UC San Diego

Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2026

Present: Adriana (Adri) Tremoulet, Borsika Rabin, Colin Depp, Davey Smith, Katie Fisch, Kathryn Gold, Lin Liu, Liz Johnson, Mark Wallace, Maryam Gholami, Mike Hogarth, Raul Lizarraga, Sam Ward, Stephanie Farrell, Suzanne Page

Absent: Adrienne Markworth, Christina (Tina) Chambers, Amertah Perman, Gretchen Bandoli, Jamison Langguth, John Ayers, Shane Crotty

Guests: Rebekah Yohe-Lawrence, Bernadette Cale, Blanca Melendrez, Karole Ignacio, Marni Jacobs, Thomas Whisenant

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 May Meeting Minutes	The committee approved the May meeting minutes by consensus.	
Director's Update (Davey Smith)	Davey provided updates on the ACTRI's transformation into a translational science enterprise since July 2024, highlighting substantial growth in clinical trial revenue projected to exceed $100 million by FY 2026, prioritizing strategic investments and operational improvements, strengthening cross-functional coordination, fostering a culture of accountability, operational excellence, customer service and advancing ACTRI's mission. Changes to the Executive Committee meeting format will begin in July transitioning from detailed Unit updates to brief lightning rounds focusing on key highlights, challenges, and strategic initiatives. Each unit will be featured once a year to do a comprehensive presentation.	
Evaluation and Impact (Maryam Gholami)	Maryam provided updates on several ongoing projects, including the development of papers on the CADRE program, SD CFAR Leadership Academy publication, and CREST/MAS program. She announced the RPPR templates are being prepared and will be sent to Unit leads this month, with the draft deadline set for the week before Thanksgiving. Maryam also reported that 10 voucher applications have been received, with two denied due to senior scientist involvement.	

	Plans to hire two new staff members to support operations are underway.	
Element E (Sam Ward)	Sam presented updates on Element E projects, including Tommi Gaines' opioid prevention vending machines as well as Shane Crotty's and Sydney Ramirez's novel bio sampling research of the upper respiratory tract for immune and disease characterization. Y3-4 Planning: Serious games to prepare the community for health emergencies will be led by Eli Aronoff-Spencer.	
Education & Workforce Development (Adriana Tremoulet, Colin Depp)	Colin reported on the successful launch of the third year of the CADRE program, with all students hired and ready to begin in their labs. He mentioned plans for a publication describing the program, and the CRC boot camp is nearly complete. There is a new rule affecting K12 awardees, prohibiting them from applying for other K awards during their first or second year, which may impact current scholars and future grant applications. Colin reported on progress with CETI regarding recruiting approximately 25 community reviewers, including the development of a job description and compensation structure consistent with other CTSAs. Adri outlined plans for creating cohorts of funded individuals and discussed strategies for peer mentoring and cross-pollination across different funded programs. Also discussed was the progress on the AI workshop with UCI and ongoing work on integrating AI skills into grant writing courses such as merging "Decoding AI Policies & Ethics" and "Developing Tools to Support Academic Career Skills."	Adri and Davey will meet separately to coordinate on AI workshop efforts and integration of skills
Biomedical Informatics and Data Science (Mike Hogarth)	Mike provided an update on the eRecruitment service that launches this month, offering 10 no-cost pilots to allow the team to learn/adjust workflow, policies, and recharge mode. A new version of the CAVIAR software which automates coverage analysis into the CTMS system, reducing turnaround time by 50% has been released. The update includes support for more complex CA templates and multi-ARM studies. Epic CTMS planning is underway with potential deployment starting late 2027, involving joint IS and ACTRI BIDS staffing. Mike also announced enhancements to data availability for investigators, including a partnership with Cardiology to link ECG and PPG data to the Nightingale dataset, and the continuation of the Nightingale internship program with a new volunteer-based approach using CSC students.	

Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (Lin Liu)	Lin reported stable service utilization rates noting the project queue has been cleared with the start of the newly hired staff. Recent publications and submissions include a manuscript published with support from the program by Dr. Wilkinson, a submitted abstract by Dr. Al-Hassan, and a manuscript submitted by Dr. Orr.	
Pilot Projects (Liz Johnson)	Liz provided the following Pilot Projects updates: 2025 Cohort: The What's Next survey indicates interest in peer mentorship and/or review. The program is pivoting away from the Silent Writing Accountability Group and toward a more structured pairing model between K12 Scholars and Pilots alum who are interested in providing additional research and/or writing feedback. 2026–27 Cohort: The first quarterly check-in meeting has been held. 2027–28 Call: The review cycle will serve as a pilot for meaningfully integrating Community Reviewers into the process.	The team will meet with alumni to better understand participants' needs before identifying potential mentors.
Collaboration, Engagement, Dissemination and Implementation (Borsika Rabin)	Borsika shared the 4th CAB meeting was held on June 11, with 14 attendees, including 7 CAB members and 7 representatives from UCSD ACTRI. The meeting focused on community health priority-setting, and members participated in a structured Miro board activity across eight health priority domains identified through Emily Treichler's synthesis of seven San Diego County needs assessments. DISC: The R25 has been submitted. The National TSBM Workshop was held on June 15, with 53 attendees. The next workshop is planned for Veterans Affairs (VA) - specific contexts in collaboration with San Diego VA. CCH: RSI Statewide Conference successfully convened partners from across California to share lessons learned and promising practices on RSI-increased visibility of RSI outcomes and strengthened statewide and national dissemination efforts. CRM: Submission of RC2 grant is underway. CEDI (co-I, recruitment) on new R01 (PI: Fisch)	
Center for Clinical Research (Liz Johnson)	The Center for Clinical Research conducted a market analysis showing their rates are competitive with peers, though some areas like nurse practitioner rates and study setup fees warrant further analysis.	

Translational Research Hub (Katie Fisch)	Katie provided updates on the Research Biobank, including progress on FreezerWorks implementation and the ABCD study, while announcing that Brin Rosenthal is leaving UCSD at the end of June and Thomas Whisenant will be assuming her responsibilities.	
Next meeting July 21, 2:30-4:00 PM		