



National
Clinical
Cohort
Collaborative

National Clinical Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Community Forum

July 30, 2026



National Center
for Advancing
Translational Sciences



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Welcome and Overview

Joni Rutter
Director, NCATS



Welcome and Thank You

- Thank you for showing up today
- We don't take your continued trust and engagement with us for granted
- It's with your partnership that we're able to confidently look ahead to what's next



Where Are We Today?

Reopening (Summer 2026)

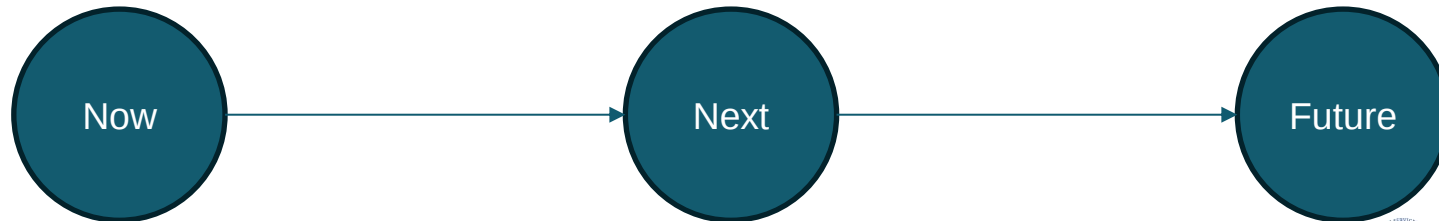
- Access to the COVID Enclave data restored
- Analytic tools available
- Relaunching Governance - Strategic Partners Committee and Community Forum

Transitional Phase (Fall/Winter 2026)

- All clinical data
- Architectural decoupling
- Governance and review processes evolve
- **5 signed DTAs**

Looking Ahead (Winter 2026 and 2027)

- Dynamic Workspaces
- Piloting data sharing models
- Scalable infrastructure to support broader research
- Training and resources





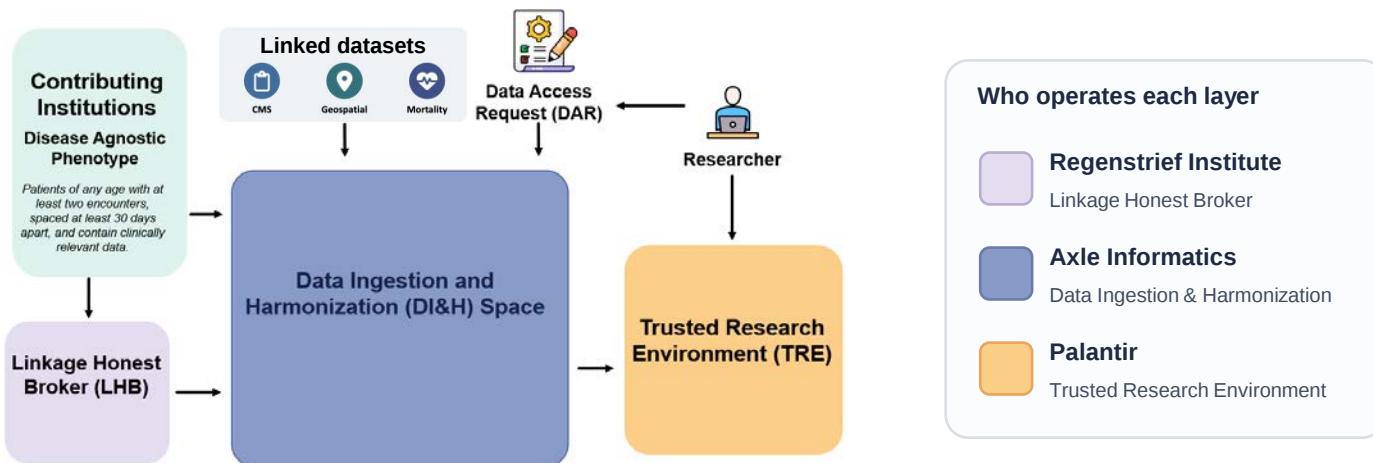
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N3C Architecture and Operations

Luca Calzoni
Technical Lead, National Clinical Cohort Collaborative (N3C)



Separate environments for data processing and analysis



GUARDRAILS AT EVERY LAYER — no standing access · minimum necessary · auditable · time-limited



No standing researcher access

No researcher has default access to full N3C data.



No raw contributed data in TRE

Raw LDS stays in DI&H, outside researcher analytics.



Approved DAR required

Access follows ORBIT, DAC, and institutional review.



Minimum necessary dataset only

Only approved, project-specific subsets are provisioned.



Row-level export prohibited

Only reviewed aggregate outputs may leave the enclave.



How Researchers Can Prepare

ACTION STEPS

Identify Your Institutional Signing Official

Confirm the individuals authorized to support institutional agreements and access approvals

COMING SOON

Prepare for Onboarding and Training

N3C support materials will help teams navigate registration, the Code of Conduct, and project-level data access



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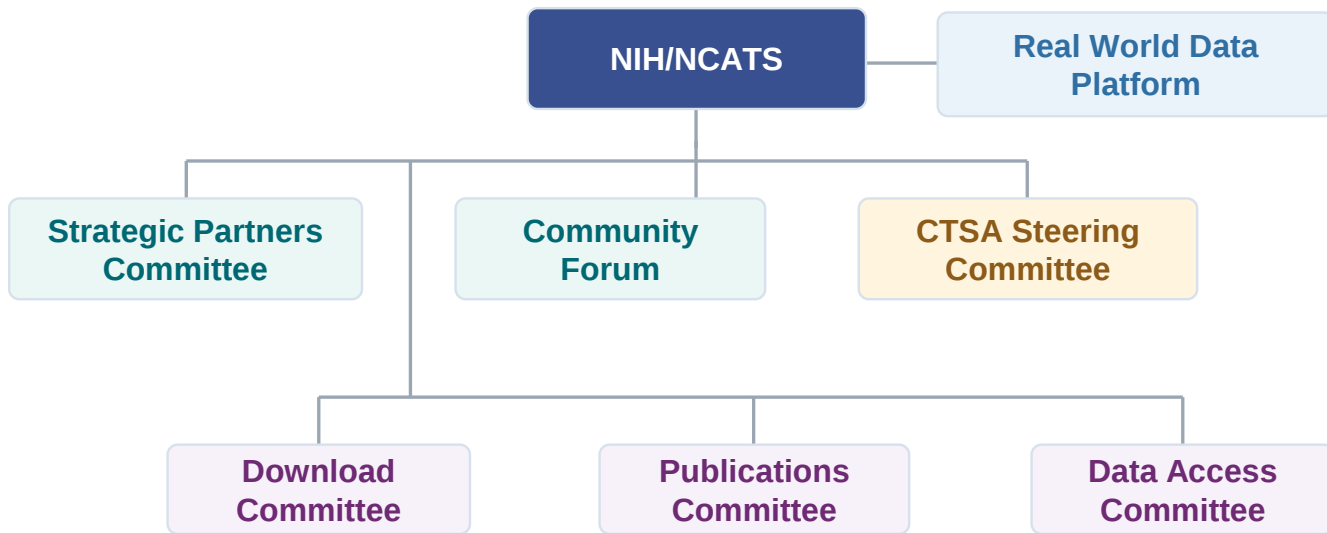
N3C Governance

How the community, committees, and NCATS connect

Rebecca Baker
Senior Advisor to the Director, NCATS



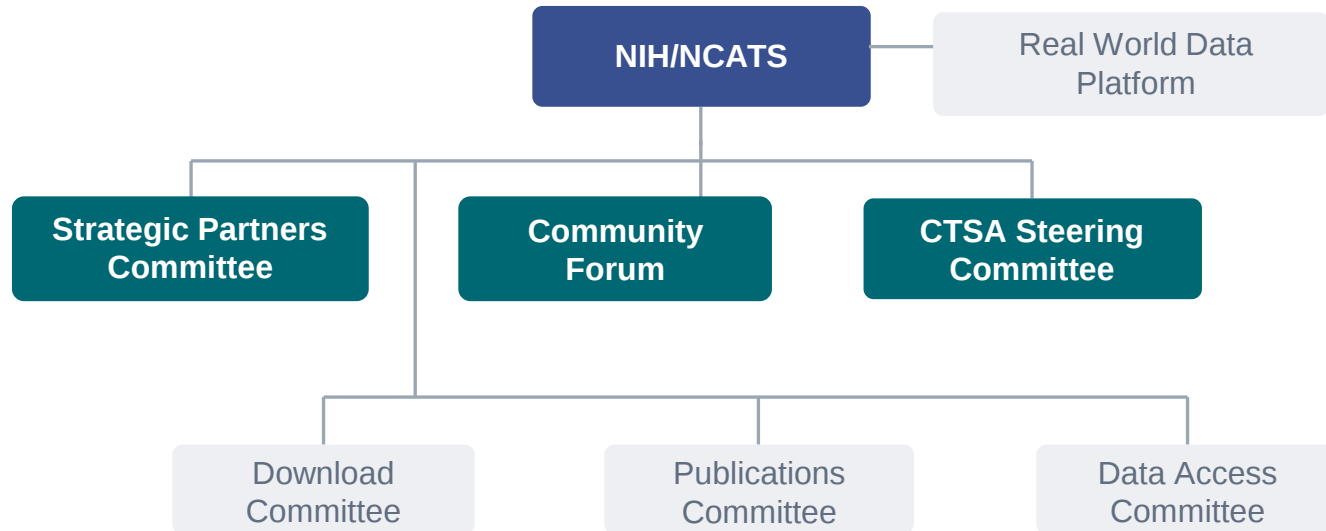
Governance Overview





Governance: Community Engagement

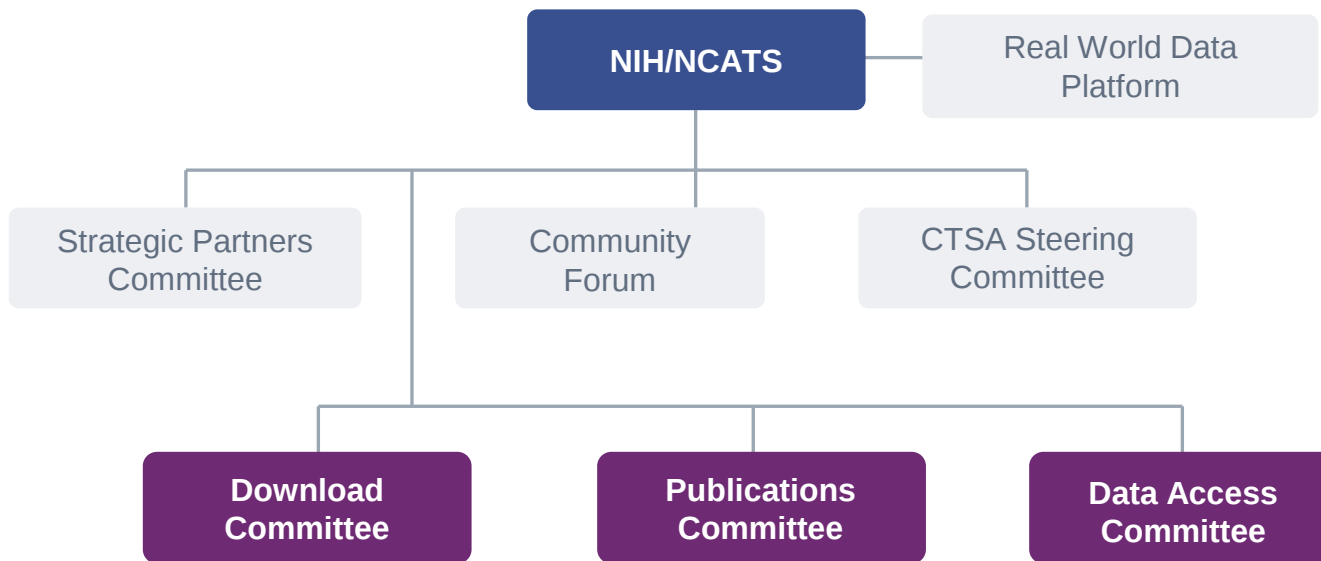
Where the community shapes governance





Governance: Specialized Functions

Dedicated committees planned to resume: data access, download, and publication review





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N3C Community Code of Conduct

Cocreated by N3C Stewards and Community

Rebecca Baker
Senior Advisor to the Director, NCATS



Code of Conduct: Process

1

First drafted as part of N3C launch in 2020, written by and built for the N3C Community

2

Updated to be in line with new N3C regulations, data types, architecture

3

Discuss document together today - Slido and Teams

4

Open google document for comments for 14-day window

5

Finalize and maintain as a living document and part of the onboarding process, open to community input



Code of Conduct: Purpose

Expectations & responsibilities

for all members of the N3C community

Standards for workspaces

use of datasets, analytical tools and collaborative workspaces

Common conduct framework

for acceptable conduct and data use

Broad activity scope

applies across all N3C activities, including disease-domain research, methods development, algorithm validation, AI/ML workflows, prize or challenge activities, and approved research



Code of Conduct: Guiding Principles

Partnership

N3C Community members act as trusted collaborators

Transparency

Project descriptions and research activities are shared

Accountability

Members take responsibility for their work and standards

Inclusivity

Members are expected to foster a welcoming environment

Reciprocity

Members acknowledge contributions and shared results

Security

All work is conducted in a secure, controlled environment, with appropriate tracking for auditing and attribution.

Mutual Respect

All interactions are professional, clear, and respectful



Code of Conduct: User Requirements (1)

- Use data only for research in Data Access Request (DAR)
- Follow all applicable local, state, federal, and tribal laws and policies
- Use data, software, and tools responsibly
- **Do not attempt to identify** any individual, institution, data contributor, community, group, or population
- **Do not attempt to contact** individuals, clinicians, institutions, or communities
- Acknowledge and attribute responsibly
- Confirm that N3C datasets do not include tribal affiliation data



Code of Conduct: User Requirements (2)

- Keep all N3C data and uncleared outputs confidential
- **Do not share, download, remove, reproduce, capture, transfer** or otherwise make available data or views of data outside the enclave
- Share research findings publicly, and support work that benefits public health
- **Report any Data Access Incident**
- Continue to comply with these requirements after DAR has ended



Standards, Ethics, and Communication

- **Follow** all laws and regulations related to federally funded research
- **Support** a positive and professional community experience
- **Protect** patient privacy
- **Minimize harm** – research should not be discriminatory or stigmatizing
- **Uphold scientific integrity** by producing original work and properly crediting others' contributions



Consequences of Violations and Reporting

Consequences of Violations

- Immediate loss of access to N3C data and resources, suspension from N3C
- Based on the nature and impact of the violation
- NCATS may notify home institution, other appropriate oversight authorities.
- Possible reinstatement

Report Issues

- Report any Data Access Incident, concerns related to the Code of Conduct, harassment, research integrity, or community participation concerns to ncats_n3c@mail.nih.gov



Code of Conduct: Slido Questions

1

Before today, how familiar were you with what changed to the document?

2

Do you think this Code of Conduct is going in the right direction?

3

Do you think this Code of Conduct matches the community need?

4

In one word, how would you describe this Code of Conduct, as you read it?

5

Is there a situation in your work that this Code of Conduct may not cover?

6

If only one thing about this Code of Conduct could change before it's finalized, what would you want it to be?



Code of Conduct: Next Steps

1

Thanks for your participation today!!

2

Community input from today's discussion will be collated and posted online with slides and transcript

3

N3C Community Code of Conduct is now online, please share your comments

4

Open google document for comments for 14-day window

5

Finalize and maintain as a living document and part of the onboarding process, open to community input



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Thank you!