

September 2019 Issue 1

## Letter From the President

I hope that your summer has afforded you some opportunity for reflection and balance - we so rarely have opportunities to “waste time” on thought and strategy. So it has been with ACTS. The Board held a very successful one day meeting in Chicago. We updated our strategic plan. Details of our initiatives and recommendations will be delivered to you soon.



Drs. Meyers, Lindsell, and Kimberly engaged in highly effective advocacy efforts. In partnership with our CR Forum colleagues (you know we retain a firm together - the Health and Medicine Counsel of Washington (HMCW) - and that our two advocacy committees coordinate efforts including monthly calls) we found Congressional offices receptive to the message that the spectrum of clinical translational research deserves continued and progressive support, through multiple mechanisms, particularly NIH/NCATS, our CTSA's, as well as many other mechanisms such as PCORI.

Planning for the annual Translational Science meeting (TS20) is accelerating. The call for proposals is out and interest is high at our CTSAs institutions, at NIH, and affiliates for example from IDEa states and industry. You can find the form to submit a proposal in several emails and our [website](#). Let's stretch ourselves and look for 1300 attendees in April. We will have greater creativity and flexibility for our annual meeting as attendance approaches 1300-1500 from our current 1100.

Special interest group (SIG) activity and committees (education, awards, advocacy, publications, nominations) are as busy as I have ever seen. Many of you submitted a request to volunteer at the beginning of the year. The response was so great that we have not had time to engage all of you. The good health of ACTS is reflected in that response.

I hope that you and the communities we serve can be safer from the violence and climate change consequences that have severely threatened those we serve. As one congressional staffer said “your organizations seem like they could be very nimble in response to new and emerging health challenges.” Let's be nimble and collaborative, working across boundaries for a greater good.

I am happy to hear from you directly at [fjmeyers@ucdavis.edu](mailto:fjmeyers@ucdavis.edu). Have a great fall.

Frederick J. Meyers, MD, MACP  
President ACTS

## Proposals Due September 13

The deadline is tomorrow! Submit today to present a panel discussion, workshop or platform presentation in Washington, DC, April 14-17, 2020, and make a big impact on clinical and translational research.

Submit Today



## Member Spotlight: BERD SIG

The BERD SIG (Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design Special Interest Group) is a national group of biostatisticians and epidemiologists who are experts in study design and data analysis. The mission of the BERD SIG is to provide a forum for the exchange of information on current approaches to the integration of biostatistics, epidemiology, and research design into clinical and translational science research programs. This encompasses integration in both the practice of research as well as in training and education, as well as sharing these practices with clinicians, trainees and other researchers through our collaborations.

Our group promotes best practices for designing the studies and analyzing the data, which results in valid studies and results that researchers, clinicians and patients can use with confidence. We do this through collaboration, dissemination, education, and outreach. In addition, we serve as a resource for the community of clinical and translational scientists, encouraging high-quality research via grants, publications, and other forms of outreach. Finally, members of the BERD SIG seek to elevate the integrity of clinical research by conducting research and disseminating results focused on best methodologic practices for clinical and translational research. Over the past 4 years, we have published 7 BERD collaborative manuscripts and hosted 28 presentations at the annual Translational Science meeting.

Examples of ongoing BERD SIG-led projects include developing guidelines for conducting Electronic Health Records Research, Collating Training materials for Clinicians, and advice for the Biostatistical Review of Protocols. Some of our more popular sessions at Translational Science have recently included “Research on a Napkin: Feedback on Design and Statistical Issues”, “Predictive Modeling and AI in Healthcare: What to Do with Garbage”, “Biostatistics and Data Science: Identifying Their Complementary Roles in Clinical and Translational Research”, and “Fundamentals of Protocol Development: How to Avoid Criticisms of Your Research Methods.” Further information about the BERD SIG can be found on the [ACTS website](#).

*This spotlight was submitted by Heidi Spratt, PhD.*

Join a SIG

## Journal of Clinical and Translational Science

Volume 3 / Issue 1 of the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science is available online!

JCTS's mission is to provide a forum for the rapid

# Journal of Clinical and Translational Science



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communication of topics of interest and relevance to the large and diverse community of clinical and translational scientists with the goal of improving the efficiency with which health needs inform research and new diagnostics, therapies, and preventive measures reach the public. The Association for Clinical and Translational Science has partnered with the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA) and the Clinical Research Forum (CRF) to support the growth and development of JCTS.

**Submit your article today to be featured in future issues of JCTS!** Please also visit the [JCTS website](#) for information on our themed issues related to Dissemination and Implementation as well as Rural Health.

## News From the Hill

### News from the Hill: Sept 6, 2019

As Congress returns from the August congressional recess, legislators face a robust agenda of critical and timely items. Most notably, the Senate has begun the process of marking up its Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 spending bills. The Senate action follows an overarching budget agreement that set low spending caps, with particularly modest allocations for health and education programs.



See the full newsletter on the [ACTS Advocacy page](#).

## Translational Science Today



### UCI Institute for Clinical & Translational Science...

Irvine, Calif., Sept. 5, 2019 - The Institute for Clinical & Translational Science at

the University of California, Irvine has been awarded \$24 million over five years from the National Institutes of Health as part of its Clinical & Translational ...

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