

# TRANSFORMING HEALTH TOGETHER

## *An Overview of the CCTS*

Charles Miller, PhD  
K12 Contact PI/PD  
Professor & Associate VP



# Overview



**Center for Clinical & Translational Sciences**

About Us ▾ Investigator Resources ▾ Grant Assistance Community Engagement ▾ Education & Training ▾ News Events



**Transforming health**

In 2006, three Texas Medical Center institutions were among the first in the nation to establish the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS). Today, the center includes the following partner institutions:

### Investigator Resources

Explore this Section

- About Us
- Investigator Resources**
- Biomedical Informatics
- Bioinformatics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD)
- Clinical Research Units
- Clinical Trials Resource Center (Regulatory Assistance)
- Liaisons to the Trial Innovation Network
- Scientific Partners Advancing Research Kickoff (SPARK)
- Team Science
- Translational Technologies and Resources (Core Labs)
- Grant Assistance
- Community Engagement
- Education & Training
- News
- Events

#### CCTS Components

The CCTS supports researchers, clinicians, and students. Our services range from funding opportunities to research design and grant-writing assistance. Many of our services and all initial consultations are free.

<b>BERD</b> <a href="#">Bioinformatics, Epidemiology, Research Design support</a>	<b>Biomedical Informatics</b> <a href="#">Database design, data organization and transfer for researchers</a>	<b>Clinical Research Units</b> <a href="#">Dedicated spaces for conducting clinical trials</a>
<b>Clinical Trials Resource Center</b> <a href="#">Assistance with regulatory requirements and clinical study design</a>	<b>Core Labs</b> <a href="#">Atomic force microscopy and pre-clinical CT imaging</a>	<b>Dissemination and Implementation</b> <a href="#">Advancing implementation research and practice through interdisciplinary, translational team science.</a>

Contact Us  
For general questions or assistance, email us at: [CCTS@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:CCTS@uth.tmc.edu)

- Who we are
- What we do
- Components
- Services and resources
- Q&A
- Learn more / contact us

# Who We Are

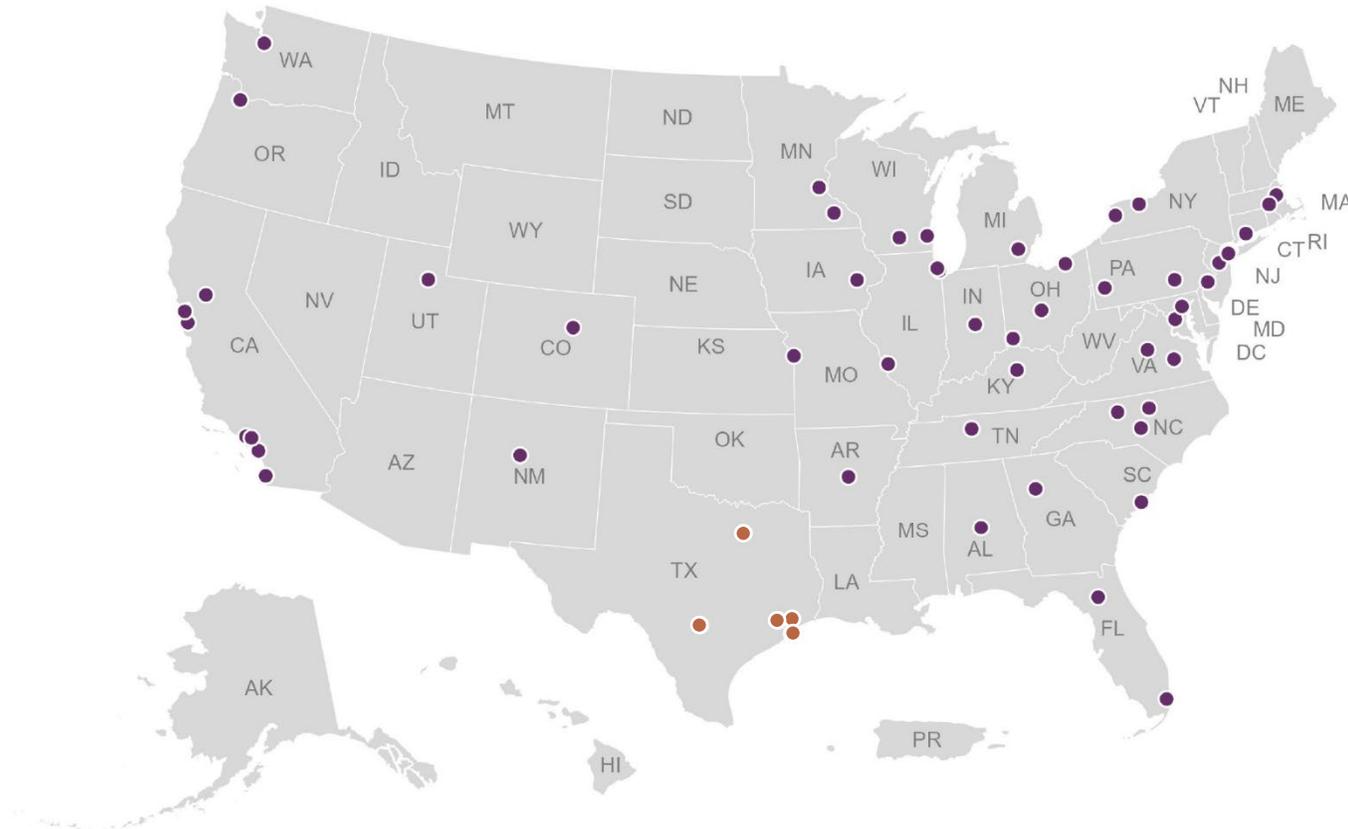


In 2006, two Texas Medical Center institutions were among the first in the nation to receive a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health to accelerate the translation of laboratory discoveries into patient treatments. The grant was used to establish the **Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS)**.

Today, the **CCTS** includes multiple partner organizations.



# CTSA Hubs: 60+ Nationwide



CTSA Program Hubs (Texas now has 5)

## Acronyms

**CCTS** – Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences

**CTSA** – Clinical and Translational Science Award

**NIH-NCATS** – National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

# What We Do

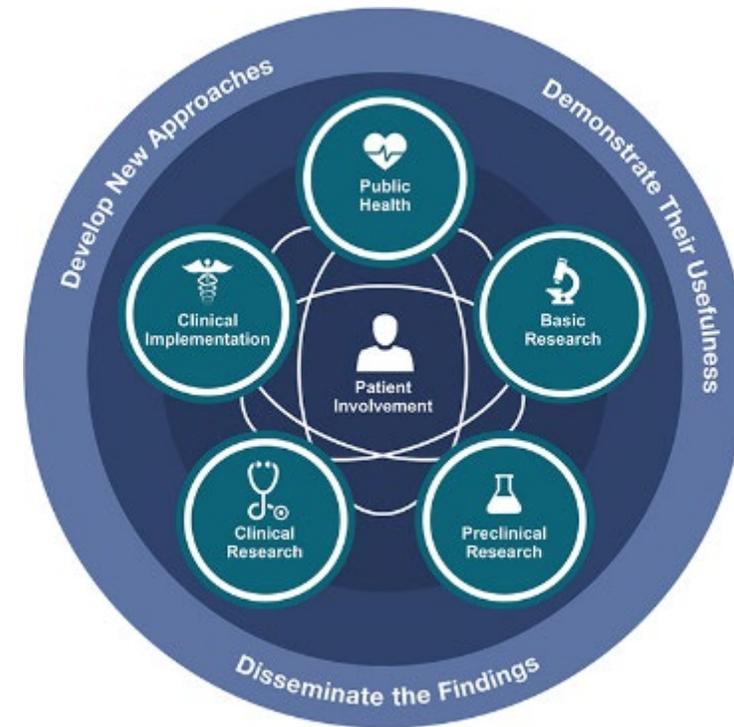


**Mission:** To support translational research and advance translational science

**Translation:** “*The process of turning **observations** in the laboratory, clinic or the community into **interventions** that improve the health of people.*” (NCATS)

“A novel drug can take 10-15 years and more than \$2 billion to develop.”

ncats.nih.gov



<https://ncats.nih.gov/about/about-translational-science>

# How We Do It



- Support researchers, clinicians, and community members bringing scientific discoveries to the doctor's office and to the population  
(Bench – Bedside - Population)
- Deliver community health concerns to the lab through the clinic
- Build the next generation of translational researchers



# CCTS Components



## Grant Assistance

Grant Writing	BERD
Regulatory Knowledge & Support	Biomedical Informatics

## Clinical Trials

Clinical Research Units	Clinical Trials Resource Center
Trial Innovation Network	Learning Healthcare

## Community

Community Engagement	Integrating Special Populations
Team Science	Implementation & Dissemination

## Education & Training

Translational Workforce Development	Pilot Projects
T32 Training for Pre- and Post-Doc students	K12 Career development

# Grant Assistance



- Advice from experienced CCTS faculty and staff for proposal development
- Assistance in finding funding opportunities
- Review and editing of grant applications

***Tip: Request letters of support from CCTS***

# BERD

## Biostatistics, Epidemiology & Research Design Component



- Support and advice on study design, data management, data quality and statistical analysis
- For a **free initial consultation**, visit our web page and fill out the “Project Initiation Form”

**Tip: Get help well before you submit your proposal**

### Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD)

Explore this Section

- Biomedical Informatics
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To contact a specific person or department, please refer to the [CCTS directory](#).

### Assistance with study design, data management, quality assurance, and statistical analysis of data

Director: Mohammad H. Rahbar, PhD - [Mohammad.H.Rahbar@uth.tmc.edu](#)

Co-director: MinJae Lee, PhD - [MinJae.Lee@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:MinJae.Lee@uth.tmc.edu)

BERD provides leadership, expertise, and advice on study design to investigators in the CCTS. BERD's mission is to support investigators across CTSAs nationwide in conducting translational research of maximum public health impact. We provide the resources required to pursue the following objectives:

- Contribute to the enhancement and further development of research infrastructure both within the CCTS
- Develop short-term and long-term collaborative research projects with investigators and members of our CCTS network
- Contribute to the formal training of clinical investigators in epidemiology, and research design
- Contribute methodological advances in biostatistics to benefit to clinical and translational research

Please complete the BERD project initiation form for the following BERD services that you need.

Thank you!

Mohammad H. Rahbar, PhD & MinJae Lee, PhD  
Director of BERD Co-director of BERD

#### Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design (BERD) CORE Project Initiation Form

Date Request  Today MDY  
\* must provide value

Request by:  
Please provide your name and family name   
\* must provide value

Email   
\* must provide value

Phone   
\* must provide value

[www.uth.edu/ccts/investigator-resources/berd](http://www.uth.edu/ccts/investigator-resources/berd)

# Biomedical Informatics



- **UTHealth Clinical Data Warehouse (CDW):** single source for clinical data from various systems/institutions
- **Consultation:** Best practices in database design and implementation
- **REDCap Services:** Technical support and training



## Access to Clinical Data

All data access or search requests can be made by completing our [Data Request form](#).

Image access requests can be made by completing our [Image Request form](#).

Data Access requests - where the researcher may search through the database themselves - must be made by completing the [Request to Access Protected Health Information form](#).

Request IQVIA here: [IQVIA Request Form](#).

Request access to ENACT/I2b2 here: [ACT Request Form](#).

All data that is received by the requester must be stored in a secure manner which conforms to the UTHealth Policies for PHI data.

*Depending on the complexity of the request, a fee may be charged to cover the costs of extracting the data. You will be given a quote before any work is started.*

## FREE REDCap Training Session!

AUG 22, 3:00 pm

- 30-minute training and discussion on how to effectively use REDCap to launch a successful research project
- Open to students and faculty at UTHealth Houston and CCTS partner organizations

CONTACT  
Rene.Plascencia@uth.tmc.edu

# Clinical Research Units (CRUs)



- Memorial Hermann Hospital, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, UTHealth School of Public Health-Brownsville, School of Dentistry, LBJ Hospital
- Dedicated specialized facilities, experienced personnel, and advice on conducting clinical studies
- Active protocols = 157 (71% industry, 29% non-industry)



# Clinical Trials Resource Center



- Help investigators start up or join multisite nation-wide clinical trials
- Trial design and conduct – training for investigators, research nurses, and study coordinators
- Assistance with **IND** and **IDE** applications

<https://www.uth.edu/ctrc/>



<https://www.biopharmaservices.com>

# Community Engagement



The image shows three overlapping promotional posters for community engagement workshops. The top poster is titled "3 REASONS TO BECOME A COMMUNITY SCIENTIST" and lists: 1. Be a voice for your community, 2. Grow personally & professionally, 3. Enjoy flexibility, convenience & compensation! It includes an "Apply now!" section with a QR code and contact information for Sophia Kousal, MPH, Program Coordinator. The middle poster is for a "FREE SOLUTIONS IN ACTION WORKSHOP (SAW) IMPROVING PROSTATE CANCER OUTCOMES" on Feb 5, 2025, at 9 AM, featuring speaker Curtis Pettaway, MD. The bottom poster is for a "FREE SOLUTIONS IN ACTION WORKSHOP (SAW) UNDERSTANDING STRESS AND RESPONDING TO CRISIS" on Thursday, July 31, 2025, from 9 AM - 2 PM, featuring speakers JoAnna Garza, MSSW, LCSW and Deepu George, PhD, LMFT. Both SAW workshops include a QR code to "SCAN TO REGISTER" and contact information for questions.

- Assist in the design and implementation of community studies
- Advice and training in research dissemination
- Programs and Community Advisory Boards in Houston, Brownsville, and Tyler

**Tip: Talk to our CE Component about working with groups in Houston, Rio Grande Valley, East Texas, and El Paso**

# Integrating Special Populations

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- Our research includes all demographics and populations across Texas
- Includes units on pediatric, geriatric, border health, and populations in low-resource settings

**GERIATRICS**

*pediatrics*

**border health**

**LOW-RESOURCE SETTINGS**

# Border Health Research Cohort



- Kari E. North, PhD, MA, FAHA  
Susan P. Fisher-Hoch, MD, PhD  
Joseph B. McCormick MD
- School of Public Health - Brownsville
- Underserved, understudied  
**97% Hispanic community**
- A population-based cohort (>5000) with demographic, biochemical, molecular, medical, and behavioral data going back 20 years



CCHC research meeting (November 2024)



Clinical research unit staff, Brownsville

# Border Health Research Cohort



## Ongoing studies:

- Diabetes and obesity
- Tuberculosis
- Cardiovascular disease
- Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
- Bone metabolism and body fat distribution
- Cervical cancer prevention
- Liver cancer
- Microbiome
- Mental health



“All work is performed by local staff. They own the program.”

*Dr. Fisher-Hoch*



# Dissemination and Implementation



- Dissemination: Strategies to spread the knowledge
- Implementation: Methods to facilitate adoption and integration of interventions
- Understand barriers and facilitators
- UTHealth Institute for Implementation Science (consultation, training, collaboration)

[www.uth.edu/implementation-science](http://www.uth.edu/implementation-science)

## Institute for Implementation Science

[About](#) ▾ [People](#) [Our Work](#) ▾ [Consultation](#) [Membership](#) [Training](#) ▾ [News](#)



# Workforce Training



## Clinical Research Professional Workforce Training Program (2025-26)

- Clinical research coordinators, research nurses and data coordinators
- 100% online, 28-week program
- Curriculum based on Joint Task Force for Clinical Trial Competency's recommendations
- Experiential components integrated into each course

[www.uth.edu/ctrc/training/crp-wtp](http://www.uth.edu/ctrc/training/crp-wtp)



**JOIN THE DYNAMIC FIELD OF CLINICAL RESEARCH**

*Be ready to launch your career in **28 weeks** with our online program!*

 **Clinical Research Professional Workforce Training Program**

*August 18, 2025 - March 1, 2026*  
**Deadline to register: May 31**

**To learn more, visit:**  
[go.uth.edu/become-a-clinical-research-professional](http://go.uth.edu/become-a-clinical-research-professional)

 (713) 500-3578  
[clinicaltrials@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:clinicaltrials@uth.tmc.edu)

# Pilot Funding Program



- New, unfunded, collaborative clinical research to help generate preliminary data for extramurally funded projects
- Junior faculty at CCTS partner institutions
- 1-year ~\$25,000 grant

## Pilot Projects

Explore this Section

Ethics and Advocacy
KL2 Program
Learning Healthcare System
<b>Pilot Projects</b>
T32/TL1 Program

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### Program Director

Yuko Yamamura, [yuko.yamamura@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:yuko.yamamura@uth.tmc.edu), 713-500-2037

### Now Accepting Applications!

The CCTS is now accepting applications for pilot funding proposals. The program will support new, unfunded, clinical research projects that focus on translational research and translational science. The awarded dual-scoped proposals of translational research and translational science are expected to generate preliminary data for extramurally awarded investigator-initiated trials. Three to four pilot grants of **up to \$25,000 each** will be awarded.

[View/download the RFA](#)

Application deadline: **Monday, February 16, 2026, at 5 PM (CST)**.

### About the Program

The CCTS Pilot Projects program annually awards grants of up to \$50,000 to be used as pilot funding initiatives that support clinical and translational research. These include junior faculty pilot awards for independent clinical and translational research projects, hypothesis-driven pilot awards to generate preliminary data for investigator-initiated trials, and mentored pilot awards for our community partners to work in teams with our mentors. Basic-science studies and studies for which the applicant currently has no funding are also considered. Proposals that involve collaborative teams from CCTS partner institutions (UTHealth Houston schools, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, UT Tyler Cancer Center, UT Rio Grande Valley, Rice University, Texas Tech Health El Paso, and Baylor College of Medicine/Memorial Hermann Health System) are encouraged.

[www.uth.edu/ccts/education-training/pilot-projects](http://www.uth.edu/ccts/education-training/pilot-projects)  
**Deadline for applications: Feb. 16, 2026**

# 2024 Pilot Funding Awardees



**Muhammad O. Awiwi, MD**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Diagnostic Imaging, McGovern Medical School, UTHealth Houston

*Opportunistic screening for osteoporosis using low-dose chest CT obtained for lung cancer screening*



**Fadi Musfee, MD**

Assistant Professor, Institute for Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases, UTHealth Houston

*A new at-home telerehabilitation care service delivery model for stroke survivors in the Rio Grande Valley (Clinical Trial)*

# Career Development Program (K12)



- Career development awards to outstanding early-career faculty members holding an MD, PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree
- Experiential training and supervision provided by established senior faculty researchers (mentors)
- Funding of up to 75% of total salary and additional support for research and education for 1-3 years

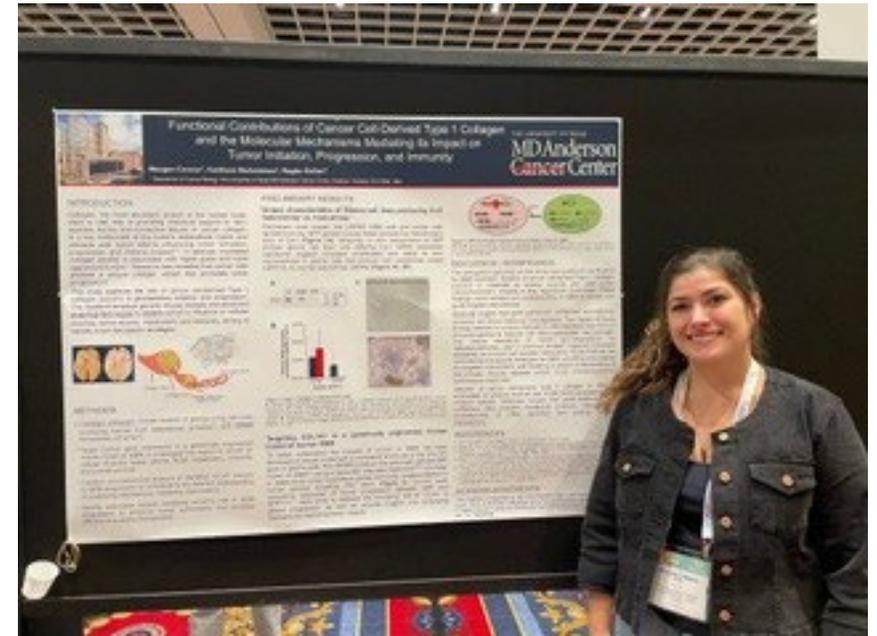


# Pre- and Post-Doc Training Program (T32)



- Up to 2 years of **full support** for graduate students and postdocs interested in clinical translational research
- T32 Goals:
  - Train the next generation of translational workforce
  - Widen participation of underserved populations

***Tip: Watch for RFA***



Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting, Las Vegas, NV (2024)

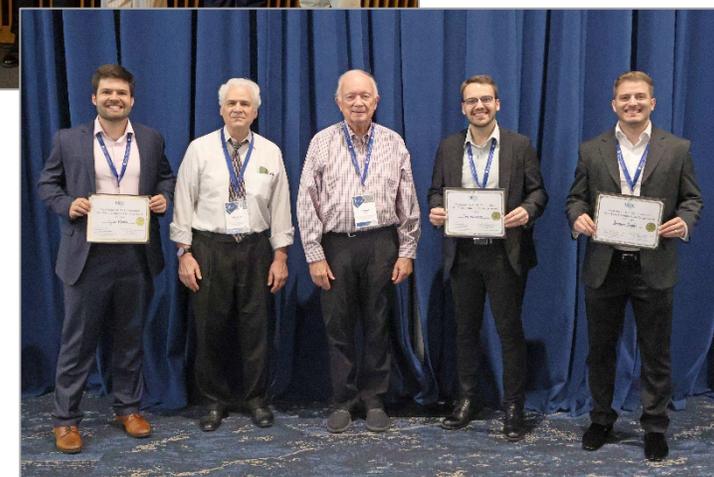
# T1-T4 in 3 (Minutes) Competition



- Annual event for T32 trainees / K12 scholars
- Opportunity for young investigators to reach the public by “translating” research ideas and achievements
- Valuable feedback from community members
- Winner represents CCTS at the regional competition (TRCC meeting)



Houston (April 2025)



San Antonio (June 2025)



- Trial Innovation Network
- Team Science
- Learning Healthcare

# Trial Innovation Network

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- CTSA program funded to **support multi-site and decentralized clinical research (trials)**
- Planning guidance, resources, and operational assistance (proposal development, statistical, regulatory, recruitment and retention)
- Helps investigators start up of NIH-funded multisite trials and/or find new sites for ongoing national trials



# Team Science

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- Develop **teamwork practices**
- Address potential barriers to successful collaboration
- Implement training programs
- Disseminate best practices
- Evaluate the learning progress of teams

# Learning Healthcare



<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/>

- Implement **research findings into clinical practice**
- Distinguish effective from ineffective or harmful therapies in real-world clinical settings
- Broad integration into CCTS K12 and Integrating Special Populations Component
- Consultation and training services to promote rigorous trials of new therapies and quality improvement studies

# Texas Regional CTSA Consortium (TRCC)

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- Five Texas CTSA hubs:
  - UTHealth Houston Center for Clinical & Translational Sciences
  - UT Southwestern Medical Center CTSA Program (Dallas)
  - UT Health San Antonio Institute for Integration of Medicine & Science
  - The University of Texas Medical Branch Institute for Translational Sciences (Galveston)
  - Baylor College of Medicine and University of Houston
- Joint research and education programs
- Core labs and collaborative training

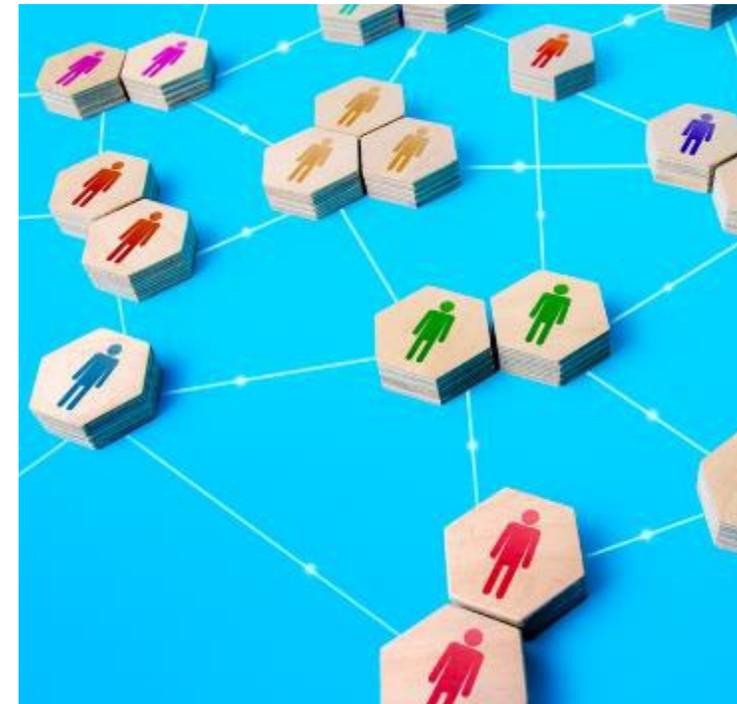
***Tip: Reach out for potential collaborations***

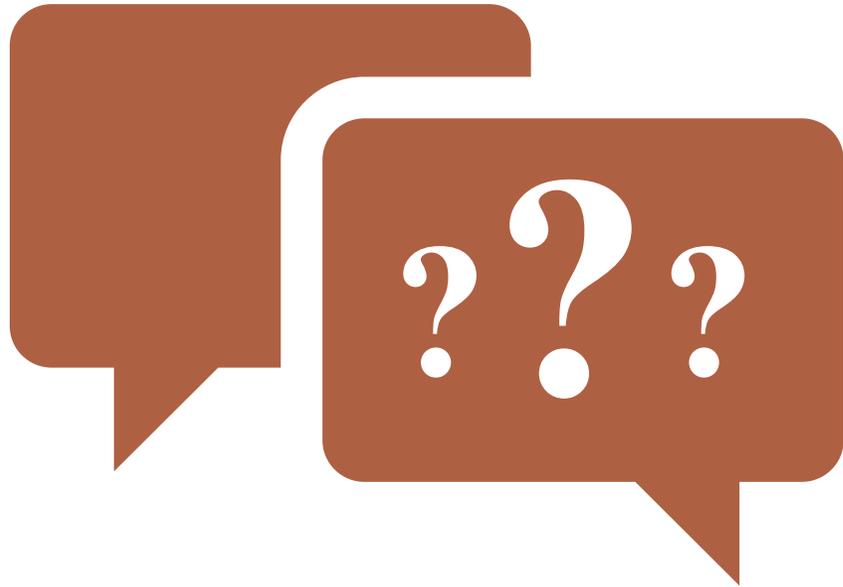
# NCATS Smart IRB Platform



- Streamlined, multisite, accelerated resources for trials (SMART) IRB Platform
- A single institutional review board (IRB) platform for **multisite clinical studies**
- Single IRB reliance model: all sites participating in a multisite clinical study rely on the ethical review of a single IRB

***Visit: [ncats.nih.gov/research/research-activities/ctsa/projects/smart-irb](https://ncats.nih.gov/research/research-activities/ctsa/projects/smart-irb)***





**Q&A**





# *Thank you*



## Learn More



[www.uth.edu/ccts/](http://www.uth.edu/ccts/)

## Contact Us



**General Inquiries**  
[CCTS@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:CCTS@uth.tmc.edu)



**CCTS Directory**  
[www.uth.edu/ccts/directory](http://www.uth.edu/ccts/directory)