

# CTSA Common Metrics

## Implementation Success Stories

### The University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science



#### *Using RBA to Encourage and Better Track Acknowledgment of CT Support in Publications*

##### **About the Hub:**

- Part of the CTSA Program since 2011, CCTS is a smaller hub that maintains a fairly large number of pilot and small grant programs, including several offered in partnership with other UK centers and/or outside entities.
- Different funding streams support both junior and established investigators and target a broad slate of clinical and translational research priorities.
- As part of Kentucky's flagship land-grant university, CCTS offers grants to stimulate collaboration with other institutions in Central Appalachia in order to address the region's chronic health disparities.
- About 153 pilot and small grant awards have been made since 2012.

**Area of Success:** Using the Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework helped the University of Kentucky's Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) improve how it tracks publications attributable to the pilot grants it awards.

After completing RBA training and compiling pilot publication data, CCTS's Tracking and Evaluation team brought together leaders from the Pilot Studies Program, the Director of the Training, Education and Mentoring core, and CCTS's Executive Director to develop an action plan. The group held two face-to-face meetings to review the Common Metrics data, discuss the Story Behind the Curve, and identify improvement strategies. Coming together with this key stakeholder group to consider the wide-ranging factors impacting pilot publication data was an opportunity to "fully articulate the entire process," says Dr. Hilary Surratt, CCTS's Director of Tracking and Evaluation.

The RBA framework provided a structured means of discussing the program's short- and long-term performance metrics, which include external funding proposal submissions and awards, the number of peer-reviewed publications resulting from pilot funding, and short- and long-term multidisciplinary and inter-institutional faculty collaboration.

An initial focus was CCTS' current methods for capturing bibliometric information. It became clear that acquiring reliable and complete publication counts can be a challenge without better input from the awardees themselves, who need to accurately acknowledge support and report their publication activity to CCTS staff.

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**What They Did:** To encourage and facilitate investigator compliance, the UK CCTS team is prioritizing strategies that include:

- New marketing and communication campaigns including CCTS town hall presentations with emphasis on grant citation and distribution of promotional items with the grant citation acknowledgement statement.
- Development of guidelines for manuscript citations and NIH compliance.
- Emphasizing publication-related requirements during the initial project start-up meeting with awardees.
- Ongoing communication with awardees regarding manuscript citation during the pilot awardees bi-annual face-to-face and final report meetings, as well as other CCTS presentation venues.
- Modifying the current “Awardee Progress Report” REDCap survey, sent bi-annually to awardees, with pre-population of previously cited publications resulting from the pilot awards.
- Implementing new scholarship and publication tracking software.

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*“In surveys of our constituents, pilot grants are our most recognized program and are intended to stimulate discovery of new concepts and processes, leading to extramural funding. It is critical to determine whether the program is meeting these goals.”*

- Philip A. Kern, MD, Director of the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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**The Take-Away:** RBA provided an effective framework for reviewing pilot publication data. The CCTS team found that “having everyone together in the same room was synergistic, making it easier to tell the Story Behind the Curve,” explained Dr. Surratt. By collaboratively articulating all dimensions of the program, the UK CCTS team was able to identify opportunities for improvement and quickly develop an action plan.

## About the CTSA Common Metrics Initiative

The Common Metrics Initiative is part of the Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), one of 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). To advance their shared mission of accelerating the translation of scientific discovery into improved clinical care and public health, CTSA institutions are collaborating on standardized ways of measuring their efficiency.

The Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute is helping implement these Common Metrics as part of a data-driven management framework to stimulate process improvement and practice innovation. Tufts CTSI and its Common Metrics implementation work are funded by National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Award Number UL1TR001064. The University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science is funded by National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Award Number UL1TR001998.

For more information on the Common Metrics initiative visit: [www.tuftsctsi.org](http://www.tuftsctsi.org)

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