



## FY 2018 – FY 2023 Strategic Plan

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## PREAMBLE

The University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UK CCTS) unites clinicians, researchers, and communities to accelerate the translation of basic science discoveries to tangible improvements in health.

With support of a Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health, the UK CCTS fosters innovative team science across multiple campuses and states. We provide infrastructure, funding, and research support services to advance discoveries, and we train the upcoming generation of clinical and translational researchers.

Within UK's role as Kentucky's flagship, land grant university, the CCTS focuses on addressing chronic health disparities in rural and underserved populations throughout the Commonwealth and the Central Appalachian region. We work closely with institutional and community partners to collaboratively identify local challenges and opportunities to improve wellbeing. As the founding member of the Appalachian Translational Research Network, we also lead a regional research platform that leverages the expertise, resources, and experiences of multiple academic and medical centers.

Over the next five years, the UK CCTS will use the following plan to direct the investments of resources in workforce development, pilot research funding, promoting team science, and collaborations to address health disparities, with particular focus on Appalachia.

### Mission

Accelerating discoveries to improve health<sup>SM</sup>

### Vision

Catalyze clinical and translational discoveries through an integrated and transformative research environment targeting improved health, with emphasis on Central Appalachia

## **GOAL 1**

### **Champion Innovation and Team Science Across the Spectrum of Clinical and Translational Research**

The UK CCTS will leverage its resources in conjunction with those of the University of Kentucky and UK Healthcare to develop innovation through team science.

#### **Strategy 1.1**

##### **Leverage CCTS Pilots and Other Resources to Advance Innovation and Team Science**

- Objective 1: Identify team science best practices across the CTSA network
- Objective 2: Identify gaps and opportunities to apply best practices for team science at the University of Kentucky
- Objective 3: Initiate one new team science training opportunity per year
- Objective 4: Increase student involvement and training in team science through engagement in institutionally supported team science research projects

#### **Strategy 1.2**

##### **Encourage and Promote use of Informatics Tools to Stimulate Innovative Data Utilization and Team Science**

- Objective 1: Develop new tools and data resource opportunities, averaging one per year
- Objective 2: Establish training opportunities to promote the use of informatics by investigators across the spectrum of clinical and translational research

#### **Strategy 1.3**

##### **Maintain a Dynamic CCTS Infrastructure to Promote Team Science at the University in Partnership with Academic Leadership**

- Objective 1: Increase breadth of team science-themed presentations at every CCTS Spring Conference
- Objective 2: Partner with new campus initiatives to promote team science
- Objective 3: Integrate Team Science framework within clinical trial initiatives
- Objective 4: Promote participation in the Trial Innovation Network proposal process
- Objective 5: Submit a minimum of one inter-institutional application (e.g. Western States) per year focused on promotion of Team Science initiatives.

## **GOAL 2**

### **Educate and Develop the Translational Workforce of the Future**

The UK CCTS will expand the development of innovative professional development opportunities that prepare current and future clinical and translational researchers advance discoveries in the field.

#### **Strategy 2.1**

##### **Expand the Number and Competencies of Principal Investigators Capable of Developing New Translational Research Projects**

- Objective 1: Increase number of Clinician Scientist Pipeline Program, KL2, and TL1 applicants
- Objective 2: Increase number of applicants and the rate of completion for PhD in CTR and BMI
- Objective 3: Enhance completion of translational research competency trainings through Individual Development Plans (IDP) for scholars and trainees
- Objective 4: Increase number of new investigators applying for or who are awarded translational research funding
- Objective 5: Work with university leadership to recognize team science efforts during promotion and tenure reviews
- Objective 6: Expand PI training resources and translational research internship opportunities

#### **Strategy 2.2**

##### **Expand the Number and Competencies of the Clinical and Translational Science Workforce to Improve the Efficiency and Quality of Translational Research**

- Objective 1: Develop enhanced training programs and educational resources to increase competencies of trained staff to support translational research
- Objective 2: Increase number of staff that support translational research who have completed appropriate training courses
- Objective 3: Increase number of applicants and rate of completion for the Certificate and Masters CTR programs
- Objective 4: Increase regulatory capacity to conduct quality assurance initiatives

### Strategy 2.3

#### Expand Training Opportunities at the University of Kentucky and in the Community to Support the Capacity for Translational Research in the Community

- Objective 1: Increase capacity and competencies of community participants and organizations to act as effective partners in translational research at the community level
- Objective 2: Develop community research experiences or externships for UK trainees
- Objective 3: Maintain and enhance accessibility of training resources in the Educational Warehouse focused on research in community settings

## **GOAL 3**

### **Engage and Collaborate with our Communities in Translational Research to Address Health Disparities**

The UK CCTS will work with our community partners in the Commonwealth to impact the health of Kentucky and beyond.

#### **Strategy 3.1**

##### **Bridge Center for Clinical and Translational Research Efforts with Identified Community Needs**

- Objective 1: Support 2 Pilot applications per year through targeted RFAs that synergize translational research with identified Appalachian community health issues
- Objective 2: Conduct two focused training events annually to increase investigator capacity for community engaged research
- Objective 3: Hold Community Engagement Studios for investigators to facilitate community engaged research
- Objective 4: Meet with Participant Advisory Board in Appalachia to facilitate community engaged research

#### **Strategy 3.2**

##### **Facilitate Innovative Research Involving Academic Community Partnerships**

- Objective 1: Support 2 Pilot applications annually (e.g. ATRN) that foster innovative partnerships for community engaged research
- Objective 2: Conduct 4 annual networking meetings with CLIK graduates
- Objective 3: Establish 2 new collaborations per year between CLIK graduates and University of Kentucky investigators to more fully address identified community needs

#### **Strategy 3.3**

##### **Grow Initiatives that Promote Collaborative, Diverse Community-Engaged Research Focused on Health Equity**

- Objective 1: Conduct two focused training events annually to increase investigator capacity for culturally competent research
- Objective 2: Fund 1 pilot application per year focused on diverse communities
- Objective 3: Enhance representation or participation of special populations in funded studies, including clinical trials

## **GOAL 4**

### **Advance Translational Science as an Effective Partner in the National Research Network**

The UK CCTS will enhance the expertise and infrastructure needed for the UK CCTS to be an indispensable member of the national CTSA network.

#### **Strategy 4.1**

##### **Maintain and Grow Infrastructure to Support Translational Research Collaborations**

- Objective 1: Have Clinical Trials Office in place and operational by FY 2020
- Objective 2: Increase the number of research protocols supported by CCTS by 5% within one year
- Objective 3: Support translational research efforts of newly-affiliated CCTS investigators through CCTS pilot and training awards

#### **Strategy 4.2**

##### **Promote and Disseminate Best Practices of the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science to the National Network**

- Objective 1: Have UK CCTS personnel serve on 10 NCATS national committees (e.g. advisory committees, working groups, and taskforces) per year
- Objective 2: Have UK CCTS lead 5 dissemination efforts (e.g., workshops, working groups, trainings, and collaborative learning sessions) in unique areas of strength per year

#### **Strategy 4.3**

##### **Grow Internal and External Research Collaborations**

- Objective 1: Jointly fund 2 pilots between CTSA's in the network each year
- Objective 2: Establish 1 new multi-institutional collaboration in uniquely strong areas of research per year
- Objective 3: Increase the number of funding proposals from new CCTS-affiliated collaborative scientific teams among UK PIs and departments

#### **Strategy 4.4**

##### **Increase Support for Clinical Trial Development with an Eye Toward National Clinical Trial Collaborations in Recognized Areas of Excellence**

- Objective 1: Lead submission of 2 Clinical Trials per year to NCATS TIN
- Objective 2: Partner on 3 Clinical Trials within next 5 years
- Objective 3: Support 1 multiple PI clinical trial application (R or U mechanism) per year