Last month I was pleased to be invited to the annual meeting of the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program. This program has funded basic and clinical translational research since 1993, enhancing the geographical distribution of NIH research funds and strengthening research capacity. The annual budget to NIGMS of $361,000,000 supports research in 23 states and Puerto Rico. The IDeA program funds five major programs but perhaps most relevant to ACTS is the program infrastructure for clinical and translational research (CTR). In the past these programs have been standalone but more recently have established strong working relationships with several of our CTSA hubs. Dr. Michael Kurilla, Director of the Center for Clinical Innovation at NCATS reinforced the potential for collaboration with CTSAs in his comments.

Other programs within the IDeA efforts build research capacity both in the community and at the funded universities, not dissimilar to what we do at our ACTS member institutions. The CTR awards are U54 cooperative agreements that include many of the components that we see within CTSA organizations such as evaluation, community engagement, BERD, and pilot projects.

My message to the IDeA members was simple. ACTS will be a stronger and more complete organization with their participation. I hope that IDeA states members can join us in some of our special interest groups (SIGs) and that they will submit abstracts and attend our Translational Science 2020 (TS20) meeting in April. Over the next few years there is a great opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship and the strength of our research and work force development opportunities. This aligns with the ACTS strategic planning priorities. I have great expectations for this potential alliance.

Frederick J. Meyers, MD, MACP
President ACTS

The ACTS Regulatory Science Special Interest Group is asking for participation in a brief survey of existing and planned regulatory science-focused programs. This survey should be completed by individuals in your program, such as program coordinators or program directors, who are best able to provide detailed, high-level information. Please forward to others as appropriate. Only one completed survey is requested per program and the survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. The survey is available [here](#).
Aggregated results will be summarized and published to further enhance regulatory science and translational science training initiatives.

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