UC BRAID

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ACCELERATION, INTEGRATION & DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2023

2023 YEAR IN-REVIEW

On behalf of the UC BRAID Executive Committee and administrative team, we welcome you to the UC BRAID 2023 annual review. The UC BRAID consortium, consisting of the five Clinical and Translational Science Award campuses (UCD, UCI, UCLA, UCSD, UCSF) has worked for almost 15 years, combining the strengths of individual campuses to tackle longstanding barriers to efficient and timely clinical and translational research. This newsletter highlights some of our most significant accomplishments and projects of 2023. It was a busy year, with a number of new and exciting projects launched. Watch your inbox for a Save the Date message for our upcoming Clinical Research Summit, the first UC-wide and UC-focused conference offering professional development opportunities for staff working in clinical research operations, regulatory, and other areas.

We hope you enjoy reading about our activities. As always, reach out to us with comments, suggestions, and project ideas.

Elizabeth Boyd, PhD
Director, UC BRAID

Ted Wun
Chair, UC BRAID Executive
    Committee
Director, Clinical and Translational
    Science Center
UC Davis

UC BRAID IN 2023-24

The first two quarters of 2023-24 were busy ones for the UC BRAID consortium. Building from the clarity of purpose and momentum achieved at the July UC BRAID Leadership Retreat in Irvine, UC BRAID has launched several major new initiatives, expanded its visibility and impact both locally and nationally, and explored new opportunities for collaboration across the system and the state. Key partnerships with the University of California Cancer Consortium and UC Health's CDI2 have evolved into shared initiatives that promise to address stubborn issues of practicality and efficiency in conducting multi-site research. Longstanding UC BRAID projects, such as Care-Q and the Contracting Workgroup, continue to advance UC BRAID's core mission to create efficiency of scale and leverage the strengths of the combined campuses to solve administrative and regulatory problems facing clinical and translational researchers.

The UC BRAID consortium remains a powerful partnership that is important at the campus, UC-wide, and national levels.

UC BRAID LEADERSHIP RETREAT

On July 10, 2023, the UC BRAID Leadership Retreat was held at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). This significant gathering brought together distinguished leaders from UC's five biomedical campuses to reassess the strategic direction of UC BRAID and to prioritize projects in support of UC BRAID's specific aims. In attendance were CTSA directors and chief administrative officers from all 5 Academic Medical campuses and leadership from UC BRAID.

Narrowing and focusing the Goals and Strategies of the Strategic Plan was the primary activity of the day. The group engaged in several exercises to reduce the elements of the strategic plan to three primary goals with two to three specific strategies within each goal. Current and proposed projects were then mapped to the new framework. The new goals are:

- Collaborate – foster UC multi-site research collaboration and alignment, and disseminate the best practices
- Coordinate – coordinate campus programs to maximize UC's ability to conduct innovative research, and facilitate multi-site grant submissions
- Engage – engage California's diverse communities to guide and advocate for community-centered research, sustain community engagement partnerships and advocate for the inclusion of community engaged research and activities

UC BRAID / UC HEALTH COLLABORATIONS

Coverage Analysis - Multisite Studies

To address stubborn delays in study start-up, UC BRAID and the UC Cancer Consortium are collaborating on a new pilot to develop to a unified Coverage Analysis process for multisite studies to increase efficiency in launching trials. Study teams from UC Davis and UCSF have identified a multi-site study to pilot a process for sharing Coverage Analyses to be used in the study budgeting process. The goal is to assess whether sharing this information at the outset reduces the time to budget completion. If successful, a template process and reliance MOU will be created and made available through UC BRAID and the UC Cancer Consortium for use by all campuses.

Mid-to-late Spring 2024 is the projected timeline for the MCA (Medicare Coverage Analysis) project which SF and Davis are developing .

CDI2/UC BRAID Health Data Warehouse Recruitment Pilot Project

This collaboration was launched in October 2023 with a Request for Proposals circulated across the 5 UC BRAID campuses and throughout the UC Cancer Consortium. The project offers an opportunity for study teams to pilot the use of the UC Health Data Warehouse to identify and recruit potentially eligible patients across the UC Health system as a way to efficiently meet enrollment goals and to recruit a diverse study population. Additionally, the project aims to identify processes that will support straightforward, timely, and efficient use of the UC HDW for recruitment of diverse study populations.

We received 9 applications in response to the RFP, 7 of which met the criteria for participation (including identified collaborators at a minimum of one other campus). As of January 2024, four projects have been accepted and one is pending, meeting the Pilot's goal. All 5 UC BRAID member campuses are represented in the projects.

Study teams will begin meeting with the data liaisons in February 2024.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

The 1st UC BRAID-sponsored **KL2/Amos Scholars Symposium** will showcase and celebrate the remarkable work of KL2 and Amos Scholars across the system on March 28, 2024. The group will gather in person at UCSF to meet, learn, and network with their counterparts across the system in an interactive, small setting. Programmatic elements will focus on success during the early career years, career transitions, managing time demands, innovation and entrepreneurship, and ways that UC BRAID can support and facilitate multisite research.

Work is underway to plan a systemwide **Clinical Research Summit,** to be held in San Diego or Irvine in Fall 2024. The meeting will provide an opportunity for those who work in all areas of clinical research, including IRB members and staff, regulatory staff, research coordinators, and research administrators, to come together to learn, exchange ideas, and collaborate on solutions to common problems, in a UC-focused context.

The Contracting Workgroup launched an **Investigator-Initiated Contract Topic Guidance** that aims to reduce time to negotiate IIT contracts, a major pain points for clinical researchers, and improve consistency across the campuses, thereby easing the initiation process for multisite studies. The IIT Rationales Library will provide, on a term-by-term basis, the background, policies, legal requirements, resources, and negotiation recommendations to expedite IIT negotiations. Expected completion date is June 2024.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT'D

CREDIT: FRONTIERS

Clinical Research Workforce Development

To address the critical shortage of well-trained clinical research support staff, UC BRAID launched Partnerships for Clinical Research Workforce Development in early 2023. Bringing together Education and Training teams from the 5 UC BRAID campuses for the first time, the project leverages systemwide expertise and resources to address critical needs for robust clinical research training and retention programs; develops innovative programs that engage and encourage a diverse clinical research workforce; and may serve as a national model for AMC partnerships with state and community colleges.

In September, we piloted the first joint training on Successful Communication for Coordinators, a live course presented at UCSF with participants from all member campuses, demonstrating that it is both feasible and effective to share live content across campuses. Based on this success, the project now turns to the development of a core curriculum that may be used for training affiliates, community partners, and other academic institutions. Ultimately, a UC Certificate in Clinical Research Coordination will be developed and made available across the state.

CARE-Q: Consortium for Applied Research Ethics Quality

A 3-person team, complemented by UC IRB professionals from multiple campuses, attended the annual IRB professionals conference, Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research (PRIM&R), in Washington DC in early December 2023. With BRAID support, CARE-Q made its national debut with a sponsored booth next to the booth of the federal Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP). We made over 950 impressions based on materials distributed (informational brochures, marketing material, FAQs, etc.) and collected over 150+ unique emails address of those wanting to join our permanent listserv. We engaged a high-level leader from the American Association of Medical Colleges (who is also on the Board of PRIM&R and AAHRPP), the newly named Executive Director of PRIM&R, and several leaders from high profile IRB programs including Columbia and University of Utah who expressed explicit interest in CARE-Q and promoting it. Overall, we considered this a successful engagement as our first formal introduction into the national IRB community.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

2024 looks to be a busy time for UC BRAID. In addition to completing the projects mentioned here, we will launch several new initiatives to coordinate activities across the BRAID campuses, engage beyond our traditional partners to include all 10 UC campuses, and begin planning a major statewide community engagement effort.

Look for more information about these, and all our activities, on our website: www.ucbraid.org, or email info@ucbraid.org.

Elizabeth Boyd	David Grady
Director	*Program Manager*
elizabeth.boyd@ucbraid.org	david.grady@ucbraid.org