Recommendations

CTSA/NCATS Integration Working Group

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Working Group Chair

Advisory Committee to the NIH Director
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Working Group Membership

- Stephen Katz *(Chair)*
- James Anderson
- Hugh Auchincloss, Jr.
- Josephine Briggs
- Alan Guttmacher
- Kathy Hudson
- Richard Hodes
- Walter Koroshetz
- Rajesh Ranganathan
- Griffin Rodgers
- Susan Shurin
Working Group Charge

- Enumerate the roles and capabilities of the CTSAs that can support and enhance the mission of NCATS;

- Identify CTSA needs and priorities; and

- Propose processes for ensuring a smooth transition from NCRR to NCATS.
Working Group Consultations

- NIH Director
- NCRR and CTSA Leadership
- CTSA Program Officers
- CTSA Consortium Executive Committee (CCEC)
Working Group Consultations (cont.)

• CCEC members include:

  - **Bruce Cronstein, MD** *(co-chair)*
    New York University School of Medicine

  - **Curtis Lowery, M.D.** *(co-chair)*
    University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

  - **Gordon Bernard, MD**
    Vanderbilt University Medical Center

  - **Don McClain, MD, PhD**
    University of Utah

  - **Harry Greenberg, MD**
    Stanford University School of Medicine

  - **Hugh Sampson, MD**
    Mount Sinai School of Medicine

  - **Rebecca Jackson, MD**
    Ohio State University

  - **Harry Selker, MD, MSPH**
    Tufts University

  - **Jill Joseph, MD, PhD, MPH**
    Children’s National Medical Center

  - **Harry Shamoon, MD**
    Albert Einstein College of Medicine
CCEC Inquiry - Essay Component

• Identify CTSA research areas that are:
  ▫ Strongest and ideally suited to supporting the NCATS mission.
  ▫ Relevant to the NCATS mission that you would like to enhance or further develop.
  ▫ Not directly in support of the NCATS mission but are critical to be preserved.
Working Group Findings

- Numerous entities are invested in CTSA program - many goals are shared, but at times, have competing interests

- CTSA resources are highly leveraged by institutions - requires a balance between supporting local institutional needs and creating a national network of information, resources, and expertise

- CTSA infrastructure supports a broad range of translational research - specific strengths vary across CTSA sites
Working Group Recommendation #1

Continue to provide infrastructure supporting the full spectrum of research while encouraging CTSA institutions to develop their unique strengths.

- There are essential core components that are critical to the conduct of translational science - these should be baseline requirements for all CTSAs.
- Above and beyond the core infrastructure, each CTSA should be encouraged to cultivate unique strengths to foster innovation.
Working Group Recommendation #2

Strengthen CTSA consortia activities.

- Encouraging CTSAs to cultivate individual strengths can minimize redundancy and facilitate the formation of a Consortium stronger than the whole.

- A portion of CTSA program funds should be dedicated to supporting:
  - Regional and national consortia activities; and
  - CTSA consortium activities in support of the NCATS mission.
Working Group Recommendation #3

Strengthen mechanisms for enabling IC-CTSA interactions.

- Widespread utilization of CTSA resources to facilitate IC-supported research has yet to be achieved.

- Mechanisms that allow ICs to invest funds in project-specific research at CTSA sites should be developed.
Working Group Recommendation #4

Evaluate each institutional award on its performance and allocate funds accordingly.

- Funds allocated to each CTSA are determined by a legacy formula based on prior number of GCRCs, training programs, and institutional K awards and not on the success of the CTSA.

- Funding levels should be based on performance measures that align with the goals of NCATS.
Working Group Recommendation #5

Allow current CTSA awardees to submit revisions to current awards prior to their anticipated renewal date.

• To prepare for merit-based review, CTSA should be able to revise current grants in order to reallocate resources to enhance their strengths.

• Revised applications will be subjected to review.
Working Group Recommendation #6

Develop an explicit process for exchanging information.

- CTSAs will continue to seek guidance about priorities, functions, and expectations of NCATS.
- The CCEC should remain a point of contact for engaging the CTSA community.
Working Group Conclusions

- NCATS must be linked not only to basic and translational research in the ICs, but to the broader resources available at academic and health care organizations.

- Flexibility in the application process in tandem with set-aside funds for NCATS projects afford CTSAs the ability to highlight strengths while contributing to the success of the enterprise in its entirety.
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION