

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes July 21, 2026

Present: Adriana (Adri) Tremoulet, Adrienne Markworth, Borsika Rabin, Christina (Tina) Chambers, Colin Depp, Davey Smith, John Ayers, Kate Gold, Liz Johnson, Mark Wallace, Maryam Gholami, Mike Hogarth, Raul Lizarraga, Shane Crotty, Stephanie Farrell

Absent: Amertah Perman, Gretchen Bandoli, Jamison Langguth, Katie Fisch, Lin Liu, Sam Ward, Suzanne Page

Guests: Su-Yin Chang, Kevin Muschter, Thomas Whisenant, Marni Jacobs, Khang Tong, Bekah Yohe, Karole Ignacio, Bernadette Cale, Blanca Melendrez

Recorder: Nancy Giordanengo

Agenda Item	Notes	Action Items, Comments
Call to Order	Davey Smith called the meeting to order at 2:30pm	
Opening Remarks	Davey welcomed the committee and guests to the meeting.	
Approval of June Meeting Minutes	The committee approved the June meeting minutes by consensus.	
Director's Update (Davey Smith)	Davey provided updates on the new CTSA funding opportunities: • T32- Builds the next generation of clinical and translational research scientists. • RC2- Up to \$500K direct costs/year for up to 5 years to support high-impact translational science innovations. The Fall CTSA Program Annual Meeting will take place September 23–25, 2026 in Washington, DC. This year's theme is <i>From Discovery to Impact: Advancing the Translational Pathway</i>. Key topics include AI in clinical research, innovative trial design, rural research expansion, workforce development, and scalable recruitment infrastructure. ACTRI Leadership and Enterprise Committee representatives will attend to share best practices, strengthen national collaborations, and bring back emerging strategies to our hub. ACTRI is preparing a hub poster highlighting CTSA impact aligned with the Translational Science Benefits Model (TSBM).	

Evaluation and Impact (Maryam Gholami)	Maryam presented a comprehensive overview of the Evaluation and Impact Unit's framework, metrics, and ongoing activities. Following recommendations from the External Advisory Committee, ACTRI developed a "North Star" aligned with the grant's specific aims, NCATS priorities, and organizational vision, resulting in six impact pillars: 1. Scientific & Methodological Impact: Develop novel methods, tools and technologies, promote data science, AI, and multi-omics innovation. 2. Efficient & Integrated Processes: Streamline access to infrastructure and services, improve speed, quality and consistency, use data and feedback to drive continuous improvement. 3. High-Performing Team Science: Enable cross-disciplinary and cross-sector teams, foster a culture of trust, inclusion, and shared purpose, measure and strengthen team science effectiveness. 4. Workforce & Infrastructure Capacity: Train, mentor and empower diverse workforce, provide robust data, clinical, biospecimen, and research infrastructure, scale capacity to meeting emerging needs. 5. Community Partnership & Trust: Co-design research with communities, strengthen two-way communication and trust, advance health equity and address disparities. 6. Real-World Health Impact: Apply implementation science to accelerate adoption, track outcome that matter to people and communities, generate and scale solutions that improve lives. The Publication Committee is working on a CADRE paper, CREST/MAS Program paper, and the TSBM evaluation poster for the Fall CTSA meeting. The CFAR Leadership and ENACT CCES papers are being submitted. Operational processes are being refined based on feedback and Service Level Agreements have been finalized and adopted by all units.	Maryam will attend the next CAB meeting to present the impact framework and receive feedback from CAB members.
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Education & Workforce Development (Adriana Tremoulet, Colin Depp)	The third year of the CADRE program welcomed a new cohort of five students in June 2026. A 2024 CADRE alum is transferring to UCLA in Fall 2026. A CADRE publication targeting the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science is in development, aiming to highlight program outcomes and provide a replicable model for other institutions. The second cohort of the Clinical Research Coordinators (CRC) Training Program concluded with a June graduation. A CRC Training Program alum has accepted a position at Google conducting human participant research. The Community Advisory Board (CAB) has recruited 12 community reviewers to assist with the Pilots and K-12 reviews. The RFA language on community reviewer involvement is being refined, and the CAB is finalizing community health priorities to inform Pilots RFA themes. The "What's Next" program is meeting with interested 2025 Pilots alumni to identify potential mentors and assess needs (career vs. scientific mentoring). The Pilot and PATHWAY awardees have been invited to the K-12 Seminar Series to foster broader engagement. Additional grant writing support options are being explored based on alumni needs.	
AI Initiatives (John Ayers)	John presented ACTRI's AI-enabled replication engine initiative aimed at evaluating and translating real-world evidence. He highlighted the growing challenge of identifying reliable evidence from more than 39 million PubMed articles, noting concerns about statistical reporting errors and the increasing volume of AI-assisted publications, including those containing fabricated citations. John described ACTRI's approach, which leverages three complementary real-world evidence (RWE) data sources: ENACT, ACTRI electronic health record, and public survey datasets to replicate the majority of common RWE study designs. He outlined two project aims: measuring replication fidelity by reconstructing published studies across five checkpoints to generate a fidelity score, and assessing generalizability by testing alternative defensible analytical specifications to produce a fragility score.	

Biomedical Informatics and Data Science (Mike Hogarth)	Epic Research is previewing two upcoming features (available late 2027) for early adopters that represent meaningful workflow improvements for research coordination: • Eligibility Analysis Report- AI-powered screening of potential participants against protocol eligibility criteria. • ClinicalTrials.gov Utility- Ability to import study information from ClinicalTrials.gov into Epic Research/CTMS for patient-facing trial descriptions, reducing duplicate data entry. UCSD launched the Institute for Applied Health Intelligence in July 2026, led by Dr. Amy Sitapati, as a multidisciplinary hub to leverage AI and digital technology to improve health. The Institute brings together faculty and students from academic schools: Medicine, Engineering, Pharmacy, Rady School of Management, and School of Data Science. The new Institute creates opportunities for collaboration on AI-driven health research, aligned with ACTRI's AI initiatives.	
Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (Khang Tong – delegate)	Overall, the BERD unit continues to maintain stable output, with long-term projects helping sustain utilization through seasonal fluctuations. A decline in utilization is expected during the summer months, with recovery anticipated around August as recharge activity increases. From January – June, service metrics remained largely consistent with prior reporting periods, with a slight increase in pre-award requests that provided additional experience and training opportunities for statistical staff. The unit supported 29 grants, conducted 24 walk-in consultations, completed 17 post-award projects, contributed to six abstracts, and supported five published manuscripts. An additional VA project is expected to begin in October at the earliest.	
Collaboration, Engagement, Dissemination and Implementation (Borsika Rabin)	A Community Research Council is being established for the CEDI unit. A draft proposal will be brought to the CAB for feedback before finalizing mission, roles, and onboarding processes. The CAB identified priority areas for the upcoming pilot RFA: thematic, priority populations, and research methods. The CEDI team will present at the National CTSA Community-Engaged Brokers Meeting on July 21st on ACTRI's application of the Translational Science Benefits Model. DISC submitted a proposal to the UCSD Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences inaugural Women's Health Innovation Cross-Disciplinary Pilot Grant (led by Kara as part of her doctoral work). A poster was accepted for the 2026 Society for Implementation Research Collaboration (SIRC) Conference.	

Translational Research Hub (Thomas Whisenant – delegate)	Migration to FreezerWorks is underway. The team is exporting spreadsheets from the previous system and inputting data into FreezerWorks and conducting manual inventory. The process is extensive but progressing. The Mesoscale Q60 ELISA instrument has been installed in the lab and is ready for use. Pilot assays with real samples are planned for validation and the QPCR machine is operational. The lab is positioned to begin processing samples once mesoscale validation is complete. CCBB is growing its project and PI base, with voucher programs supporting early-career investigators.	
Next meeting August 18, 2:30-4:00pm		