providing leadership.
- The 4 key priority areas above will be the focus of the organization and strategic goal committees will be named for their function (e.g. Training and career development (strategic) committee and their functions will be aligned with the priorities as consolidated in the list above. 3 PI's, one of whom will be an Executive Committee member, will lead each priority area. These PI's will work with the Steering and Executive Committees in addition to content experts to devise a charge with deliverables for each of these areas. Consortium wide resources will be focused on these key goals to ensure that the CTSA organization has identifiable objectives, milestones and outcomes.
- The existing committee structure will be systematically examined and reorganized so that it is optimized to support the strategic goals of the network while also providing important networking and synergizing functions to improve and support local CTSA operations.

We believe that we are now in a position to complement the excellent work of the individual centers with coordinated and focused effort for specific achievements for the national consortium.

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For the CC Executive Committee