

Pod Meeting Summary — VCU Pod

Pod Lead: Gerry Moeller (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Pod Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

1. Attendees

☑ VCU (Pod Lead)	Gerry Moeller, Elizabeth Fortune
☑ NYU	Miriam Bredella, James Holahan
☑ Yale	John Krystal
☑ UMass	Katherine Luzuriaga
☑ Georgetown-Howard University	Jason Umans, Marjorie Gondré-Lewis, Joseph Verbalis, Kathryn Sandberg
☑ Dartmouth Synergy (New Member)	Angelo Volandes, Anna Tosteson

2. Agenda Topics & Facilitators

Agenda Topic	Facilitator / Presenter
Topic 1: Welcome & Introductions of New Pod Members (Dartmouth Synergy)	Gerry Moeller
Topic 2: Steering Committee Updates & Fall CTSA Program Meeting Agenda	Gerry Moeller
Topic 3: Pod Structure, Cross-Hub Collaboration, and Thematic Focus Areas	Gerry Moeller / Group

3. Summary Highlights

Welcome & Pod Membership Expansion

- New Member Introduction:** The Virginia Commonwealth Pod formally welcomed new colleagues from Dartmouth Synergy, the CTSA hub serving the Dartmouth and Northern New England rural health ecosystem.
- Dartmouth Priorities:** Dr. Angelo Volandes (Contact MPI) and Dr. Anna Tosteson (Professor of Health Policy and Clinical Practice) introduced their team's translational priorities, emphasizing rural health delivery, learning health systems, and healthcare outcome innovations across a region covering 2 million lives.

- **Roster Roll Call:** Hub leaders from VCU, NYU, Georgetown-Howard, Yale, and UMass introduced themselves and shared brief operational updates.

Steering Committee & Fall Program Meeting Updates

- **Logistics & Registration:** Registration and hotel reservations for the Fall CTSA Program Meeting are active. Up to nine attendees per hub are permitted to register, excluding poster presenters and general session speakers.
- **Schedule Overview:** The preliminary program schedule includes the Steering Committee meeting (Tuesday), Enterprise Committee meetings (Wednesday), General Sessions and Poster Presentations (Thursday), and specialized focus tracks (Friday).
- **Poster Session Focus:** Poster submissions will focus on highlighting 20 years of CTSA program progress and translational science impacts.
- **Key Presentation Themes:** Friday general session topics include AI use cases and real-world research, innovative clinical trial design, rural health translation, career development pathways, and recruitment infrastructure.

Pod Operations & Future Meeting Planning

- **Peer Networking:** Members affirmed the value of Pod meetings as a platform for inter-hub communication, sharing operational best practices, and identifying joint research and workforce initiatives.
- **Structured Themes:** Future Pod calls will incorporate structured thematic discussions (e.g., community engagement models, career development pipelines, and rural health strategies) while maintaining standard Steering Committee updates.

4. Questions or Comments for NCATS / Steering Committee / CCOS

None at this time.

5. Topic Tags Selected

- **[X]** CTSA Program Meetings
- **[X]** Training and Mentoring
- **[X]** Emerging Topics
- **[X]** Rural Health
- **[X]** Idea for Collaboration