

Letter From the President

Dear ACTS Colleagues,

This past week my Team Science course wrapped up. For the past two months, the class of 15 pre and post docs, MDs, PhDs, veterinarians, and other research team members has met to discuss team science topics such as effective communication, roles and responsibilities, leadership, conflict management, and translation from business practices to clinical translational science. Our readings are drawn from sources such as prolific author Malcolm Gladwell, the Harvard Business Review, Amy Edmondson from the Harvard School of Management, the New England Journal of Medicine, and Doris Kearns Goodwin's work regarding President Lincoln and his Team of Rivals. I am consistently surprised and delighted at the scholars' willingness to explore challenging issues such as diversity and inclusion, cognitive diversity, psychological safety, reward systems, and systems improvements to facilitate team work.



When I first led this class 10 years ago the discussion was “whether team science.” Now the discussion is “of course team science, and how do we make it work”. Team work is not easy. Studies show that many teams fail, not because of the science but because of the dysfunction of teams (Lencioni and others). This is particularly the case in our institutions where the reward system for individual achievement should be balanced with the high impact work of effective teams.

As my class comes to an end, I reflect that ACTS embodies the themes of team science. We are a big tent, diverse and inclusive. We have great cognitive diversity with members drawn from different disciplines, and from across the research spectrum. Our culture promotes honest communication and good psychological safety. Our strategic initiatives focus on internal and external partnerships. Our leadership is very alert to organizational management issues. Let me provide several examples:

- President elect Lindsell, in addition to taking on the responsibility of chairing the annual meeting TS20 committee, is reaching out to our special interest groups ([SIGs](#)) and cementing their role in ACTS. I appreciate Chris' effort.
- Our advocacy efforts, co-led with CR Forum, are highly effective and will likely expand as science is regularly threatened by dissonant voices.
- ACTS joined with CR Forum and AAMC to lead a meeting regarding next steps in broadly engaged team science, an evolutionary theme that Harry Selker's team has promoted.
- We are exploring strategies to make our annual meeting more effective, in partnership with other organizations such as CR Forum, AFMR, AAMC, Pharma, AAAS, NIH, and the CTSAs.

ACTS has a very positive trajectory because you, our members and our leadership, are highly effective team members. We focus on the mission and the people carrying out the mission (there is a nice NASA story regarding a focus on mission, for another time). Team Science is not a new topic for ACTS. I remember an annual meeting almost a decade ago that hosted a symposium on team science where leaders from NIH and the CTSA's explored this topic. I hope that the presentation I gave then would look different today as I continue to learn how to improve my team science skills including organizational management.

Frederick J. Meyers, MD, MACP
President ACTS

Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program

The National Institutes of Health, in partnership with the Lasker Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2019-20 [Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program](#). The program supports clinical researchers in the early stages of their careers, to promote their development to fully independent positions. Lasker Scholars are appointed as independent investigators in the NIH Intramural Research Program for 5 years, followed by 3 years of funding at an extramural research institution (up to \$500,000 direct costs per year) or continued appointment in the intramural program. Candidates must have a clinical doctoral degree and a professional license to practice in the United States, and cannot already have obtained tenure at a research institution. The application deadline is August 30, 2019.

More information can be obtained at the [Lasker Scholar website](#), or by contacting Dr. Charles R. Dearolf, PhD at dearolfc@od.nih.gov.

Journal of Clinical and Translational Science



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News From the Hill: June 7, 2019

The House and Senate continue to maintain a strong focus on medical research and healthcare delivery issues. The appropriations committees are advancing their annual work on FY 2020 spending for key research and public health agencies while the authorizing committees have begun to craft a legislative package to address pre-existing condition coverage, drug costs, and the affordability of insurance.



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PennState

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