UC BRAID
innovation·collaboration·acceleration

2018 MID-YEAR REPORT

Collaboration: The Power of a Collective Purpose

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Overview

Building on the combined strengths of the individual campuses, the UC BRAID consortium aims to accelerate research and improve health through collaboration, sharing resources and infrastructure development. Recognized by NIH as a model consortium for conducting clinical and translational research, all 5 UC sites' CTSA grants combined bring an additional $255M to UC. BRAID is a unique network based on trust that creates synergies and establishes a platform for innovation. We connect researchers and administrative leaders to solve problems, increase opportunities, and create efficiency of scale. Our platform of shared governance acts as a catalyst for collaboration, enabling us to amplify individual work and multiply its impact.

A central strategic focus of UC BRAID is to combine, leverage and expand the resources of its member institutions. We are especially excited to launch our pilot UC central IRB, a true example of a shared solution for a shared need.

A note about this document: As we transition from calendar to fiscal year accounting, this report serves as an update from the last 6 months and expands upon our focus on clinical research efficiencies and new efforts in support of a learning health care ecosystem, and a summary of our budget to attain those goals.

Who are we?

Led by the Directors of the NIH-funded UC CTSAs, BRAID maintains a small central infrastructure that efficiently manages and coordinates cross-UC workgroups and projects, partnerships and strategic alliances, evaluation activities, core staff and finances. BRAID coordinates its team of communications experts from across the 5 CTSA hubs to generate and disseminate communications and increase awareness.

Solutions

- **Completing work supported by $2.4 million from NCATS,** the 5 UC BRAID sites collaborated on 3 systemwide projects

    - Implemented local and systemwide search sites for **UC Clinical Trials** and **UC Profiles**

    - Validated and piloted a **universal consent approach** for biobanking of remnant tissue including use of tailored videos and electronic consent

    - Assessed multi-institutional data warehouse models for translational research including tradeoffs in effort, data completeness and accuracy

- **Expanded the reach of the UC Center for Accelerated Innovation (CAI)**: the CAI advances early-stage interventions for patients through funding, training and mentorship. CAI has completed 6 funding cycles and awarded 30 technologies that has already garnered a return of $24.6 M in follow-on funding and external investment. CAI will expand its successful "pitch day" platform to additional therapeutic areas and with opportunities for venture capital investment.

- **Leveraging $2.2 million from the UC system** to secure and develop the first **UC Drug Development Center**, BRAID's "D4" workgroup is aiding researchers with promising ideas to advance discovery for unmet medical needs. UC BRAID will support the DDC's annual systemwide symposium in October 2018.

- **Established the first multicampus participant recruitment workgroup** made up of faculty and specialist representatives from the five UC CTSA hubs and UC Riverside to collaborate on strategies for increasing clinical trial participation. The workgroup is drafting guidance, with privacy and IRB-input, for sharing EHR-derived data for multisite recruitment across the UC Health systems.

- **Coordinated Year 2 of the $4 million UC-funded Cures for Alzheimer's Disease** initiative, with screening and enrollment taking place at four UC campuses.

- **Developed a web-based toolkit** to facilitate contracting for complex investigator-initiated trials and drafted a harmonized, comprehensive repository of contracts rationales to create efficiency in negotiation of industry-sponsored contracts.

UC-IRB

- **Launched a collaborative platform to meet increased demand: A UC IRB** – BRAID partnered with our IRB Directors to develop a proof of concept that examined the feasibility of a central UC IRB to address limited committee member expertise (e.g. pediatrics), frequent backlogs due to increasing volume and in anticipation of the new NIH Single IRB Mandate.

- UC BRAID assembled the first UC IRB committee by leveraging existing resources from our campuses including experienced IRB committee members and staff, a fully-developed IRB system, SOPs and forms. The project is now in its second phase and will:

  - ✳ Increase study volume

  - ✳ Expand beyond pediatrics and oncology

  - ✳ Measure key performance indicators

  - ✳ Develop a self-sustaining model
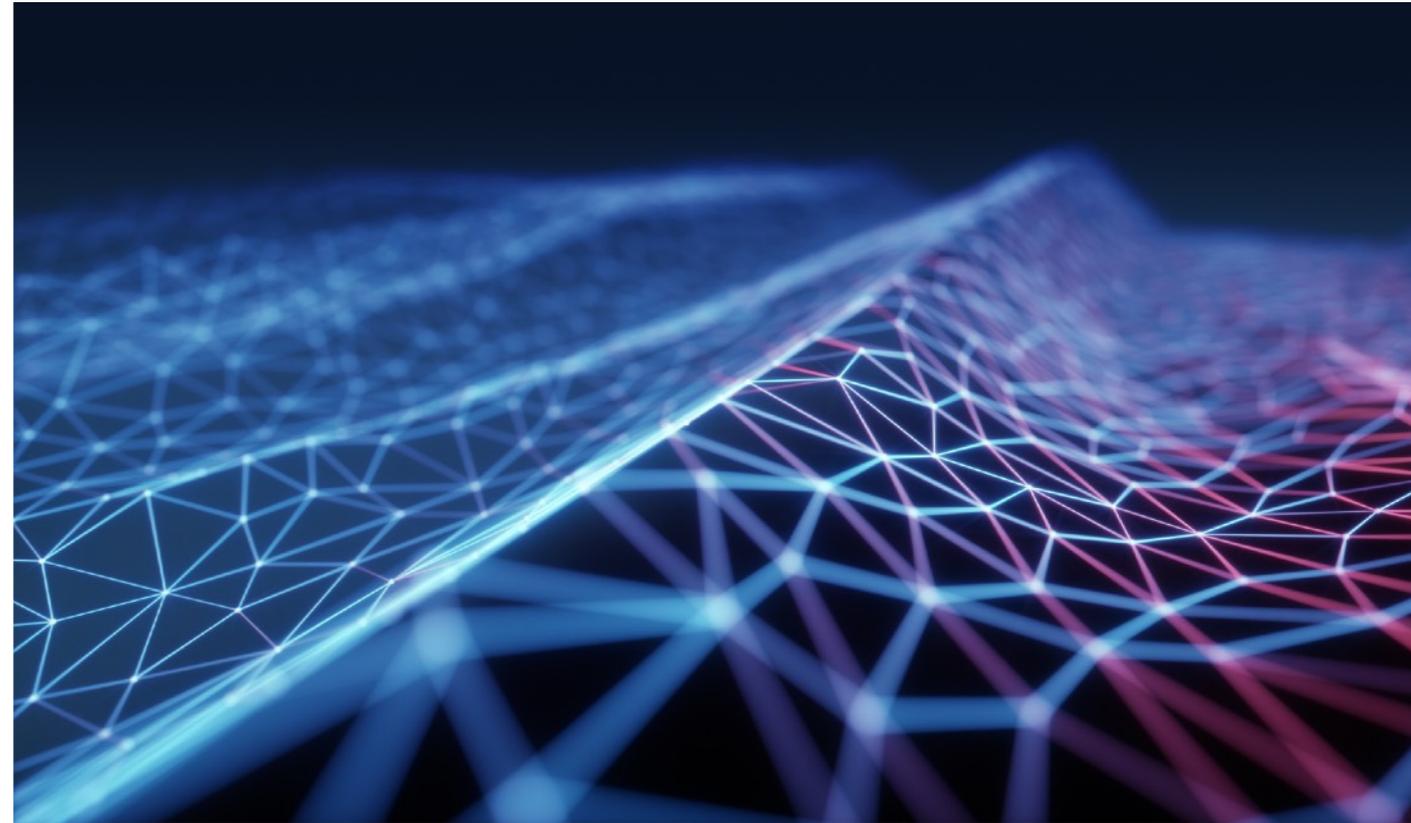
Partptnerships

- **Completed the second annual UC Research in OptumLabs Data Warehouse opportunity,** in collaboration with UC Health. Fourteen investigators have received funded access to OptumLabs database for projects focused on accelerating improvements in patient care and value. BRAID will administer the 3rd call for proposals in late 2018.

- **Partnered with the Consortium of Applied Research Ethics Quality (CARE-Q)** to streamline IRB operations while significantly reducing costs. This focus of our research alliance with **Stanford University** targets a simple and cost effective program for assuring quality and certification of IRBs at UC BRAID and partner institutions.

- **Annual Retreat:** The 9th annual retreat will be held in October 2018, convening over 100 participants comprised of faculty and administrative leaders, researchers, and staff from six UC campuses and UCOP/UC Health leadership.

  The theme is *"Advancing the Next Generation of Health Research: Are we future-ready?"*. Goals of the meeting are to update the BRAID community on current achievements, enable synergies across projects, identify new collaborative opportunities and set objectives for the coming year.

Strategic Priorities

- Drive harmonization to increase efficiency in clinical research administration

- Develop structures needed to advance UC Health research

- Support coordination aimed at advancing discoveries and strategic alliances

UC BRAID will serve as a catalyst for groundbreaking therapies in development and create new business opportunities by attracting patients, partners, sponsors and funding opportunities, and transforming access to the research enterprise. Building upon our collaboration, we will expand our efforts to develop a community and infrastructure that connects research expertise with high value ideas that improve health and health care. For example, we will

- Solicit local ideas and leverage internal and extramural funding opportunities to support cross-institutional project development and dissemination

- Align UC BRAID's priorities with the UC research and clinical enterprises

- Forge new strategic partnerships with internal and external stakeholders (e.g. sponsors, health systems)
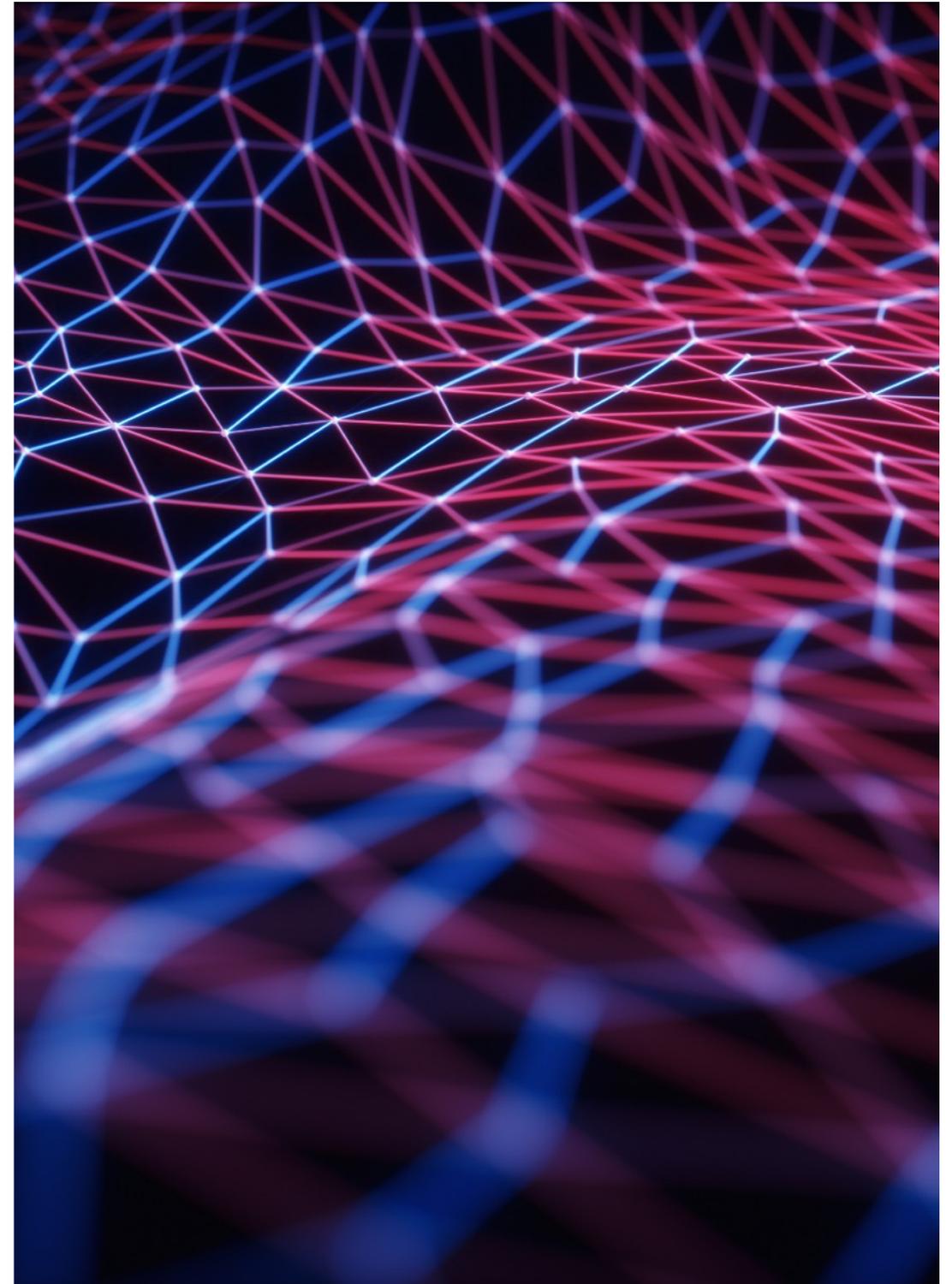
For More Information

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