

CTSA Consortium Steering Committee Meeting
April 20, 2010
1:00 – 2:00 PM ET
Meeting Summary

Link to [Presentations](#).

CTSA Consortium Reports and Announcements

The co-Chairs Julian Solway, Becky Jackson and Harry Shamon welcomed participants and initiated the discussions on the following key items.

CTSA Carryover Committee Update

The volunteers to serve on this committee are as follows: Gordon Bernard (PI – Vanderbilt); Christine Chambreau (Utah); Cindy Henrich (Arkansas); Kathleen Jensen (Rochester). The co-Chairs encouraged greater participation in this committee. NCCR plans to provide an updated and clarified guidance on this issue, and an initial meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

[Note: Dr. David Center volunteered to join this Committee after the web conference.]

CTSA Consortium Steering Committee Face-to-Face Meeting Planning Committee

The Co-Chairs Becky Jackson, Harry Shamon and Julian Solway, and Gordon Bernard; David McPherson, Mike Lichtenstein, and Bushra Rehman have volunteered to help the planning of this October's Steering Committee face-to-face meeting, October 6-7, 2010.

Those who are interested in assisting in the planning should reach out to the co-Chairs, Dr. Hayward (HaywardA@mail.nih.gov), or Helen Lee (lee_helen@bah.com).

CTSA Publications Committee Update

There are two publications under review by the CTSA Publications Committee: one from the Clinical Research Ethics and the other from the Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design (BERD) Key Function Committees. A recommendation from the Publications Committee should be ready in the next two weeks and will be shared with the Steering Committee.

CTSA Collaboration Opportunities

NCCR, in coordination with those CTSA institutions that have agreed to voluntarily post research projects that provide possible opportunities for collaboration with other interested parties, has posted collaboration opportunities on CTSAweb.org. Current Projects are as follows:

[Chronic Heart Failure Remote Observation and Monitoring Evaluation \(CHROME\)](#)

[Statin Trial for Influenza Patients](#)

Those institutions interested in posting opportunities for collaboration on CTSAweb.org should complete the below forms and submit to: CTSABB@mail.nih.gov

[CTSA Collaboration Project Information Form](#)

[CTSA Collaboration Project COI Information Form](#)

Presentation on Outcomes of the CTSA BERD Meeting, April 8-9, Rockville, MD

Frank Harrell provided an update on the outcomes of the recently concluded BERD meeting. This meeting was well attended with 36 of the 46 CTSA's represented as well as representatives from NIH ICs. Meeting participants focused on renewal changes; unveiled a new survey of BERD characteristics, operating procedures, funding models; and discussed helping new methodologists launch successful careers in collaborative biomedical research & CER.

Presentation on National Evaluation of the CTSA

Meryl Sufian introduced the National Evaluation task, noting that Westat's Joy Freitling has the lead for this effort. This was begun in February 2009 as a three year contract to conduct process evaluation; however, in December, the focus of the evaluation was modified to include outcomes and a new team assumed leadership. The initial study design, questions, components, and initial data collection instruments are being developed.

The evaluation covers the following key areas and next steps:

- Refine plans based on stakeholder input, and identify components for short and long term evaluation, and develop plans for beyond the three-year period;
- Conduct stakeholder interviews and identify outcome areas;
- Identify issues/limitations, such as
 - Lack of comparison group; historical trends will take time to develop
 - Lack of standard reporting metrics and standard definitions of terms across CTSA's
 - Attribution to the CTSA—challenging in some cases to assess the contribution of the CTSA's
 - Impact of external conditions—historical changes such as reductions in funding opportunities may be confounding variables
- Develop and refine evaluation questions;
- Plan data collection activities;
- Develop and conduct CTSA Resource Utilization Survey to assess resource allocation and outcomes from these;

- Assess the effectiveness of CTSA Education and Training and conduct study with Scholars/Trainees;
- Assess the effectiveness of CTSA Education and Training and conduct study with Mentors
- Finalized the timeline, with the following targets:
 - Administer surveys—Fall 2010
 - Conduct field visits—Summer 2010
 - Initiate study of scientific breakthrough projects—Summer 2010
 - Analyses of secondary databases-Ongoing

NIA-CTSA Collaboration Opportunity

Eric Orwoll presented an overview on a collaboration opportunity for all CTSA PIs to nominate experts in aging research to participate in the formation of collaborative projects involving NIA and the CTSA Consortium. The process is funded by NCRR, and the planned results are in both new inter-institutional research in aging, as well as setting a precedent for developing similar partnerships between the CTSA and other NIH institutes.

Upcoming CE, SGC 4 and CER Face-to-Face Meetings

For a complete listing of the May SGC 4-related meetings and a description of the purpose and points-of-contact, please click [here](#).

Opportunities for Clinical Phenotyping: VA/CTSA Collaboration Meeting

Dr. Jody Sachs presented on an upcoming face-to-face meeting focused on enhanced collaboration among Department of Veterans Affairs and NIH's Clinical and Translational Awards (CTSA) consortium. Conference topics will include: Electronic Health Records, Genomic and Observational Research, Central IRBs, Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER), and synergies with training environment these provide.

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.ctsaweb.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=event.showEvent>