

CTSA Consortium Steering Committee August 2009

Link to meeting recording of August 18, 2009 <https://webmeeting.nih.gov/p23603306/>

CTSA Consortium Key Updates

- Planning for the CCSC Face to Face Meeting: A planning committee consisting of Drs. Becky Jackson, Harry Shamoon, Julian Solway, Dan Rosenblum, and Andrea Sawczuk has begun meeting to develop and refine the agenda for the upcoming face to face meeting on October 8-9 in the Rockville Hilton in Bethesda, MD. The speakers, areas of focus and any meeting materials will be discussed in the near future, and the final agenda shared with the Steering Committee.
- Update on ARRA Supplements: Applications have been assembled and will be presented to counsel, which is scheduled to meet on September 15. More information will be forthcoming and shared with all PIs.

Special Presentations

ResearchMatch.org - National Recruitment Registry

<http://www.atlantactsi.org/news/2009/researchmatch.html>

Paul Harris of Vanderbilt presented the National Recruitment Registry or ResearchMatch.org. It is a national CTSA Consortium effort led by Vanderbilt University that provides a national volunteer registry for the purpose of recruitment for clinical studies at any participating institution throughout the United States. ResearchMatch.org is a web-based registry for volunteers who are willing to participate in studies conducted by clinical and translational investigators that are relevant and advance the health and well-being of the nation. This CTSA-wide recruitment registry initiative will be launched in September 2009. Any institution affiliated with the ACTSI is eligible and will be granted access to the ResearchMatch.org site. In year 2, this will be open to other institutions.

The registry is disease and institution-neutral and illustrates a truly collaborative project of the CTSA Consortium. There are currently 37-39 sites involved and the new CTSA cohorts are welcomed to participate.

CTSA ShareCenter - Collaboration Platform

<http://ctsasharecenter.org/>

Mini Kahlon and Chris Kelleher presented an overview on the CTSA ShareCenter, the goal of which is to enhance sharing of resources and expertise within the CTSA Consortium. The overall strategy in the development of this collaboration platform is to focus on operational resources and the most effective way to share information. To promote broad usage, the design of the platform highlighted the community of resources within the Consortium and brought in a broad membership to include those from Key Function Committees. Current features complement and expand on those that can be found on CTSAweb.org, highlight the sharing of activities and promote network building.

CTSA Pharma Portal

www.ctsapharmaportal.org

Kate Marusina presented an overview on the Pharma Portal. The goal of this effort is to facilitate the match between CTSA-affiliated investigators and the pharmaceutical industry with the aim of developing research partnerships based on compounds shelved at the clinical stage. As drug repositioning is a recent effort in the pharmaceutical industry, the portal aims to find new uses for the marketed or pipeline drugs, typically by identifying a new disease indication, new delivery method or new combination with other drugs.

Historically, only about 11,000 compounds reached Phase II and III clinical trials; only 2800 compounds were approved by the FDA over the past 60 years. Thus, these 13800 compounds represent the most desirable targets for drug repositioning. Academic research often finds novel targets, but few academic researchers have an ability to develop drugs *for these targets* in the academic setting. Therefore, a drug with an established clinical safety profile presents an attractive opportunity for translational research, satisfying both academic and commercial goals. The Portal would be used to "match" academic research with pharmaceutical assets that may be useful in elucidating disease mechanisms or for discovery of new uses in clinical treatment.

Updates from Strategic Goal Committees**Strategic Goal 1 - National Clinical and Translational Research Capability**

No updates.

Strategic Goal 2 - Training & Career Development of Clinical/Translational Scientists

This SGC is focused on collaborating with other SGCs to draft a competency white paper. More information will be forthcoming.

Strategic Goal 3 - Enhancing Consortium-Wide Collaborations

No updates

Strategic Goal 4 - Enhancing the Health of Our Communities and the Nation

A white paper on Comparative Effectiveness Research is being drafted.

Strategic Goal 5 – T1 Translational Research

In collaboration with SGC 2, a paper on T1 goals will be presented to the CCSC meeting in October.