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CTSA Clinical & Translational
Science Awards

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CTSA Committee Meetings and Activities

View the full [CTSA Committee Meetings and Activities calendar](#) on ctsaweb.org.

Webinar Series Hosted by CTSA Administration Key Function Committee

The Pilot Projects Best Practices Workgroup, part of the Administration Key Function Committee, encourages CTSA institutions with pilot funding programs to share strategies, tools, outcomes, and lessons learned. This working group is

hosting a Webinar series, featuring specific examples from several CTSA's, on topics of interest across the CTSA's.

Please save the date for the following Webinar to be conducted from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET):

- **March 3, 2010—Financial Concerns and Solutions Regarding Pilot Program Management**—including specific challenges and solutions from several CTSA's.

For more information, contact [Lynn Sutton](#).

CTSA Industry Forum

NCCR and the CTSA Public-Private Partnership Key Function Committee announces "The CTSA Industry Forum: Promoting Efficient and Effective Collaborations" to take place on **February 17-18, 2010**, in the Natcher Conference Center in Bethesda, Md. The purpose of the national Forum is to explore current practices and successful management models to promote efficient and effective collaboration with CTSA organizations. The goal is to streamline the development of new drugs, devices, and diagnostics to improve the public health of the nation.

For more information, including the conference abstract, registration, and the forthcoming agenda, visit the [conference Web site](#).

NC TraCS Institute Symposium: Translational Research to Address Health Disparities Across the Lifespan

The North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) CTSA's Community Engagement Core, in collaboration with NC TraCS Child Health and Clinical and Community Translation Core; UNC-CH Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; UNC-CH Institute on Aging; UNC-CH Program on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health Outcomes (ECHO); Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center; and University Cancer Research Fund, will host the [NC TraCS Institute Symposium: "Translational Research to Address Health Disparities Across the Lifespan"](#) on **March 19, 2010**. Registration is free and includes a catered networking lunch.

The Symposium will showcase presentations of scientific findings and practical application of strategies for implementing best-practice models in translational research and evidence-based interventions. This day-long Symposium is intended for researchers (academic and community), healthcare providers, and community members, including educators, students, community advocates/outreach workers, and health and human service professionals.

Registration for the Symposium is open through January 22, 2010.

For more information and free registration, [visit the NC TraCS Symposium Web site](#).

2010 Clinical and Translational Research and Education Meeting

To enhance and promote the best practices in research and education of clinical and translational research, the CTSA Education and Career Development consortium has collaborated with the Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT) and the Society for Clinical and Translational Science (SCTS) to develop a national conference for scholars and leaders in research and education. The scholars program will take place in Washington, D.C., on **April 6-7, 2010**, and the ACRT/SCTS joint meeting will be held on **April 5-7, 2010**.

For more information and to register, visit the [Association for Clinical Research Training Web site](#).

Mayo Clinic CTSA Metabolomics Workshop

The Mayo Clinic CTSA will host a metabolomics workshop at the Mayo Clinic campus in Rochester, Minn., on **April 16, 2010**. The workshop is aimed at translational science investigators, KL2 and other K-award scholars, and research fellows interested in this emerging field.

National and international visiting faculty, as well as Mayo Clinic faculty, will speak at the workshop. In addition to learning more about metabolomics techniques and applications, attendees will have the opportunity to network with colleagues and tour Mayo's metabolomics facilities. Also outlined will be the novel analytical tools at the Mayo CTSA's Metabolomics Core.

For more information and to register, visit the [Mayo Clinic CTSA Web site](#).

Science of Team Science Conference

Northwestern University will host a [Science of Team Science Conference](#) on **April 22–24, 2010**. The discipline of Team Science promotes team-based research by working closely with investigators to examine the process by which research teams organize themselves. This includes how they think and do their work together to achieve research breakthroughs that would not be attainable by individual or additive efforts. Northwestern's Office of Research Team Support is a champion of this emerging field of study.

For more information, please contact [Holly Falk-Krzesinski](#).

Improving Children's Health Through Community-Engaged Research Workshop

The Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR), in partnership with the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research, will sponsor "Improving Children's Health Through Community-Engaged Research," on **April 23, 2010**, at the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor, Mich. This workshop will feature prominent experts and dynamic breakout sessions designed to prepare for conducting team science. The event will also focus on developing academic and community partnerships to improve the health of children and youth—through collaborative, community-engaged research. A pre-workshop reception is planned for the evening of **April 22**.

Other event sponsors include Community–Campus Partnerships for Health, Washtenaw County Health Department, and City Connect Detroit.

For more information, contact [Molly White](#) or [Nichole Washington](#).

2010 National Predoctoral Clinical Research Training Program Meeting

Washington University in St. Louis will again host the National Predoctoral Clinical Research Training Program Meeting **May 3–4, 2010**. Meeting events will take place in the Eric P. Newman Education Center and the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center at Washington University School of Medicine. The goals of this meeting are to bring together TL1 Predoctoral Program trainees from CTSA consortium institutions to share research findings and experiences, and to provide TL1 Predoctoral Program directors an opportunity to meet face-to-face and discuss common issues of program management and predoctoral student career development. Program administrators are also welcome to attend.

For more information, visit the [meeting Web site](#) or e-mail [Joe Wilson](#).

Save the Date—Community Engagement Key Function Committee Meeting

The CTSA Community Engagement Key Function Committee face-to-face meeting will be held **May 12, 2010** at the Natcher Conference Center at NIH in Bethesda, Md.

For more information, contact [Donna Jo McCloskey](#), NCRR.

Save the Date—The Science of Community Engagement Conference

The CTSA sponsored conference "The Science of Community Engagement" will be held **May 13–14, 2010** at the Natcher Conference Center at NIH in Bethesda, Md.

For more information, contact [Donna Jo McCloskey](#), NCRR.

Save the Date—Society for Clinical Trials Annual Meeting

The Society for Clinical Trials will hold its next annual meeting **May 16–19, 2010**, at the Baltimore Waterfront Marriott hotel. The Society is a non-profit organization, founded in 1979, that is devoted to developing and promoting high quality clinical trials as a tool for advancing public health. The membership is multi-disciplinary and includes clinical investigators, epidemiologists, statisticians, clinical research associates, IT professionals, and others interested in the practice of clinical trials. The meeting provides an excellent opportunity for CTSA trainees to present reports based on their training experiences.

[More information](#)

Save the Date—The 3rd Annual Clinical Research Management Workshop

The 3rd Annual Clinical Research Management Workshop has been scheduled for **June 21–22, 2010**, at the Natcher Conference Center at NIH. Items proposed for the Agenda include reports on CTSA Consortium-wide studies on protocol and contracts processing, lessons learned in implementation of process improvements, reports on progress on administrative supplements in support of the goals of Strategic Goal Committee #1—National Clinical and Translational Research Capability, issues related to conversion to electronic IRB and comparisons of different systems, and use of metrics in implementation of improved processing.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NIH Clinical Center Launches Leadership Sabbatical in Clinical Research Management

The NIH Clinical Center has launched a Leadership Sabbatical in Clinical Research to provide clinical researchers an opportunity to gain additional knowledge and to develop their managerial and leadership skills by exposing them to the foundational elements required to manage a clinical research enterprise. It is expected that the experience will provide critical information for managing a clinical research program. With six core modules, the program targets physicians and allied health professionals, healthcare management and administrative professionals, extramural NIH staff overseeing clinical trials, and intramural NIH investigators.

[More information](#)

The Communications Key Function Committee Announces New Consortium Service

To help meet the communication needs of the CTSA consortium, the Communications KFC recently launched a Communications Consultation Service loosely based on the "tiger team" concept (e.g., the formation of a short-term group to study a specific issue and provide recommendations).

These short-term consulting teams will address ad hoc requests for advice or expertise that have been submitted (via the request form on the CTSA Wiki) to the Communications KFC by various consortium committees or members. The submitted requests should include:

- Some notion of the duration of the consultation services required
- A description of the suggested contribution that the Communications KFC consulting team could make
- A preliminary listing of the expertise sought or required for this request
- A description of the intended use or outcome of the consult and/or the objectives the requester is trying to accomplish

The Communications KFC will maintain a record of requests submitted, assigned, and resolved. The end result of this record-keeping will be an inventory of issues submitted and proposed/implemented solutions. This inventory will be made available on the CTSA Wiki.

The Consultation Request form is available on the [CTSA Wiki](#).

For more information, contact [Julie McKeel](#).

Recent Media Coverage

Read CTSA institutional and consortium news and media coverage at the [CTSAs in the News page](#) on CTSAweb.org.

We want to post your CTSA institutional news items and open events in the CTSA e-Newsletter and on the CTSAweb.org [Events page](#). Please send submissions to newsletter@ctsaweb.org.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

NEW—NIH Funding Announcement, Recovery Act Limited Competition: NIH Director's Opportunity for Research in Five Thematic Areas (RC4)

A new ARRA-funded opportunity aimed at five specific thematic areas was issued Monday, December 28, 2009, supporting projects that address research endeavors in one or more of the following five thematic areas: 1) Applying Genomics and Other High Throughput Technologies; 2) Translating Basic Science Discoveries into New and Better Treatments; 3) Using

Science to Enable Health Care Reform; 4) Focusing on Global Health; and 5) Reinvigorating the Biomedical Research Community. The research supported by the program should have high short-term impact, and a high likelihood of enabling growth and investment in biomedical research and development, public health, and health care delivery.

[Full announcement](#)

NEW—NIH Funding Announcement, Recovery Act Limited Competition: Institutional Comparative Effectiveness Research Mentored Career Development Award (KM1)

Through this new ARRA-funded opportunity issued Monday, January 13, 2010, the NIH invites applications from research-intensive institutions to support mentored career development in support of comparative effectiveness research (CER) in an interdisciplinary environment catering to the needs of diverse populations of scholars including (but not limited to) those with backgrounds in biostatistics, epidemiology, health economics, pharmacology, medicine, and dentistry. Scholars should be encouraged to register for higher degrees, where appropriate. Successful applicant institutions will be expected to include course development work in their proposal and make provision for expanding the pool of experienced CER mentors.

[Full announcement](#)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Funding Opportunities Announcements

- [RFA-HS-10-016](#)—Active Aging: Supporting Individuals and Enhancing Community-based Care through Health Information Technology (HIT) (P50)

FEATURES:

UW-Madison Creates a CTRC Without Walls

The University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR), entering a new era of clinical research signaled by receipt of a CTSA from the NIH, has transformed its Clinical and Translational Research Core (CTRC, formerly the general clinical research center, or GCRC) into a CTRC Without Walls to broaden services and to support more investigators performing clinical and translational research throughout Wisconsin.

“Receiving our CTSA in 2007 was the catalyst to serve more than the traditional clinical researcher who could bring subjects to the hospital-based CTRC,” said Marc K. Drezner, M.D., ICTR director and senior associate dean for clinical and translational research in the School of Medicine and Public Health.

“Our solution was not to abandon the vital CTRC support for NIH and other studies, but to create a flexible model that combines the best of the CTRC, the UW Office of Clinical Trials, the Wisconsin Network for Health Research (WiNHR), the Wisconsin Research and Education Network (WREN) and our brand-new Mobile Research Team (MRT).”

The New Model

Today, the CTRC unit remains active in UW Hospital and offers free room and nursing services to all federal, foundation, pilot, and departmental studies that are complex enough to require the CTRC and have subjects who can present to the unit. In fact, the number of inpatient and outpatient visits is comparable to previous years, while use of the sleep unit and other resources is growing.

For investigators needing research support in other parts of UW Hospital or in other Madison hospitals or clinics, the CTRC Without Walls provides services from the UW Office of Clinical Trials, which offers coordinators and regulatory specialists and the option to purchase block hours at a discount.



The CTRC Without Walls is one core within the UW-Madison CTSA infrastructure. From its hospital research unit to mobile nurse-coordinator teams and statewide networks, the CTRC Without Walls serves a diverse group of investigators across interdisciplinary research settings.

The CTRC Without Walls includes the unique MRT, comprised of a separate team of nurses, nurse practitioners and coordinators. The MRT staff are indeed mobile, traveling to where the research is taking place and on-call 24/7 to serve studies that involve unpredictable admissions (such as heart attack or stroke) or after-hours research. The new model is thus available to previously underserved researchers, again through reasonably-priced, block-hour purchases.

Statewide Collaborations

The CTRC Without Walls model also extends across Wisconsin, integrating community and

clinical research networks within the CTSA program: WinHR (with CTSA partner Marshfield Clinic as well as clinics in La Crosse and Milwaukee) and WREN, which has agreements with 40 clinics and 130 primary care clinicians in 24 communities.

“The CTSA grant really jumpstarted this expansion to more places and researchers,” emphasized Drezner. “Our CTRC Without Walls model has also had great support from UW Hospital for the in-hospital CTRC and from our School of Medicine and Public Health. Building relationships over the last three years was instrumental in removing barriers and making this expanded research support possible.”

Informatics KFC Addresses Data Standards

The CTSA Informatics Key Function Committee (IKFC) ensures the successful implementation of informatics support for all CTSA functions by sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources. To facilitate effective collaboration and sharing among clinical and translational researchers and their research partners globally, the IKFC recommends and incorporates appropriate standards and best practices necessary for broad interoperability while ensuring confidentiality protections for human research participants.

Taskforce Takes on Omics Data

The IKFC formed the Omics Data Standards Taskforce to address common challenges in the exchange, analysis, and integrative storage of “omics” data—that is, large-scale, holistic data from omics fields such as genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and transcriptomics. The taskforce will consider questions such as the following:

- What data standards exist for omics data (e.g., minimum information requirements, common data elements, and exchange platforms)?
- What types of omics data are researchers generating or analyzing (e.g., transcriptomics, genome-wide association studies, discovery proteomics and metabolomics, targeted discovery, and metabolomics)?
- What types of platforms (at a high level) are being used to generate the data (e.g., next-generation sequencing, microarrays and mass spectrometry)?

- At what point in the data collection process does it make sense to store omics data? Raw? Normalized? Annotated (e.g., “significant” genes, proteins, or metabolites)? Multiple versions of the same data?

The taskforce has established subcommittees dedicated to specific omics fields, developed preliminary use cases, and identified research areas for investigation into the questions above. Members meet biweekly via conference calls to share findings and hear from outside experts from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the European Bioinformatics Institute, Health Level Seven International, and other such organizations.

The goals of the taskforce are to identify standards for omics data in integrated data repositories and to enhance data sharing more generally. Its analysis of the landscape of omics data standards and its recommendations will benefit the research infrastructure, thus addressing Strategic Goal 1: enhancing national clinical and translational research capability. Its efforts will also have a significant impact on Strategic Goal 3: enhancing consortium-wide collaborations, by improving data sharing.

Making Space for Informal Exchanges

The IKFC recognizes that common interests around emerging technologies and applications lead members to form new groups within the IKFC. Thus, it has established two levels of group activities: affinity groups and working groups.

Affinity groups are focused on informal information sharing on areas of interest within the IKFC and do not have defined deliverables or projects. Affinity groups are open to anyone in a CTSA institution with similar interests; the groups use the CTSA Wiki to facilitate communication. *Working groups* represent more structured, formally recognized activities of the IKFC. Working groups are expected to be working on one or more defined projects with deliverables and a timelines for accomplishment. The working groups are expected to update the IKFC regularly.

ARTICLES:

CTSA Consortium Forms Management Group

In June 2009, NCCR brought together CTSA administrators and principal investigators (PIs) to discuss the CTSA consortium’s operational and communication needs. Subsequently, CTSA administrators collaborated with NCCR staff on [recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness](#) of the CTSA consortium. Those recommendations included forming a committee to act as an operational arm of the CTSA Consortium Executive Committee. In September, with the approval of NCCR Director Barbara Alving, M.D., and the CTSA Consortium Steering Committee, NCCR established the Consortium Management Group (CMG).

According to its [charter](#), the CMG will oversee the project management functions of the consortium, assist with ongoing execution of the CTSA communication plan, make recommendations concerning the analysis of the consortium’s portfolio of projects in collaboration with the CTSA PIs and NCCR staff, review in concert with the CTSA governance process the roles and responsibilities of committees, and participate with CTSA colleagues in the reporting of consortium progress. Accordingly, the CMG has defined three specific areas of focus in its [principles of operation](#): project management, project portfolio analysis, and communications.

The CMG consists of one NCCR supervisory medical officer, one staff person from the NCCR Office of the Director, five CTSA administrators selected by PI nomination and NCCR approval (NCCR will provide 20% time compensation), one NCCR senior management/operations official, and one project manager from the CTSA support contract. The current CMG membership is as follows:

- Co-Chair Tesheia Johnson, M.B.A., M.H.S., Yale Center for Clinical Investigation
- Co-Chair Anne Willoughby, M.D., M.P.H., NCCR
- Tom Fogg, University of Rochester Clinical and Translational Science Institute
- Nick Gaich, Stanford Center for Clinical and Translational Education and Research
- Becky Moen, Duke Translational Medicine Institute
- Bushra Rehman, M.P.A., University of Chicago General Clinical Research Center
- Sylvia Parsons, NCCR
- Kameha Kidd, Ph.D., NCCR
- Farrell Bowen, Booz Allen Hamilton

The CMG met with the CTSA Consortium Executive Committee leadership in December 2009 to present its progress and plans and received positive feedback and endorsement for moving forward. While much of its work is still in draft form, the CMG invites you to visit its [CMG wiki space](#) and learn more about its activities. For additional information, please

contact [Anne Willoughby](#).

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Updated Information on CTSAweb.org

The **CTSAweb.org** home page, in keeping with the Web site's role of ensuring access to CTSA resources, enhancing communication, and encouraging sharing, features:

- Streamlined navigation menus organized around specific audience needs
- Links to updated [Strategic Goal Committee \(SGC\)](#) and [Key Function Committee \(KFC\)](#) "landing" pages
- New [regional consortia](#) pages
- Highlight boxes for consortium strategic goals, featured institutions, and consortium news
- A refocused [communication toolkit](#) tailored to the needs of consortium members, which includes a CTSA slide set, logo, and banner
- A new [CTSA Fact Sheet](#) describing the CTSA program and consortium
- A new [media resource](#) page for reporters and editors, and more.

The CTSA Web systems help desk e-mail is help@CTSAweb.org. Please contact the help desk if you have questions regarding the CTSA systems, including CTSA Wiki and password questions.

Read archived CTSA e-Newsletters on the [CTSAs in the News page](#).

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any questions or comments, or to unsubscribe, please contact newsletter@ctsaweb.org.