

VCU CSTA POD Meeting Minutes

Date: June 23, 2026

Attendees: VCU, NYU, U Mass, Georgetown/Howard

Executive Summary

The meeting focused on multi-institutional operational updates, reporting guidelines, and administrative management under a shifting federal funding landscape. Key discussions included proactive outreach to the research community regarding publication citations within the automated CCROSS catalog and the review of a unified briefing framework intended for the national steering committee. This framework highlights core regional challenges, including federal funding reviews, infrastructure participation expectations without continuous central funding support, institutional compliance burdens, and delays in receiving training grant awards.

Key Takeaway Items

1. Publication Tracking & Community Education:
 - a. A new automated publication catalog on the CCROSS website automatically aggregates articles that cite the core grant.
 - b. Broad keyword searches are currently aggregating a high volume of mismatched publications into the public portal.
 - c. Hub leadership emphasized the critical need to educate local investigators at the source to prevent misciting the grant when publications are scientifically misaligned with the grant's scope.
 - d. VCU example of visual walk-through graphics to streamline user compliance and clarify complex RPPR publication reporting pathways.
2. National Steering Committee Briefing Themes: Dr. F. Gerard Moeller summarized a reporting framework designed to communicate collective institutional feedback directly to national leadership. Dr. Moeller will present this briefing slide at the next national steering committee meeting, which is expected to be in July.
 - a. *Funding Delays*: Administrative delays driven by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review layers continue to disrupt local institutional planning and project launches.
 - b. *Informatics Infrastructure*: Sites face pressure to maintain high-manpower participation in platforms like Enact and N3C despite the sunseting of central funding support for these programs.
 - c. *ClinicalTrials.gov Oversight*: Hub members affirmed that trial registry compliance must remain an institutional infrastructure responsibility rather than a burden placed solely on individual CTSA programs.
 - d. *Sustainability Burdens*: Members noted a widening gap between rising institutional matching expectations and declining direct federal funding levels. This dynamic has led certain peer institutions to step away from renewing their CTSA awards due to unsustainable institutional burden.
3. Other Business:
 - a. VCU will host an in-person regional site visit next week with their NCATS Program Officer.

- b. Multiple sites reported ongoing delays in receiving formal T32 Notices of Award (NOA), which is actively stalling workforce development tracks and training slot allocations.