

## **The CTSA Imaging Working Group: A consortium of leaders in clinical research imaging**

The CTSA Imaging Working Group is dedicated to sharing ideas, visions, and expertise to enhance the utility of imaging in translational research. The highly collaborative nature and intent of this forum creates tremendous opportunities for a diverse set of subject matter experts to work together to address complex and important issues in clinical research imaging. Its 250 participants represent 95 organizations, including almost 40 CTSA sites.

All CTSA awardee sites and planning grant institutions are encouraged to have representatives participate actively in the CTSA Imaging Working Group, which conducts bi-monthly conference calls.

### **Our activities**

A 2009 survey of CTSA awardees identified challenges common to imaging communities at CTSA sites. The IWG is addressing those issues through subgroups and IWG programs at meetings including the ACRIN and RSNA annual meetings and other venues.

These challenges include:

- Creating awareness of the CTSA program and imaging capabilities available to researchers;
- Providing researchers with access to appropriate imaging expertise;
- Identifying best practices for providing review of protocols involving imaging;
- Providing educational programs related to clinical or translational imaging;
- Identifying mechanisms to obtain funding for core services and personnel, for infrastructure/engineering efforts and for integration of and compensation for imaging services in clinical trials.

The work of the CTSA IWG is facilitated by three subgroups; see information on the subgroups overleaf.

## The CTSA Imaging Working Group: Subgroups

### **Imaging Core Resources and Services, and Educational Resources Related to Translational Imaging**

<http://ctsa-imaging.org/DMICRS.cfm>

**Focus:** Development and management of Imaging Cores, Resources and Services. Educating the broad medical and radiology community, including trainees, about emerging imaging technologies, successful uses of imaging in translational research at other CTSA institutions and methods of engaging in translational research.

### **Imaging Informatics**

<http://www.ctsa-imaging.org/Imaging-Informatics.cfm>

**Focus:** Working toward the development of an inter-operable imaging informatics infrastructure that enables maximal sharing of image-derived data and information from research that can be widely deployed to CTSA sites, cancer centers and other major research facilities employing medical and research imaging.

### **Imaging in Clinical Trials/Uniform Protocols for Imaging in Clinical Trials (UPICT)**

<http://www.ctsa-imaging.org/Imaging-In-Clinical-Trials.cfm>

**Focus:** Discussion of the design of clinical trials that include imaging and imaging endpoints that may be relevant to clinical trials; standardizing image acquisition for the purpose of producing consistency in clinical trials, and outlining strategies for the handling of protected health information of patients within trials that utilize imaging.

A major focus has been the Uniform Protocols for Imaging in Clinical Trials (UPICT) effort to facilitate the development and maintenance of consistent imaging protocols for use in clinical trials across a range of disease states, anatomic sites, and imaging modalities. The standard UPICT imaging protocol template is posted on the UPICT wiki at <http://upictwiki.ctsa-imaging.org>.

### **Contact:**

**Your participation** is invited. Please contact [ctsaiwg@rsna.org](mailto:ctsaiwg@rsna.org) for more information and visit our website at [www.ctsa-imaging.org](http://www.ctsa-imaging.org).