

CCTSI External Advisory Committee Members



ELMER BERNSTAM, MD, MSE

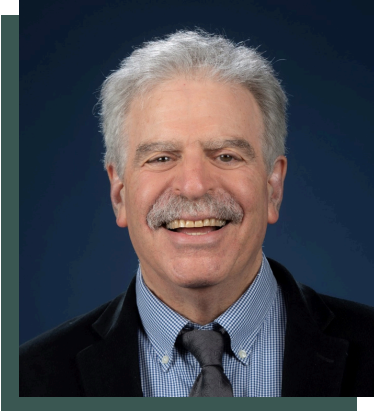
Dr. Elmer Bernstam received a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences, psychology, and computer engineering, along with a master's degree and MD, all from the University of Michigan. After an internal medicine residency, he matriculated as an NLM Fellow to the Medical Information Sciences program at Stanford and received his master's degree in informatics there. In 2001, he joined the School of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) at Houston. Currently, Dr. Bernstam is the Reynolds and Reynolds Professor of Clinical Informatics and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Texas School of Biomedical Informatics at Houston. In addition, he is Professor of Internal Medicine and continues to practice inpatient general internal medicine (hospitalist). Academically, he focuses on clinical and translational research informatics, including collecting and "making sense" of large-volume clinical data (clinical data warehousing), consumer informatics and precision oncology decision support. Dr. Bernstam's group created and maintains the i2b2-based clinical data warehouse with data on over 9 million individuals. His group also provides a variety of services to clinical translational investigators at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and other institutions. Dr. Bernstam is an elected fellow of the American College of Physicians (2004) and the American College of Medical Informatics (2010).



ELIZABETH BURNSIDE, MD, MPH, MS, FACR, FSBI

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Burnside is the Associate Dean, Team Science and Interdisciplinary Research, the Co-Director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR), and a Professor of Radiology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. As ICTR Co-Director and CTSA MPI, her portfolio includes data science, workforce development, learning health systems, implementation science, and a longstanding partnership with rural partner, the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute. She is the contact PI of UW's institutional K12, Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH), renewed in 2025. Dr. Burnside received her MD and MPH from Tufts and did her radiology residency/breast imaging fellowship at UCSF. Between residency and fellowship, she received her master's degree in biomedical informatics at Stanford. In 2024, she was awarded a gold medal from the Radiological Society of North America, which highlights her exceptional impact on science in the field of radiology.

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DAN M. COOPER MD

Dr. Dan M. Cooper is the Interim Executive Director of the Institute for Precision Health at UC Irvine, and Associate Director and Founding Director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (ICTS, the NIH CTSA). Dan received his MD from the University of California, San Francisco in 1974. His training included Internal Medicine residency at Hadassah-Hospital, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem, and he completed his Pediatrics Training at NYU/Bellevue Medical Center. He went on to a three-year fellowship in Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine at Babies Hospital, Columbia University. Dr. Cooper was recruited to UC Irvine in 1997, and he led the effort to obtain an NIH General Clinical Research Center there in 1999, which evolved into a successful NIH Clinical Translational Science Award that has been funded continuously since 2010. Dr. Cooper is one of the leaders of the NIH Common Fund Molecular Transducers of Physical Activity Consortium study, the largest and most ambitious study the NIH has ever undertaken to understand the biological underpinnings of the health effects of exercise. Dr. Cooper is also a leader of NIH REACH, which is focused on exercise and physical activity in children with sickle cell disease. Dr. Cooper has over 250 publications in major scientific journals including the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of Applied Physiology, Nature, and Pediatrics. He has been continuously funded by the NIH for four decades, and has been a mentor for more than thirty scholars who have made major contributions to biomedical research.



ALEX H. KRIST, MD, MPH

Dr. Alex Krist is a Professor of Family Medicine and Population Health at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and a practicing family physician at Fairfax Family Practice. He directs the Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network (ACORN), one of the nation's largest and most diverse practice-based research networks. He also serves as Director of Community-Engaged Research for VCU's Wright Regional Center for Clinical and Translational Science, where he leads statewide initiatives to advance primary care, promote whole person health, and strengthen clinical-community-public health integration. Nationally, Dr. Krist is recognized for his leadership in prevention, primary care transformation, and whole person care. He is a former member and past chair of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force where he helped guide national recommendations for clinical preventive services from 2014 to 2022. In 2018, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). He has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications across leading medical, health services, and translational science journals.



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JAREEN K. MEINZEN-DERR, PHD, MPH, FACE

Dr. Jareen Meinzen-Derr serves as Co-Director of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science & Training at the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, as well as Associate Dean of Clinical and Translational Science & Training. She is also Professor of Pediatrics, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. In these roles, she is deeply committed to fostering the success of researchers and advancing scientific discovery across the academic health center. She provides mentorship to junior and mid-career investigators, including K-awardees, early-stage faculty, and doctoral students, helping build capacity for high impact research. She has spent more than two decades improving developmental outcomes for deaf or hard-of-hearing children, with a particular emphasis on those with developmental disabilities. Currently, her research includes clinical trials leveraging technology to enhance language development, with the ultimate goal of improving communication, social functioning, and independence in children.



CYNTHIA D. MORRIS, PHD, MPH

Dr. Cynthia (Cindy) Morris is Director of the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) and is Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University. A clinical epidemiologist, she has a long record of leadership in workforce development and clinical and translational research. Dr. Morris' career has focused on innovative population-based registries, cohort studies, and clinical trials, with seminal publications on natural history after surgery for congenital heart defects. She established a data coordinating center to promote innovative multicenter trials that have led to clinical improvement in care of premature neonates, infants with cigarette smoke exposure in pregnancy, and prevention of atopic dermatitis. She also established the infrastructure of academic clinical research training at OHSU, including the Human Investigations Program, and she has led two T32 awards and three K12 awards; she collaborated with Portland State University to develop a series of undergraduate training grants to develop a novel model to promote careers in clinical and translational science. She has received the highest awards in education and mentoring in Oregon and the Distinguished Educator Award from the Association for Clinical and Translational Science. As director of OCTRI, Dr. Morris is an accomplished research scientist and leader, and she is leading OCTRI to improve health care for all Oregonians.

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KAREN M. WILSON, MD, MPH

Dr. Karen Wilson is the Ruth A. Lawrence Professor and Vice Chair for Clinical and Translational Research in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, the Chief Research Officer of the UR Medicine Golisano Children's Hospital, and the Co-Director and MPI of the UR Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. Previously she served as the MPI of the UR KL2 program. Dr. Wilson has more than 20 years of experience researching the impact of secondhand tobacco smoke exposure on children, tobacco smoke exposure in multi-unit housing, and how to help parents quit smoking. More recently, she has developed a research program in secondhand marijuana smoke exposure and has called attention to concerns over children's exposure with increased legalization. Dr. Wilson has had an R01 from NCI to study an inpatient parent smoking cessation intervention and is interested in the best ways to help already stressed-out parents quit. Dr. Wilson has multiple roles within the CTSC Consortium, including sitting on the Steering Committee and leading the Pediatric Clinical Trials Working Group.

