The CTSA Program: Collaborative Innovation for Translational Research

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Transforming the CTSA Program

Common Metrics

Promoting Collaboration

Strengthening Network Capacity

Image Source: http://www.ifacile.com/2012/04/08/how-good-are-your-meetings/
Common Metrics
Transforming how we measure impact and manage strategically
Collaborative Approach to Metrics Initiative
Guiding Principles adopted by the CTSA Steering Committee

• Useful
  ➢ Must be useful to – and used by – the CTSA Principal Investigators and NCATS staff for the strategic management of the CTSA Program

• Focus on Impact
  ➢ Will help to focus strategic management on maximizing the impact of the CTSA Program

• Collaborative Leadership
  ➢ A systematic, transparent framework that fosters collaboration and shared accountability for maximizing the impact of the CTSA Program
Collaborative Leadership
Guiding Principles adopted by the CTSA Steering Committee

• PI Leadership
  ➢ CTSA Steering Committee, in partnership with NCATS, is leading the Common Metrics initiative
  ➢ Four Working Groups; PIs with active leadership roles

• Building on Prior Work
  ➢ Building on prior work on metrics and evaluation
  ➢ Engaging the evaluation community

• Intended use of Metrics
  ➢ If using metrics in assessing performance, always assess the context – story behind the curve
  ➢ Peer review process and NIH criteria are used for funding decisions
Case Study: Workforce Development

Who are our customers?

Scholars

What services and resources do we provide to those “customers”?

Courses, Training, Mentoring, etc...

What is the desired impact of those services and resources on those “customers”?

Sustainable careers in translational science

How are we doing at achieving that desired impact?

% of scholars achieving careers in translational science
Case Study: Workforce Development

How are we doing?

Potential Metric: % of scholars achieving sustainable careers in translational science

Why?
The story behind the curve

Who?
Partners with a role to play in turning the curve

Propose to do?
Action Plan
Metrics: In Summary

• Collaborative leadership
• Metrics are intended to be used in context
• Understand the story behind the curve
• Identify partners who may have role to play in turning the curve
• Brainstorming/Innovation/Joint-problem solving: Exploring and generating options for strategies that will turn the curve
• Now working with PIs to develop metrics
CTSA Communications Structure

- Domain Task Forces aligned with strategic goals
- NIH, FDA and community members
- Organizationally guided by the Steering Committee
- Working Groups already launched
Fostering Collaborative Innovations in the CTSA network
PAR-15-172 and PAR-15-173

• Address translational science roadblocks across the entire process
• Encourage teams from multiple CTSA hubs to work together
• Demonstrate utility across sites and disseminate approaches
• New methods that can be applied to different disease areas
STRENGTHENING NETWORK CAPACITY
Innovation for Multi-site Studies: Participant Recruitment

RFA TR 15-004 – CTSA Network Recruitment Innovation Centers (RICs)

The problem: Slow recruitment delays most NIH-funded trials

The approach: Build national recruitment capacity using data from the Electronic Health Record (EHR) to find potential trial participants who meet entry criteria

NIH Partner: NLM

Study planning phase

- Data-driven site selection
- Feasibility analysis

Study implementation phase

- Privacy and IRB compliant recruitment plan
- Funded expert staff to help with implementation
Innovation for Multi-site Studies: Streamlining Processes

RFA-TR-15-002 - CTSA Network Trial Innovation Centers (TICs)

The problem: Study start-up takes too long

The approach: Streamline, standardize and centralize processes

NIH Partner: NIA

Innovations in multi-site study implementation

Streamlined budgeting and contracting

Single IRB
Take-Home Messages

• The current pace of translational science cannot address the opportunities.
• 21\textsuperscript{st} c. needs cannot be solved with 20\textsuperscript{th} c. tools.
• The CTSA program has begun to transform itself and its programs to meet these opportunities for the benefit of patients through:
  o **Common Metrics** – disciplined focus on impact
  o **Collaborations** – innovative discussions and projects
  o **Strengthening Network Capacity** – enabling multi-site studies
DISCUSSION