The **January 27, 2026** meeting of the VCU CTSA POD focused on the strategic evolution of biomedical informatics, specifically addressing the integration of data science and AI. A significant portion of the discussion centered on the sustainability of research hubs, including managing financial constraints and navigating the complexities of multi-institutional infrastructure. The group also evaluated the practicalities of membership models and the long-term viability of data tools like ENACT and TriNetX in the current funding landscape.

Key Takeaway Points

1. Hub Membership Models:

- Hubs are discussing models where resources are primarily accessible to "members".
- UMass uses a model where services are not denied to non-members, functioning more as a mailing list or listserv than a restrictive model like a cancer center.

2. ENACT and TriNetX Infrastructure:

- ENACT faces issues in multi-institutional hubs, particularly regarding its endpoint.
- The effort required for ENACT does not scale efficiently with hub size, creating more burden for smaller hubs.
- TriNetX is being considered as an alternative or optional tool for these hubs.

3. Financial and Funding Challenges:

- There is a notable issue regarding hubs that are waiting for funding after being reviewed.
- Concerns were raised about the length of time it takes for hubs to receive funding, even after receiving very good scores.

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