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CTSA Clinical & Translational
Science Awards

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May 3, 2010

IN THIS ISSUE...

EVENTS:

[2010 National Predoctoral Clinical Research Training Program Meeting, May 3–4, 2010](#)
[New—Behavioral and Social Sciences \(BSS\) Training, Education and Career Development in the Clinical and Translational Science Awards \(CTSA\) Program Workshop, May 11, 2010](#)
[Community Engagement Key Function Committee Meeting, May 12, 2010](#)
[Updated—Partnering to Improve Health: The Science of Community Engagement, May 13–14, 2010](#)
[Society for Clinical Trials Annual Meeting, May 16–19, 2010](#)
[New—Building Drug Abuse Research in Cooperation with the Clinical and Translational Science Awards \(CTSA\) Consortium, May 26, 2010](#)
[New—Network of Research Networks: Strategic Goal Committee Four Face-to-Face Meeting, May 27, 2010](#)
[New—CTSA Forum on Comparative Effectiveness Research, May 28, 2010](#)
[New—The Midwest Consortium: Rural Health and Health Disparities Research in the Heartland Meeting, June 10–11, 2010](#)
[Updated—The 3rd Annual Clinical Research Management Workshop, June 21–22, 2010](#)
[Tufts CTSI Seminar on Comparative Effectiveness and Cost Effectiveness: Methods and Measurement, June 24–25, 2010](#)
[CTSA Committee Meetings and Activities](#)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[University of Wisconsin Collaborative Center for Health Equity \(CCHE\) Health Equity Leadership Institute \(HELI\)](#)
[Third Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence](#)
[New Ability to Find Resources for Your Researchers on CTSAweb.org](#)
[Correction to April CTSA e-Newsletter Community Engagement KFC Feature Article](#)
[CTSA Consortium Governance Document Updated](#)
[New Collaboration Opportunity Feature Available on CTSAweb.org](#)
[Recent Media Coverage](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

[Scientific Meetings for Creating Interdisciplinary Research Teams \(R13\)](#)

FEATURES:

[Duke CTSA Nurtures the Translational Research Cycle](#)
[Communications KFC Expands Opportunities to Communicate In, Across and About CTSA's](#)

ARTICLES:

[BERD Watch—CTSpedia Links CTSA Researchers and Resources](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

[Updated Information on CTSAweb.org](#)

EVENTS:

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](#).

New—Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Training, Education and Career Development in the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program Workshop

A Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Training, Education and Career Development in the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program workshop will be held **Tuesday, May 11, 2010** at the NIH Parklawn Building in Rockville, Md. This workshop will assist the CTSA, NCRR and OBSSR in the development of ideas that can promote and enhance the education and training of behavioral and social scientists within the CTSA.

For more information, contact [Lynn Bosco](#), OBSSR or [Donna Jo McCloskey](#), NCRR.

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. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss current accomplishments, current activities and future projects of the workgroups within the CTSA Community Engagement Key Function Committee.

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

Updated—Partnering to Improve Health: The Science of Community Engagement

The Partnering to Improve Health: The Science of Community Engagement conference will take place on **May 13–14, 2010** at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Va. This is the third annual conference focusing on aspects of community engagement. This year's conference will emphasize the scientific rigor of community engagement by discussing methods, models and outcomes that demonstrate measurable health improvements. Participants will have an opportunity to refine and develop research tools to further community engagement practices. Discussions also will include ways to transform the clinical research enterprise through effective collaborations that lead to improved health outcomes.

For more information and to register, [visit the meeting Web site](#) or contact [Donna Jo McCloskey](#), NCRR.

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 multidisciplinary 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](#)

New—Building Drug Abuse Research in Cooperation with the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Consortium

The Building Drug Abuse Research in Cooperation with the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Consortium workshop will be held **May 26, 2010** at the NIH Neuroscience Center in Bethesda, Md.

For more information, contact [Jeffrey Schulden](#), NIDA or [Donna Jo McCloskey](#), NCRR.

New—Network of Research Networks: Strategic Goal Committee Four Face-to-Face Meeting

The CTSA Strategic Goal Committee Four (SGC4) face-to-face meeting will be held **May 27, 2010** at the Natcher Conference Center at NIH in Bethesda, Md.

This invitational meeting for members of federal agencies and national organizations that oversee or support research networks, including community- and practice-based networks, will review the range and goals of current networks; discuss the advantages, disadvantages, opportunities, and barriers of linking the networks; and the potential role of the CTSA's and other organizations in supporting a common infrastructure for a "network of networks."

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

New—CTSA Forum on Comparative Effectiveness Research

A CTSA Forum on Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) will be held **May 28, 2010** at the NIH Main Campus, Bld. 31 in Bethesda, Md. The objective of the forum is to identify challenges and opportunities for collaboration among CER-related groups to transform common CER priorities into a synergistic national research enterprise. The forum is an invitation only event.

For more information, contact [Dr. Rosemarie Filart](#), NCRR or [Tom Concannon](#), Tufts.

New—The Midwest Consortium: Rural Health and Health Disparities Research in the Heartland Meeting

Bringing new discoveries to underserved communities is a top priority for all of the participating institutions in the Midwest Consortium. The Midwest Consortium: Rural Health and Health Disparities Research in the Heartland meeting will be held **June 10–11, 2010** at the University of Kansas Medical Center School of Nursing. The meeting will focus on sharing ideas and resources that can be used to foster health disparities research in both rural and underserved minority communities. The meeting will also highlight unique areas of health disparities research being conducted in Kansas, including highly successful practice-based rural research networks and community-based alliances for American Indian research and education. The meeting will also bring together experts in health disparities research from throughout the Midwest Consortium.

For more information and to register, visit the [2010 Midwest Consortium Web site](#).

Updated—The 3rd Annual Clinical Research Management Workshop

The 3rd Annual Clinical Research Management Workshop has been scheduled for **June 21–22, 2010** at the North Bethesda Conference Center in Bethesda, Md. The Clinical Research Management Workshop serves as a dynamic venue for CTSA's and representatives from the private industry, NIH, Food and Drug Administration, and private research organizations to come together to discuss challenges and develop strategies that will improve clinical research management processes. The use of metrics to monitor process performance in Institutional Review Board (IRB), grants and contract management and budget development, along with recruitment and retention strategies, are among the many topics to be discussed at the workshop. Interested individuals from all sectors are welcome to attend the general sessions. Special breakout sections have been planned to emphasize specific interests of CTSA site specialists in contracts, IRB issues, electronic IRB software selection and implementation, and recruitment and retention. A face-to-face meeting of the Champions of Change for the CTSA Consortium will provide participants with specific tasks to help improve clinical research management at their sites.

For more information and to register, visit the [Clinical Research Management Workshop Website](#).

Tufts CTSI Seminar on Comparative Effectiveness and Cost Effectiveness: Methods and Measurement

Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) will present The 2nd Annual Short Course on Comparative Effectiveness and Cost Effectiveness: Methods and Measurement, on **June 24–25, 2010** at the Museum of Science in Boston, Mass. This acclaimed two-day course provides participants with knowledge and hands-on experience in the nuts and bolts of the methods employed in evidence-based and value-based approaches, two essential components of comparative effectiveness research. Some background in comparative effectiveness research and cost effectiveness assessment is preferred.

More information, including the seminar schedule and a course brochure with a registration form, may be found at the [Tufts CTSI Calendar of Events page](#).

CTSA Committee Meetings and Activities

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

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

University of Wisconsin Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE) Health Equity Leadership Institute (HELI)

The University of Wisconsin (UW) Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE) is pleased to announce the first Health Equity Leadership Institute (HELI) on **June 14–18, 2010** at the UW Madison campus. Sponsored by the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, the 2010 Institute is offered in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh's Research Center of Excellence on Minority Health Disparities and is modeled on its highly successful Summer Research Career Development Institute training program. As a National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center of Excellence, CCHE is committed to increasing the number of investigators, particularly minority investigators engaged in health disparities/health equity research, who are successful in academic appointments and achieving independent funding through the NIH and other federal agencies.

Designed to foster professional networking for participating scholars and to create a collaborative learning environment for both scholars and Institute faculty, the hope is that scholars will establish long-lasting relationships with new colleagues and that, together, new interdisciplinary teams will advance health equity solutions for all communities.

For more information, contact [Sarah Esmond](#) or [Robbi Strandemo](#).

Third Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence

The CTSA community is invited to the Third Biennial National Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence on **June 16–18, 2010** at the Marriott Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center, Bethesda, Md. Designed to showcase the scientific and training accomplishments of the [IDeA program](#), which develops scientific centers of excellence and trains biomedical scientists in IDeA-eligible states, the event will provide an opportunity for those in the CTSA and IDeA communities to network and form research collaborations. This year's event will feature keynote presentations in selected areas of scientific investigation, plenary and poster presentations by IDeA scientists, and workshops designed for attendees to acquire new scientific and/or career skills. A parallel session will explore issues relating to core laboratory facilities and highlight Core Management and Shared Resource Networks. Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., and director of NIH, is scheduled to deliver a plenary lecture on Thursday morning.

For more information about this event, visit the [IDeA symposium Web site](#).

Register by **May 14, 2010** at the [registration page of the IDeA symposium Web site](#).

New Ability to Find Resources for Your Researchers on CTSAweb.org

The [Resources for Researchers](#) page on CTSAweb.org has been revamped and improved to make it easier to find resources of interest. Researchers can now select the type of resource they are looking for and filter out non-related information. Visit the new page to see what is available.

To have your publicly available resource included on this site, please contact the CTSA Resources for Researchers Web page Coordinator, [Dr. Rosemarie Filart](#).

Correction to April CTSA e-Newsletter Community Engagement KFC Feature Article

In the last month's CTSA e-newsletter article, "Community Engagement KFC Makes Strides to Enhance Research, Participation," two Sentinel Network community partners, Patient Advocates in Research (PAIR) and Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) were inadvertently omitted from the list of Sentinel Network project sites and partners. All five Sentinel Network sites, consisting of Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, University of California, Davis, University of Michigan, University of Rochester and Washington University in St. Louis, along with PAIR and CCPH, will engage

community members, collect demographic data and information on top health concerns and determine barriers to research participation.

CTSA Consortium Governance Document Updated

The CTSA Governance document has recently been updated by the CTSA Consortium Steering Committee (CCSC) and posted to CTSAweb.org. The ad hoc Governance Committee, a subgroup of the CTSA Consortium Executive Committee (CCEC), drafted the first edits that then went through review and discussion by the CCEC and the CCSC. While some changes were minor updates, some items were more significant, such as changes in the leadership terms and membership for the Strategic Goal Committees, the addition of the Consortium Management Group and the formation of Operations Groups for Key Function Committees to help ensure there is a core group steering the large committees. The [Governance Document](#) can be downloaded from CTSAweb.org in the “For the Consortium” menu on the left.

New Collaboration Opportunity Feature Available on CTSAweb.org

A new feature listing various research collaboration opportunities is now available on CTSAweb.org—[Collaboration Opportunities](#). The CTSA institutions have agreed to voluntarily post various research projects on a public bulletin board as opportunities for interested parties to connect and possibly collaborate. This new feature can be accessed through the “For Researchers” menu on the right side of CTSAweb.org.

Project ideas are welcome from all interested CTSA. If your institution would like to post an opportunity for collaboration on CTSAweb.org, please [download](#) and submit the project information forms to: CTSABB@mail.nih.gov.

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:

Scientific Meetings for Creating Interdisciplinary Research Teams (R13)

This funding opportunity announcement encourages Research Conference Grant (R13) applications from institutions and organizations that propose to develop interdisciplinary research teams. Teams must include investigators from the social and/or behavioral sciences, and may include the life and/or physical sciences. The goal is to broaden the scope of investigation into scientific problems, yield fresh and possibly unexpected insights, and increase the sophistication of theoretical, methodological and analytical approaches by integrating the analytical strengths of two or more disparate scientific disciplines while addressing gaps in terminology, approach and methodology. This program will allow investigators from multiple disciplines to hold meetings in order to provide the foundation for developing interdisciplinary research projects.

[Full announcement](#)

FEATURES:

Duke CTSA Nurtures the Translational Research Cycle

The research enterprise is changing rapidly and so must the resources that enable it. The Duke Translational Medicine Institute (DTMI) is committed to catalyzing the translation of discoveries into improved health across the globe and providing the platforms for that effort.

Shepherding Translation

The DTMI's approach to pilot funding is built on a model of "shepherding" investigators through the process of translation. Projects are supported by a multidisciplinary team, including individuals with project management, business development, regulatory and commercialization expertise. This team assists investigators in driving projects through "translational units," or critical milestones, along the translational path.

Early Phase Studies

Through the Duke Clinical Research Unit and a global network of similar units, the DTMI provides investigators with the facilities and expertise to design and conduct early phase clinical trials to study human systems biology. For example, partnerships with centers in Asia allow for common systems and processes that enable simultaneous studies in varied populations.

Facilitating Enrollment in Clinical Trials

The DTMI is making identification and enrollment of potential research subjects easier. The Duke Integrated Subject Cohort Enrollment Resource Network (DISCERN) system accesses information in the patient data warehouse and, on the basis of queries specific to clinical trials being conducted, can alert researchers and staff of potentially eligible patients. Through secure e-mail or digital paging, the system notifies research staff when and where these patients are in the clinic, enabling staff to approach them for study participation.

Community Activation for Widespread Implementation

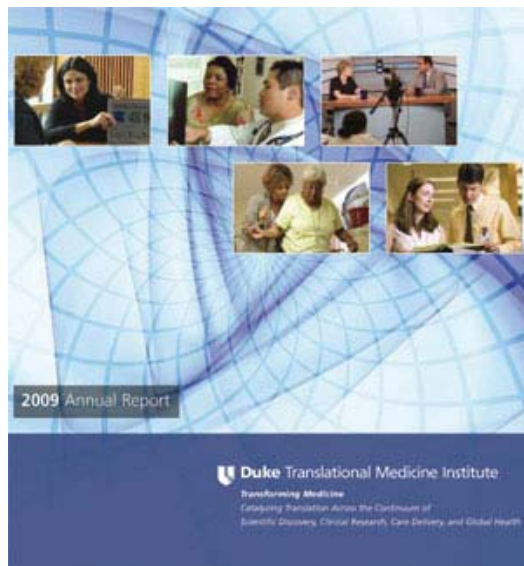
A local pilot study conducted by DTMI, Durham Health Innovations, will test a community's ability to improve its health, as assessed by health status and outcome data. Driven by community-identified needs and supported by novel data techniques, such as geospatial mapping, a team of over 400 community members and Duke investigators are working together to redesign the health care model in Durham County.

Point-of-Care Implementation Research

The Duke Translational Nursing Institute is encouraging providers to question standard practices by using a systematic method for capturing clinical questions that arise during the course of care delivery. Providers will evaluate the science behind those practice-related questions and answer the questions using literature-based group forum discussions. This approach, called Strategies To Investigate Clinical Questions (STICK), provides structure, guidelines and tools to multidisciplinary teams for point-of-care inquiry, evidence-based practice and research.

From Bedside Back to the Bench

The Measurement to Understand Reclassification of Disease Of Cabarrus/Kannapolis (MURDOCK) study is a large-scale, molecular, epidemiologic study focused on identifying genomic linkages across the major chronic diseases and disorders that are today's leading causes of illness and death. Using biologic samples from 50,000 participants, researchers will be able to identify novel patterns and characteristics that may predict risk or response to therapy and reveal underlying pathways with therapeutic potential.



The DTMI developed an [Annual Report](#) to help community members better understand its clinical and translational research, such as the Durham Health Innovations community health improvement project and the MURDOCK study to identify novel patterns of disease and treatment response.

Communications KFC Expands Opportunities to Communicate In, Across and About CTSA

The Communications Key Function Committee (KFC) held its annual face-to-face meeting in Rockville, Md., March 4–5, 2010 to share and discuss local and national CTSA consortium communication opportunities and challenges. The [meeting summary and presentations](#) are available on the CTSA Web site.

Helping CTSA Sites Communicate Scientific Advances

A focus of the meeting was the importance of clearly communicating CTSA-related scientific advances to target audiences, including Congress, the administration and NIH leadership. These communications can build awareness about the CTSA program's value and contributions to health research as well as improve and increase community engagement. Through

presentations and breakout sessions, participants discussed challenges in learning about scientific advances and ideas to improve processes.

Ideally, communication efforts will feature scientific advances that have been published in a widely recognized scientific journal; however, communications also may highlight research in progress and research facilitation and acceleration. Institution representatives were asked to share their advances by posting them on the CTSA Wiki and by sending them to their respective NCCR program officer and the NCCR Office of Communications. NCCR, with input from the Communications KFC, created a [template](#) to assist in gathering all the information needed to communicate a CTSA-related advancement in science.

Communications Plans and Tactics

The meeting also highlighted the importance of each CTSA institution having its own CTSA communications plan and using social media and other innovative approaches to reach reporters and stakeholders. Participants discussed various methods for using technology to facilitate networking, collaboration and communication. Over the course of the meeting, participants discussed the challenges and benefits of maintaining social networks as a communications tool; there is no consensus or conclusive evidence on whether the benefits of using online social networks outweighs the time and resources needed to maintain them. One presentation focused on using federated access to enhance networking and information exchange, which also would help improve communication across CTSA sites. (For more information on [federated access](#), see the CTSA Web site.)

Communications KFC Offers Consultation Service

The Communications KFC's Communications Consultation Service responds to ad hoc requests for advice or expertise submitted, via the [CTSA Wiki](#), by various consortium committees or members. The service applies the "tiger team" concept, gathering a group of experts to study a specific issue and provide recommendations in the short term. To date, volunteer consultants have helped identify communication needs and design communication plans. Tiger teams also are working on an internal communications plan for the CTSA consortium and a communications/marketing plan for ResearchMatch.org.

Seeking Sustainability for the CTSA ShareCenter

The [CTSA ShareCenter](#) provides a Web portal to share operational resources and expertise within the CTSA consortium. The project was developed initially as a prototype through a one-year administrative supplement. Funding for the project has ended, so a new subgroup of the Communications KFC will consider options for sustaining and possibly further developing the prototype. CTSA institutions can implement the current ShareCenter product locally. For example, the University of California, San Francisco, aims to have the ShareCenter fully installed by June 2010.

Next Steps: Collaborating Across KFCs

A subgroup of the Communications KFC has met with the Evaluation KFC to exchange ideas on how CTSA institutions' communications efforts can incorporate more evaluation techniques, and how results from evaluations of the effectiveness of CTSA sites in clinical and translational research can help improve communications and messaging. Another subgroup hopes to cooperate with the Community Engagement KFC and the Regulatory Knowledge KFC to identify specific tools, language and methods demonstrated to improve messaging and communications within communities.

ARTICLES:

BERD Watch—CTSpedia Links CTSA Researchers and Resources

Biostatisticians, epidemiologists and ethicists at CTSA institutions across the country are partnering to facilitate collaboration and increase efficiency by sharing knowledge, resources and tools through [CTSpedia](#), a wiki-style resource. CTSpedia was initially designed for biostatisticians and clinical researchers and has become a valuable resource of shared information for medical scientists and trainees to facilitate teaching and learning and to provide tools for data analysis. CTSpedia offerings

include the following:

- Encyclopedic entries that define clinical and translational science terminology at a level appropriate for researchers
- Articles and educational materials addressing common statistical questions, such as deciding which research design to select, interpreting statistical output, determining which predictors are most important, reporting statistical results and using standard statistical software packages
- Statistical software tools (such as sample-size calculators) and Web services and software in SAS and R for carrying out commonly requested data analysis for statistical consulting
- Materials for teaching ethical conduct of research
- An "Ask the Experts" question-and-answer section that covers biostatistics, community engagement, data management and regulatory knowledge

The University of California (UC), San Francisco, created CTSpedia. Thanks to funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the University of Rochester is developing additional content and collaborating with UC Davis to collect and organize educational materials; Vanderbilt University has taken on Web hosting; and the UC Davis is developing and organizing case-based materials. Many other CTSA are contributing content and initiating forums, including Rockefeller University, Washington University and the University of Pennsylvania. Recently, the Food and Drug Administration and pharmaceutical companies have begun collaboration with UC Davis and Vanderbilt to organize and post to CTSpedia their software tools for statistical graphics and analysis of clinical trial data using best practices.

Until now, individual researchers spent many years identifying the kinds of information resources that CTSpedia has collected in one place. Using CTSpedia, for example, an infectious disease researcher studying early warning signs of H1N1 influenza complications could find information on study designs, link to statistical tools for calculating sample sizes, get guidance on ethical conduct of such a study and take advantage of a Web forum to pose questions to experts. A new researcher in environmental health interested in studying the effects of prenatal lead exposure could use CTSpedia to learn about clinical research ethics, then follow links to related definitions and articles on multiple linear regression, an article on career development awards and will soon be able to link to biostatistics case-based units.

As the host site for user forums for the clinical and translational tools offered, CTSpedia frees up resources at the partner CTSA and creates a consistent user experience for clinical and translational researchers. This shared resource, created with CTSA support, eases the demand on many individual institutions to create their own local resources.

Investigators are welcome to view and download programs from CTSpedia for their own clinical research and, after registration, to ask questions and contribute materials. CTSpedia is an invaluable resource, especially for researchers new to clinical and translational science, and will support the effective translation of research findings to clinical settings. New questions are posted continually, leading to new initiatives and partnerships and allowing users to break down barriers across institutions and disciplines and between new and experienced clinical and translational researchers.

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:

- New CTSA [Collaboration Opportunities](#) page listing CTSA collaboration opportunities
- Streamlined search feature on [Resources for Researchers](#) page
- Updated CTSA [Governance Document](#) available at [CTSAweb.org](#) "For the Consortium" menu on the left

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.